

As we embark on the process of reopening society, **Irish Wheelchair Association** sees this as a time of real opportunity for local authorities to examine and improve wheelchair accessibility in all areas of the community, insuring a truly inclusive community where outdoor dining areas are accessible to all.

## 13.5%

People with disabilities represent **13.5 per cent** of the population and represent significant spending power together with family, friends and colleagues.



## 5 Points

**To consider when planning accessible outdoor eating areas**



1

### RELOCATION OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS:

Accessible Parking Bays when relocated must be placed in a suitable convenient area with adequate space, correct markings and dished kerbs.



2

### ACCESS TO THE DINING AREA FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS:

If the new dining area is placed on the road, ramp access must be available. **1-in-20 gradient** is recommended as anything less is a safety issues and renders it inaccessible.



3

### CROSS INTERSECTIONAL PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC:

There must be clear understanding that pedestrians have right of way and staff crossing the path way must yield. Risk of hot food being carried across the footpath, and the blind spot of the server who is carrying a tray shoulder height will be a danger to oncoming pedestrians specifically people with a visual impairment and wheelchair users.

### GULLY AREAS AND DRAINAGE ISSUES:

Some areas have permanent build-out pavements with gullies installed for drainage purposes.

These gullies are trip hazards for people with mobility impairments and the visually impaired.

4



5

**STREET SPACE:** It is important that adequate space is given to people with disabilities as well as pedestrians and consumers. Where this is not possible, build-outs should be incorporated. Clear pavement width means that no obstacle or obstruction is placed within the recommended pavement width.

The minimum recommended clear pavement width is **2000mm**. Where this pathway width is not possible, **the pathway or approach route should have a clearance width of 1700mm** with passing places provided at intervals for wheelchair users.

Should you require any further information on access please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [rosaleen.lally@iwa.ie](mailto:rosaleen.lally@iwa.ie) or by phone **087 057 1393**