Fingal County Council is among 15 local authorities from across the country taking part in the first-ever national Make Way Day on Wednesday, September 26.

The local authorities and leading disability organisations have come together to call for greater public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share.

The people of Fingal can expect a friendly sticker on #MakeWayFingal, Wednesday 26th September, reminding everyone to make way for people with disabilities.

Disability groups and organisations from all over the county will be out highlighting obstacles such as:

- Cars or vans parked on a footpath blocking the way.
- Bicycle/motorbikes chained to lampposts creating a trip hazard for a visually impaired person.
- Illegally placed sandwich boards, forgotten bins, barrels and other obstructions.
- A blitz of social media posts (videos, photographs) with the hashtags #MakeWayDay and #MakeWayFingal. Upload your photos and videos and call for national recognition of #MakeWayDay
They believe thoughtlessness and genuine lack of awareness is behind most instances of the behaviour that frustrates those with disabilities or mobility issues.

Among groups taking part in Fingal is the Centre for Independent Living in Blanchardstown.

Residents are also reminded that Route 4U, a free footpath navigation app and information system for wheelchair and pram users, can be downloaded for both iOS or Android devices.

The disability initiative has been developed by Fingal County Council, in partnership with Dublin City Council and Enterprise Ireland.

The database is kept constantly up-to-date by volunteers who can either be able-bodied people who simply download the app and report obstacles they bump into or wheelchair users who switch on the “auto-survey” function as they roll along the footpaths, activating their phone sensors to collect data automatically.

Fingal County Council’s Access Officer Brian Buckley said: “Make Way Day gives every single one of us an opportunity to be more mindful of the 13% of the Irish population who have a disability. Bringing in your bin early in the day, or clipping your hedge might not seem that important, but it’s a small action with a big impact for a neighbour, who otherwise might not be able to get down the street.

‘Fingal County Council is delighted to be playing a part in Make Way Day.’

Mayor of Fingal Cllr Anthony Lavin said: “Accessibility also effects parents trying to get buggies and prams about our communities, so hopefully this initiative will help to make our community spaces more accessible to all our pedestrians whether they are disabled or not.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

See www.makewayday.com for more including an updated list of events taking place.
The by-laws governing sandwich boards and other street furniture vary from area to area. Expect queries to the LA.

**Background - Make Way Day 2017**

The reaction to the first campaign was phenomenal. Make Way Day was viewed by over 750,000 people online and featured on RTE TV news throughout the day. A number of local and national radio shows, newspapers and online magazines also ran the story. Within 48 hours, 8,000 people had signed an online petition to make #MakeWayDay a national event.

DFI circulated a motion to local authorities calling for them to support a Make Way Day in their area in 2018. 11 of the participating group have done so with the remainder processing such motions.

The campaign was awarded the Public Relations Institute of Ireland, PRII, Public Awareness Campaign 2018.

The participating charities are; Enable Ireland, Irish Wheelchair Association, IWA, Rehab Group and the NCBI, National Council for the Blind.

Check in to the site for updates in the coming weeks on what is happening where and which organisation to contact in your local area for media queries and to arrange interviews with local activists.

The local authorities taking part are:

1. Dublin City Council
2. South Dublin
3. Fingal
4. Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown
5. Cork City
6. Cork County
7. Limerick
8. Meath
9. Wexford
10. Wicklow
11. Kildare
12. Kilkenny
13. Louth
14. Galway city
15. Offaly
Photos: DFI can supply national photos but will not have photos from the 15 areas taking part.

The Disability Federation of Ireland are the co-coordinators of Make Way Day. The Communications teams on local authorities should contact Clare Cronin at DFI 01-7080108, 086-0277824, email clarecronin@disability-federation.ie.