

Still on the pavement:  
five-years of inaction on dangerous parking

What happened and didn't happen in Wales?  
What's happening in the West Midlands?

Phil Jones, PJA

# Wales Pavement Parking Task Force/Initiative 2019 to 2023



## Welsh Pavement Parking

Task Force Group Report

October 2020



<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-pavement-parking-task-force-group-report-and-government-response>



## Legal Principle

- “...a vehicle left stationary on the footway can be presumed to be obstructing a pedestrian from using that part of the footway where the vehicle is parked.”



*Vehicles parked on wide footway causing obstruction*

## Legislative Options

- Primary legislation – Scotland-style, creating wholly new offence
- Subordinate legislation – Councils given civil powers to enforce existing offence of obstruction
- *Road Vehicles (Construction and Use Regulations 1986:*
- *103. No person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer shall cause or permit the vehicle to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road*
- Second option preferred – simpler, quicker, effective
- No need for lengthy process of defining exemptions
- Primary legislation an option for the future



## Department for Transport view in March 2020

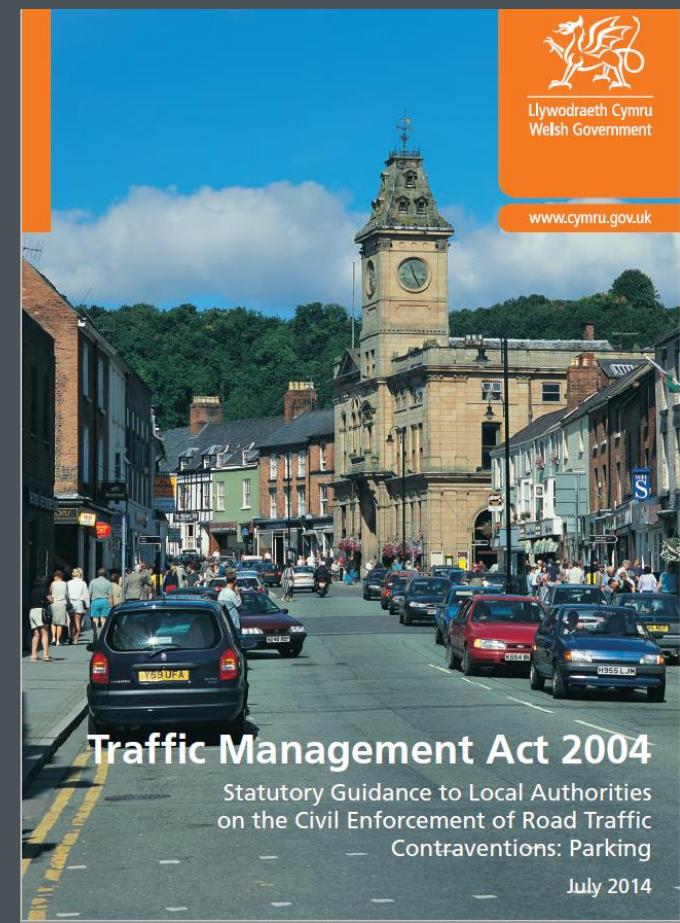
Response to the Transport Select Committee's report on Pavement Parking:

- *We recognise that enabling civil enforcement of 'unnecessary obstruction' by local authorities could bring benefits in the shorter term. It could be achieved by secondary legislation and would enable local authorities to deal with the worst kinds of pavement parking...*
- *It would avoid the time and cost to local authorities of undertaking activities that would be required if the London prohibition were extended, that is: surveying of entire road networks, removing any existing local restrictions and placing necessary traffic signs and bay markings where pavement parking still needs to be permitted.*



## Statutory and Operational Guidance

- Statutory and Operational Guidance needed to set out how local authorities should use these new powers
- Addenda to existing Welsh Gov't Guidance on TMA 2004
- Guidance could be amended in the light of experience, including appeals



# Draft Statutory Guidance Prepared (unpublished)

## Tests for Unnecessary Obstruction:

- Any parking on the pavement, if the carriageway is wide enough to accommodate the whole of the vehicle and large vehicles can pass;
- Parking any more of the vehicle on the pavement than is needed to enable large vehicles to pass;
- In all circumstances if less than 1.5m usable width is left clear for pedestrians



## Communications and Promotion

*“Parking on pavements should be tackled by changing driver behaviour through raising awareness that pavements are for pedestrians and not for vehicles, backed-up by the deterrent of enforcement”*



## West Midlands Journeys Task Force

- West Midlands Mayor established 'Journeys Task Force' in January 2025
- Pavement Parking Task and Finish Group formed
- Build public and political support for tackling the problem and derisk the issue
- Work beginning in earnest from early 2026
- Support and contributions welcome





**B** > News > Midlands News > Great Barr

# 'Shaken' Birmingham woman calls for pavement parking ban after falling out of wheelchair on school run

Aideen Blackborough was left lying in the road after being forced to manoeuvre her way around a vehicle blocking the pavement in Great Barr



**NEWS** By [Katy Hallam](#) Audience Editor

06:05, 20 Nov 2025



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Aideen Blackborough says her safety and the safety of her children is constantly being put at risk by people parking on pavements (Image: Living Streets)



Thanks

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