

Antony Higginbotham MP
Member of Parliament for Burnley



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 January 2021

Dear Constituent,

Pavement Parking

Thank you for contacting me about pavement parking.

Whilst those who park their car in this way might think of it as harmless, I know that it can be quite dangerous for pedestrians and, in particular, wheelchair users; forcing them onto the carriageway and into the flow of traffic. And you'll be pleased to note that the Leader of the House recently spoke on this issue where he also acknowledged the problem, stating:

“Although I always view myself as a friend of the motorist, there are, it has to be said, limits, and pavement parking can be a serious inconvenience for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility or visual impairments or—something that has had a great effect on me in recent years—with perambulators or pushchairs.

Cars parked on the road get in the way, and...the Government are consulting on options for tackling the problem”.

Leader of the House, The Rt Hon Jacob Rees Mogg MP - 12th November 2020

Whilst I, along with successive Governments recognise that there is no perfect solution to this complex problem, I agree that it is time to look at it again in detail and I welcome that Ministers now want to go further, recently running a consultation on proposals that would allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to crack down on pavements being unnecessarily obstructed.

The consultation also explores how a nationwide ban on pavement parking, enforced by local authorities, could work. This would of course need careful consideration and would have to allow, for example, for necessary exceptions or designated spots for pavement parking where required. And the approach taken would also have to be tailored to the very different challenges faced in rural and suburban areas.

However, I look forward to the Government review and outcome now that the consultation has closed, and will continue to monitor the issue closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Higginbotham'.

Antony Higginbotham MP
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