

Some hints and tips for helping those living with dementia enjoy your outside area include:

Entering your premises, inside entry and outside.

- Outside – are your doors the same colour as the wall? A white wall and a white door are really difficult for people living with dementia to distinguish
- Do you have fencing and gates? Low fencing generally works well so people can see over them, but could your fencing be too low? Too high? Are any locks on gates difficult to operate? Gates can generally be ok but consider how someone living with dementia may be able to operate it.
- Are there any obstructions? If there is a screen, someone might get lost behind it. Could you consider something rather than a screen?
- Do you have glass doors? Have you got a sign on them so people living with dementia know it is a glass door.
- Furniture – solid tables and chairs and benches work well. Does any of your furniture block or encroach onto access paths? Does your furniture blend in with the surroundings, could someone living with dementia see your furniture, does it stand out or blend in? Does your outside area have steps? Warning signs are great, but it would be better if someone was able to warn about the steps.

Signage

- Signs should ideally be black text/writing, but brown also works well and a white background is best. Do you use a lot of images on your signs? A few are fine, but please don't use too many.
- Signs need to be both ways – in and back out.
- Warning signs should not be the same colour as the background wall, floor etc.
- Signs are much better than indicators such as flags.

Flow of traffic and One Way Systems

- Even though Covid restrictions have eased, we appreciate that your premises may still need to have a one-way system in place. If so, are your signs clear, easy to follow and understand? .

Ordering and Staff Awareness

- The use of apps to order instead of table service or at the bar/counter is much more common now. For people living with dementia the use of an app to order may prove more difficult. Can people living with dementia still order at the bar/counter? If so, do your signs make this clear?
- Staff awareness – we urge you to please take the time to inform your staff of the best practice for dealing with people living with dementia.
- Have your staff attended a Dementia Friends awareness session? It takes less than an hour to gain a better understanding.

Please remember that dementia is a hidden disease.

If your staff have not already attended a Dementia Friends session, it is highly recommended to attend one – please call **South Ribble Borough Council** on **01772 625625** for further information – it is free and is delivered in an hour at your convenience.

Are you aware of our Dementia Charter? If you sign up to our Charter your business will be added to our *Living Well Guide* and you will be recognised alongside other local dementia friendly businesses who have also signed up to the Charter and made some simple easy changes to help those living with dementia in our area.

For more details please go to

www.southribble.gov.uk/dementia

“South Ribble is a Dementia Friendly Community”

