



Living Streets Briefing: Pavement Parking

Briefing for: **Name of official**

Purpose: To outline the need for a ban on pavement parking.

Contact: **Your name, email**

About Living Streets

Living Streets is the UK charity for everyday walking. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and to inspire people of all generations to enjoy the benefits of walking. Our campaigning led to the UK's first zebra crossings and speed limits.

Short paragraph on your Local Group (e.g. when it was formed, what your key aims or achievements have been to date)

Next Steps

We ask that you:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and Roads Minister to request a response to the consultation on pavement parking.
- Highlight the damaging impact of pavement parking on the most vulnerable members of our society.
- Call for the Department for Transport to move forward with measures to make it easier for local authorities to take action on pavement parking before legislative time is found to introduce a nationwide ban.
- Meet with Living Streets to discuss how you can support a ban on pavement parking.

Edit these asks as appropriate. Ensure that any actions you ask the official to take are clear.

The problem

Pavements are for people to walk on - so of course parking on pavements is a major concern for our supporters and the general public.

Vehicles parked on the footway can cause an obstruction and inhibit the independence of many vulnerable people, especially older or disabled people with visual or mobility impairments. YouGov polling commissioned by Living Streets found that 62% of adults over 65 in England were worried about obstructions on the pavement.

Every day, parents and children are putting themselves at risk because of pavement parking. Polling commissioned by Living Streets indicates that 87% of parents have had to walk into the road because of pavement parking and that 80% would be more likely to walk their child to school if there wasn't pavement parking. Moreover, a Living Streets FOI request (2018) found that 93% of local authorities in England have received complaints from members of the public about pavement parking.

Driving onto and parking on the pavement also damages the pavement over time, which can create tripping hazards for pedestrians when the vehicle is not there. Living Streets' recently published report found that healthcare and personal injury claims from pedestrian falls may cost local authorities and the NHS as much as £500 million annually.¹ Our research has also found that 48% of adults over 65 would walk more if pavements were better maintained, meaning that damage to the footway contributes to physical inactivity and social isolation.

What can be done?

We were pleased to support the government's consultation that closed in November 2020 on managing pavement parking, an amazing 7,455 people supported our campaign and submitted evidence. Over two years later, we are still waiting for the government to respond to the consultation.

This unprecedented delay has been followed by the news that the Transport Bill will be delayed for the foreseeable future, and with it a nationwide, legislative ban on pavement parking.

We welcomed the nationwide ban on pavement parking in Scotland announced in 2019. Between Covid-19 and concerns over the breadth of exemptions councils are allowed to make, implementation of the ban has been delayed. Living Streets Scotland is working hard to ensure the Scottish Government gets the ban right. In Wales, the Welsh Government has proposed changes that will allow local authorities to enforce against pavement parking where it is causing an unnecessary obstruction to people on the pavement. We are calling on the government to not leave England behind – it is time for a legislative ban on pavement parking in England.

Any ban should allow for local authorities to exempt certain streets, but from the starting point that pavement parking is banned by default, rather than the free for all we have at present. A legislative ban should also be accompanied by an awareness raising campaign highlighting the damage and distress caused by anti-social pavement parking. At present, parking on pavements is partly covered by both criminal and civil law and a YouGov poll commissioned by Guide Dogs found only 5% of drivers understood the law in this area. A legislative ban would provide a clear signal to drivers not to park in the footway, minimising confusion and giving pavements back to pedestrians.

¹ Living Streets, Slips Trips & Falls (2023), <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/policy-and-resources/our-policy/pedestrian-slips-trips-and-falls>.

We are calling on the government to publish the long overdue response to the pavement parking consultation, and at the same time make it easier for local authorities to take action in their areas by introducing civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'. This should be followed swiftly by clear action in the form of a legislative ban as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Further information:

Add name, email, phone number