# Pavement parking becomes a major issue in Liverpool



Pavement parking has emerged as an increasing concern in Liverpool, particularly on Victoria Street, which has been identified as a significant hotspot for this issue. The local community has expressed growing frustration over drivers who park their vehicles partially or entirely on pedestrian pavements, creating hazardous conditions for pedestrians, including those with mobility challenges such as parents with prams and individuals using wheelchairs.

The problem of pavement parking is not new but appears to have intensified in recent years. Images submitted to the Liverpool Echo illustrate the extent of the situation, indicating that the obstructive parking practices are frequent and becoming more accepted by some drivers. This behaviour not only restricts the available space on pavements, forcing pedestrians into busy roads, but also raises safety concerns during peak times, particularly near schools.

In response to the burgeoning issue, Liverpool City Council has recently implemented a new parking strategy aimed at improving enforcement against illegal parking practices. The strategy includes plans to extend parking enforcement to operate 24 hours a day and to increase the number of civil enforcement officers in the city. Additionally, the council is considering the introduction of new Red Routes/Clearways, which are designated areas where stopping is restricted.

City Centre North Labour Councillor Nick Small has voiced his concerns about the persistent parking issues in Victoria Street, describing the situation as "horrendous" and identifying it as one of the worst areas for unlawful parking in the city. He noted that the problem escalates particularly during the evenings when pedestrian foot traffic is high. Small stated, "Our pavements belong to pedestrians, and, like many who live, work or visit the city centre, I'm fed up of seeing sights like this."

The city’s new measures aim to address the growing problem, with Small expressing support for increased enforcement and the hiring of additional wardens. However, he highlighted a challenge faced by councils outside London in terms of having the necessary legal powers to tailor responses to local parking issues. He emphasised the need for local authorities to have the ability to address the unique challenges of their areas effectively.

As Liverpool continues to grapple with the repercussions of improper parking practices, the local council is under pressure to devise solutions that will ensure pedestrian safety and accessibility, particularly in bustling areas such as Victoria Street. The ongoing dialogue around enforcement and community safety reflects the complexities cities face in balancing vehicular access with the needs of pedestrians.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.birkenhead.news/liverpool-council-to-seek-further-powers-to-combat-pavement-parking/> - This article supports the claim that Liverpool Council is seeking enhanced powers to tackle pavement parking issues. It highlights the rising number of parking sanctions, indicating the seriousness of the problem.
* <https://liverpoolexpress.co.uk/parking-review-to-bring-liverpool-in-line-with-other-big-cities/> - The article describes Liverpool City Council's new parking strategy, which includes measures to improve enforcement against illegal parking and encourages public transport use. It also discusses hiring more civil enforcement officers.
* <https://www.cittimagazine.co.uk/news/accessibility-disability/nearly-half-of-motorists-agree-pavement-parking-should-be-banned-survey-reveals.html> - This article highlights the public concern about pavement parking, especially its impact on visually impaired individuals and wheelchair users. It supports the claim that there is a need for stricter enforcement.
* <https://merseynewslive.co.uk/2024/12/03/parking-in-liverpool-to-rise-for-the-second-time-in-a-decade/> - The article mentions the council's efforts to enhance parking enforcement by recruiting more staff. It corroborates the broader strategy to tackle illegal parking issues across the city.
* <https://merseytravel.adidocdn.dev/Content/Corporate%20Documents%20/Supporting%20Documents%20/LCRRoadSafetyReport_2023--V004----Final.pdf> - This report supports the claim that there is an increased focus on road safety in Liverpool. It highlights efforts to address obstructive parking and promote safe travel practices.