

MOATE

"A report on access and safety issues for pedestrians with sensory and physical disabilities"

ADDENDUM

MARCH 2006

Observations

- The public bench on the footpath outside the Community School, near the telephone box, is in a state of disrepair and presents as a potential hazard to a vision-impaired pedestrian.
- The designated crossing outside the Community School has no tactile paving to identify the dished access areas.
- The road markings at this crossing have not been completed across the entire road. This is a cause of disorientation and confusion to partially sighted pedestrians, and to those with a learning disability.
- The footpath next to the disabled parking space opposite 'Ard Tuatha' has not been dished for wheelchair access.
- This space has not been tactilely-identified.
- There is no overhead signage identifying this parking place.
- Road markings of the recommended colour have not been used in this space.
- The blister paving that has been installed at the crossing in the town centre is of the incorrect colour.
- The road markings identifying this crossing have not been completed correctly.

Recommendations

- All unnecessary street furniture which presents as a potential hazard should be removed. Where street furniture is considered necessary, it should be maintained in a state of good repair and should be correctly colour-identified in line with best practise.
- All designated crossing-areas should correctly tactilely-marked in line with recommendations.
- Ensure all road-markings are completed to extend across the complete width of the pedestrian walkway.
- Ensure that all footpaths have sufficient dished/ dropped kerb access to allow for easy wheelchair access to disabled person's parking spaces. Furthermore, all such parking spaces should be identified by the use of correct overhead signage and tactile paving.

Commendations

- A number of kerb edges throughout the town have been colour-contrasted in yellow and black to assist drivers; such colour-contrasting also tends to assist partially sighted-pedestrians with orientation.
- L-shaped tactile paving has been installed at the pedestrian crossing in the town centre, leading to the inner shoreline. Unfortunately this paving is buff coloured whereas it should be red.
- The pedestrian refuge in the centre of the road at the crossing has been tactilely marked.
- A ramp has been installed outside the *Bank of Ireland*, which has been identified by tactile paving. This facility could be enhanced by colour-identifying the risers of the steps and installing a tactile warning strip at the top of the steps, both leading to the door and at the ATM machine.