

DISABLED ACCESS STATEMENT

The bar currently benefits from a specifically designated and delineated private forecourt used as an external seating area. This incorporates a mixture of loose tables and chairs laid out in a spacious manner. A small ramp running besides the seating area provides wheelchair access to both the bar and the outdoor seating area.

This application simply seeks to enclose the external terrace with a steel canopy so that the space can benefit from weather protection in the winter months. This will ensure the space is usable for all throughout the year, and that diverse experiences are available to the evening economy within Manchester City Centre.

The application does not seek to make any alterations to the ground floor terrace itself, and the ramped access to level decking will remain, ensuring the external area will continue to be inclusive for everybody. The submitted drawings provide detail of the ramps, clearances, and openings, and demonstrate that disabled people can be safely and comfortably accommodated within the external area. All that is proposed is a small amount of weather protection above the seating area, which will add to what is already there. The canopy will not deny anybody a service, as everybody who visits the bar will have the opportunity to sit inside or outside with level access throughout.

The proposals also accord with Manchester's 'Design for Access 2' document, which provides guidance on disabled access requirements in the city. The ground floor has an inclusive open plan layout that is accessible for all. Measures have been taken to ensure the space is as disabled friendly as possible, with sufficient clear widths retained between tables, and hand rails installed around the boundary of the external area. The ramp leading into the external area is to remain as existing, but also follows the guidance in the document with a generous slope for wheelchair access. The proposal therefore accords with the Council's guidance on disabled access and should be supported.