

## Access in and out of buildings

Building regulations require a level access to the threshold (no more than a half-inch (13mm) step) at the main entrance of a property to enable it to be accessible to wheelchair users; any ramp is to be no steeper than 1 in 12.



This requirement has been ignored in the case of a significant proportion of properties on King's Reach, rendering them inaccessible to wheelchair users without assistance.

## Other types of disability

It's not just wheelchair users that have problems getting around King's Reach: those that have limited mobility and use a stroller, stick or walking frame will encounter issues on uneven surfaces and obstructed pavements. Those who just need the support of a partner's, or carer's, arm to walk find uneven or slippery surfaces cause them difficulties, and will require a gap of **at least four feet** (120 cm) free of obstruction on pavements, so are affected by bad parking, bins, or overgrown hedges. Those with visual, hearing or balance issues are also affected, particularly by uneven or slippery surfaces, of which there are too many in King's Reach.

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*If you have other examples of problems faced by the physically disabled around King's Reach I will happily pass them on to Central Bedfordshire Council; please email details, with photos, to*

[PhilBKingsReach@gmail.com](mailto:PhilBKingsReach@gmail.com)

*Phil Button  
December 2018*

*2 Mitchell Green*

# Disabled Access around King's Reach

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*Self-propelled wheelchair users can't get to Darwin Drive from the bridleway to Stratton Way*

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**Central Bedfordshire Council has asked for information on the challenges faced by disabled people in the area, and has asked me to prepare a summary of the problems experienced by less mobile residents of King's Reach. This document provides that summary and has been submitted to Central Beds. Council.**

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*The cobbles used to supposedly control vehicle speed can trap the front wheel of a wheelchair, causing it to tip over*

### **Road surfaces**

Much use has been made of cobbles and block paving around King's Reach; these surfaces, especially when damaged, are not easy for wheelchair users and can be dangerous for them.

Routes around the difficult surfaces are provided in some locations, but it is common for these to be blocked.



### **Pavement obstructions**

All properties on King's Reach are subject to restrictive covenants regarding parking, but these are neither observed nor enforced.



Vehicles cause huge problems for anyone in a wheelchair but are not the only problem: wheely bins, and overgrown plants, are two others.



*Wheelchair users may have a close encounter with nettles and brambles when passing someone on the bridleway to Stratton Way*



*Obvious crossing points are missing wheelchair ramps.*

### **Missing Pavements**

Maunder Avenue has no pavements, despite being one of the main routes to the shops, school, and community centre. Grassed surfaces quickly become muddy in wet weather and hence more difficult (and messy) for wheelchair users; if they are also used by vehicles they become rutted, and impassable to wheelchair users.

