

In January 2026, Worthing Borough Council worked with WSP to arrange an access walkabout session to consider the proposal for a shared-use path between George V Avenue and Sea Lane. Various stakeholders were engaged to gather lived experience and feedback on design options. These included Sight Support Worthing, Beehive Care, Guildcare's Creating Connections, Worthing Mencap, Young Explorers Goring, community members who are hard of hearing, a mobility scooter user and a representative of the Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust.

Key Findings and Feedback:

- **Path Design:** Participants identified current issues with surface quality (cracks/slippery materials), lack of width, camber/slopes, and dangerous edges bordering the shingle beach, which pose risks to all users, especially those with mobility needs or vision impairments.
- **Sea Lane Café Area:** There is a strong consensus that more consideration needs to be given to the design of the shared-use path directly near the café due to high congestion, potential for conflict, and safety concerns.
- **Accessibility Suggestions:** Widening and Surface: Widening key sections and creating smooth, level edges.
- **Passing/Viewing:** Adding passing bays, overtaking lanes, and accessible viewing areas that allow wheelchair/buggy users to park without getting stuck in mud.
- **Furniture:** Replacing inadequate, low benches with higher options and "chatty benches".
- **Safety and Behavior:** Participants reported negative experiences with cyclist behavior and dogs on long leads. Suggested mitigations include "Share with Care" signage, better education, and potential reporting systems for abuse.
- **Amenities:** Suggestions included windproof recycling bins, water refill stations, clear wayfinding signage, and public art.

This feedback will inform the detailed design stage, and demonstrating community support is expected to strengthen future funding applications.