

Claiming Back Our Pavements

We've all seen the massive increase of drivers parking their cars, vans or lorries on pavements. Walking around Oldland Parish, I'm regularly forced to walk on the road or scrape against a hedge due to cars, two wheels - sometimes more - on pavements. It must be far worse if you're pushing a buggy or have a disability.

There can't be a single road that doesn't have this issue, and of course let's not forget that it's our Council Tax money that will have to repair damaged pavements.

The Government has issued a public consultation (which ends before the publication of this newsletter) with suggestions for local authorities to take stronger action against pavement parking. At the moment, if drivers are causing an 'unnecessary obstruction' (blocking accessibility for prams and buggies, wheelchairs etc) on pavements you could get a ticket and receive a fine.

There might not be a 'one-size-fits-all' solution to pavement parking, as different streets in our Parish sometimes have different issues. Oldland Parish Council would appreciate your thoughts about the following:

1. **There should be an outright ban on pavement parking and fines issued.** In certain cases the local Council might grant exceptions e.g. where there are wide pavements - see an example, below.



2. **Councils have occasionally created 'Home-Zones' on narrow, quiet streets and completely removed the pavements** – see picture below. This gives additional space for cars and pedestrians. The picture is of a street in Bristol – could we see something similar in Oldland Parish?



3. **Drivers should be allowed to park on pavements**, with the phrase 'unnecessary obstruction' being defined - legally - in detail. If there is an obstruction, then drivers should be fined.
4. **Pilot Projects.** There will have to be a formal consultation process before any changes, but Oldland Parish Council would like to look at a couple of potential 'pilot' projects. We'd like your 'out-of-the-box' ideas about the measures that might work best in your street. We're looking forward to hearing your ideas!

Martin Farmer
Councillor for Barrs Court & Cadbury Heath

Please contact the Parish Clerk with your comments.