



Pavement Parking briefing: how can you help in your area?

Ahead of the upcoming local elections in England on 7 May 2026, Living Streets has developed this briefing to help you campaign for action on pavement parking in your area. It includes some campaigning tips and a letter template that can be sent to local candidates.

Why pavement parking

Over the next electoral term your local decision makers will be given the power to take action on pavement parking. We know that UK Government guidance and legislation is coming – local councils will be able to fine people for parking on the pavement for the first time. But your local council needs to choose to take up these new powers. Let your candidates know, that if elected, you want action to create clear, accessible streets for all.

Influencing/campaigning techniques:

- Highlight lived experience and the issues people in your area are facing due to pavement parking - this might include quotes from local residents, local statistics, pictures and any other evidence that highlights the problem.
- Try to demonstrate the impact of pavement parking on the local area – you could even invite the official out on a walk to see the problem for themselves.
- Write to local candidates about pavement parking (the below letter template can be adapted and used). The details of your local candidates can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

What if I live in London?

Of course, Pavement parking is banned throughout the 32 London boroughs, and the City of London under the Greater London (General Purposes) Act 1974. The Highway Code states: 'You MUST NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement in London'. All

councils in London can and should enforce this law by issuing parking tickets to any vehicles parked on pavements, unless there is a sign there that specifically permits it.

We've however heard from our Members and Supporters in London that pavement parking can remain a problem. If you've found this to be the case, it's certainly worth your time to write to your officials to call on the importance of this ban being enforced.

Letter template:

Briefing for: **Name of Official**

Purpose: To outline the need for an end to pavement parking

Contact: **Your name, email**

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

The problem

Pavements are for people to walk on - so of course parking on pavements is a major concern for the 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 UK Charity 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. 87% of parents have had to walk into the road because of pavement parking and 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.

Recent developments

I was pleased to see that this January the Government finally released a response to the 2020 DfT consultation on pavement parking. The consultation received over 15,000 responses, with the majority of individuals (81%) and organisations (96%) reporting pavement parking as a problem in their area. 41% of individuals said they would leave home more often if pavement parking were addressed.

Following this consultation, the Department of Transport confirmed that local authorities will be given new legal powers to restrict pavement parking. Guidance for local authorities is expected to be released later in 2026.

Next Steps/ Call to Action

I ask that you:

- Commit to taking action on pavement parking if elected.
- If elected, ensure that as soon as guidance for local authorities is released, the local authority creates a plan to follow the guidance, and rollout of measures across the area
- Meet with (insert name or local group) to discuss how you can support the campaign against pavement parking.

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