



Barrow Mobility Assessment Group (BMAG)

Name of organisation	Barrow Mobility Assessment Group
Drafted by Barrow upon Humber Parish Council	
Date Policy Agreed	30 September 2026
Date of Next Review	30 September 2027
Signature (Vice-Chair)	<i>Martin Szakal</i>
Signature (Clerk)	<i>Susan Scott</i>

1. Purpose

The Barrow Mobility Assessment Group (BMAG) is a group of local residents working with Barrow upon Humber Parish Council to make sure accessibility is considered, understood and acted upon.

BMAG will provide a resident-led voice on accessibility and inclusion, using the experiences and knowledge of local people to help identify barriers and suggest practical improvements.

The Group will support the Parish Council in making Barrow upon Humber a more accessible, inclusive and welcoming community for everyone.

The Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide defines an age-friendly service, space, activity or process as one that is accessible and inclusive to all ages, while recognising that people's needs can change throughout their lives.

2. What BMAG will do

BMAG will:

- Listen to local residents and understand their experiences of accessibility within the village.
- Identify barriers to participation, including physical, sensory, communication and practical barriers.
- Assess the accessibility of Parish Council events, facilities and relevant public spaces.
- Advise the Parish Council on practical ways accessibility and inclusion could be improved.
- Provide a resident perspective when new projects, events or improvements are being considered.
- Encourage consultation with people who have direct experience of accessibility issues.
- Raise awareness of accessibility and inclusion within the wider community.
- Support the Parish Council in considering accessibility at the planning stage of events and activities, rather than only responding to problems afterwards.
- Identify issues that fall outside the Parish Council's responsibility and, where appropriate, help bring these to the attention of the relevant authority or organisation.
- Contribute to relevant consultations from North Lincolnshire Council and other organisations where accessibility is affected.
- Share ideas, knowledge and experience with local organisations, businesses and community groups where this can improve accessibility.

This reflects the guide's recommendation that local people should have opportunities to influence decision-making and that councils should work collaboratively with residents, community organisations, businesses and other stakeholders.

3. What does “accessibility” mean?

BMAG will take a broad view of accessibility.

Accessibility is not limited to wheelchair access. The Group may consider issues affecting:

- People who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

- People who have difficulty walking or standing.
- People with visual or hearing impairments.
- People with disabilities or additional needs that may not be immediately visible.
- Older people whose mobility or other needs may change over time.
- Carers and people supporting someone with additional needs.
- Parents and carers using pushchairs.
- People experiencing temporary mobility difficulties.
- Anyone who encounters a barrier to participating in village life.

The Group will also consider communication and information, recognising that accessibility includes being able to obtain, understand and use information, not simply being able to physically enter a building or space.

4. Areas BMAG may consider

Depending upon local priorities, BMAG may consider:

Events

- Access routes and entrances.
- Parking and drop-off arrangements.
- Seating and rest areas.
- Accessible toilets.
- Surfaces and trip hazards.
- Lighting.
- Signage.
- Hearing and visibility.
- Event layout and movement around the site.
- Access to refreshments and other facilities.
- Weather conditions and shelter.
- Whether event information is accessible and available in appropriate formats.

The guide specifically recommends that community events and groups are accessible, diverse and representative of the people within the community.

Public spaces and buildings

- Pavements and pedestrian routes.
- Dropped kerbs and crossings.
- Seating.
- Toilets.
- Parks and open spaces.
- Community buildings.
- Access to village facilities.
- Obstacles or other barriers.
- Signage and information.

The guide recommends using walking audits, surveys and conversations with people who use spaces and services to understand accessibility.

Transport

- Bus stops and shelters.
- Accessible parking.
- Safe and accessible routes.
- Mobility scooter access.
- Community transport and other alternatives.
- Transport-related consultations and proposals.

The guide specifically highlights the importance of accessible routes, parking, bus stops and shelters and maintaining routes so they remain safe and accessible.

Communication

- Clear and accessible event information.
- Plain English.
- Accessible digital information.
- Printed information where appropriate.
- Consideration for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or partially sighted.
- Ensuring important information isn't available online only.

5. Membership

BMAG will be made up of local residents who wish to contribute their experience, knowledge and ideas to improving accessibility and inclusion within Barrow upon Humber.

Membership should seek to reflect a range of experiences and perspectives. A Barrow upon Humber Parish Councillor will be a member of BMAG, providing a direct link between the Group and the Parish Council.

The Parish Councillor will not replace the resident voice but will help ensure that BMAG's observations and recommendations can be communicated directly to the Parish Council.

6. How BMAG will work with the Parish Council

BMAG will be an advisory resident group working alongside the Parish Council.

It will:

- Make observations and recommendations to the Parish Council.
- Provide feedback based on residents' experiences.
- Be consulted where appropriate on accessibility matters.
- Identify potential improvements.
- Help the Parish Council understand the practical impact of decisions on residents.

The Parish Council will consider BMAG's recommendations alongside its statutory responsibilities, available resources, budgets and other relevant considerations.

BMAG will not have decision-making powers on behalf of the Parish Council.

7. Our approach

BMAG will work according to four simple principles:

<u>LISTEN</u>	<u>ASSESS</u>
Hear the experiences, concerns and ideas of local people.	Look at places, events and proposals from an accessibility perspective.
<u>ADVISE</u>	<u>IMPROVE</u>
Provide practical, resident-led recommendations to the Parish Council.	Work collaboratively to identify achievable improvements.

This supports the guide's four foundational ways of working: **Data, Voice, Stakeholders and Leadership**.

8. A practical and proportionate approach

BMAG will not be expected to address every aspect of accessibility at once. The Group will focus on local priorities identified through residents' experiences and consultation, taking account of what the Parish Council and other relevant organisations can reasonably influence.

The guide recognises that town and parish councils have different resources and that meaningful progress can be achieved by focusing on a manageable number of priorities that reflect local needs.

Our aim

To help make Barrow upon Humber a place where everyone can participate, feel included and have their voice heard.

BMAG – Listen. Assess. Advise. Improve.