

Blog on Street Design for Age Friendly Neighbourhoods – for Age Action Alliance

In a meeting with some local authority members about housing in later life, the councillor with responsibility for regeneration made the comment, *“We’re planning some redevelopment work in a neighbourhood centre. Can you give us any suggestions on how we could make that more Age Friendly?”* This throw away question was the starting point for Care & Repair England’s leaflet on [Street Design for Age Friendly Neighbourhoods](#).

Looking at the WHO [Age Friendly cities](#) gave us some starting points, whilst closer to home Newcastle Elders Council’s neighbourhood [‘Age Friendly Audits’](#) were a great help. On further exploration, a number of government and academic bodies have also done work on [Lifetime Neighbourhoods](#) and the [built environment](#). We could see that there was plenty of theory, but when you take a walk around your own neighbourhood, you can’t always see the evidence of that body of work in action. Taking a look at my own streets, seeing where older people were going, looking at why they might go to some places rather than others, also helped to focus my research and all of this experience has all gone towards informing this publication.

Living and working in Greater Manchester gave me the additional opportunity to work with the older people involved in the Age Friendly Manchester Design Group. Taking initial drafts to them meant that they brought both personal experience of ageing as well as their professional backgrounds in community, planning and access, thereby helping to bring the issues to life and keep the leaflet focussed.

Our hope is that it is useful, accessible publication, highlighting those elements of our streets which enable and encourage older people to get out and about, to notice those things which hinder and then to enable practical action to make improvements.

Wendy Cocks

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