



16th October 2007

Designing for Disabled People in Home Zones

DPTAC has published research on the key areas that affect the use of Home Zones by disabled people and the extent to which they feel comfortable and safe. The research report can be downloaded from www.homezones.org.uk, the UK website for all home zone matters.

Home Zones aim to improve the quality of life for our residents. By opening up the road and pedestrian space to all users, home zones encourage lower speeds and more careful driving and widen the accessible areas to pedestrians, children and cyclists. However, the lack of any traditional delineation of pedestrian areas within the home zone space unsettles many disabled people.

“Understanding disabled people’s concerns and paying careful attention to the physical features used within a home zone can go some way to addressing the concerns of disabled people”, said Grahame Lawson, Chair of DPTAC’s Personal Mobility & Local Government Working Group. “The research identifies how a generic approach to design features in a home zone can assist decisions and selections that will improve the quality of life for everyone”.

www.homezones.org.uk

The research comments on

- ways of delineating pedestrian pathways without undermining the concept of shared space
- ways of siting crossing points or routes
- the importance of gateways identifiable by all users
- deployment of street furniture integral to the design
- good lighting (between 20 and 50 lux) to enhance a feeling of personal safety

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Notes for Editors

1. IHIE is the professional qualifying institution for specialist engineers (CEng, IEng and Eng Tech) delivering sustainable transport in the UK.
2. The research report was commissioned from JMU Access Partnership by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

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