# Clock Café faces closure after 28 years amid new parking restrictions in Northfield



After 28 years of operation, Frank Mobed, the owner of the Clock Café in Northfield, faces the prospect of closing his business due to new parking restrictions that have adversely affected local trade. The café, a fixture in the community, has become increasingly vulnerable amid rising operational costs and significant changes to parking availability.

The parking situation has deteriorated following a decision by the landlord of a nearby car park, which previously allowed 75 minutes of free parking for all customers. This benefit has now been limited solely to those shopping at the United Carpets and Just For Pets stores. Instead of the convenience formerly enjoyed by patrons, the area now has a pay-and-park system that has drawn criticism from local businesses, including Mobed’s café.

Mobed, who is contemplating retirement at the age of 68, shared his frustrations: “To be honest it's come to that stage where I'm thinking with everything going up, is it worth it?” He highlighted that clientele are increasingly deterred from visiting Northfield due to fears of receiving parking fines, often amounting to £60. “People are scared to come to Northfield. We've lost a lot of trade,” he noted, indicating that continued financial strain may force him to lay off staff rather than hire.

The impact of these restrictions extends beyond the café, as local traders report a downturn in customers. Anna Williams, co-owner of the Willows Dance Company, described the situation as “heartbreaking.” She noted that parents dropping off children at school or running quick errands have also fallen victim to the harsh enforcement of the new parking rules, with one parent receiving a ticket despite spending £80 at Just For Pets. Williams expressed concern for the community: “Northfield is an underprivileged and deprived area. The strict parking curfews at this car park are pushing customers away.”

Mobed recounted a particularly poignant incident involving a 92-year-old customer who received a ticket while rushing to collect a prescription for his terminally-ill wife. Unable to bear the thought of his distress, Mobed paid the £60 fine himself, underscoring the burden that small businesses face in such challenging circumstances.

BirminghamLive reached out to United Carpets and Just For Pets for comments; while Just For Pets refrained from making a statement, they clarified that the parking changes were decisions made by the landlord rather than store policy.

As traders in Northfield grapple with these new challenges, the community's reliance on local businesses like the Clock Café remains under threat. The future of such establishments hinges not only on economic conditions but also on the resolution of the pressing parking issues that residents and business owners alike are facing.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.northfieldmn.gov/708/Winter-Parking> - This official page outlines Northfield's winter parking ban, which prohibits parking on city streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 15 to March 15, regardless of snow accumulation. This regulation is relevant to the parking restrictions affecting local businesses like the Clock Café.
2. <https://patch.com/minnesota/northfield/northfield-s-winter-parking-rules-in-effect> - This article discusses the enforcement of Northfield's winter parking ban, including fines and towing policies for violations. It highlights the impact of these regulations on local businesses and residents, aligning with the challenges faced by the Clock Café due to parking restrictions.
3. <https://wp.stolaf.edu/parking/motorvehiclepolicy/cityregulations/> - This page provides detailed information on Northfield's parking regulations, including the winter parking ban and overtime parking rules. It offers context on the city's parking policies that are affecting local businesses like the Clock Café.
4. <https://thecarletonian.com/18454/uncategorized/downtown-northfield-parking-problems-and-changes/> - This article addresses parking issues in downtown Northfield, including concerns from business owners about losing customers due to limited parking. It discusses potential solutions like shared parking and the construction of a new parking complex, relevant to the challenges faced by the Clock Café.
5. <https://locallygrownnorthfield.org/post/18323> - This post discusses downtown parking problems in Northfield, including limited parking and the impact on local businesses. It mentions the possibility of implementing parking meters to generate revenue for additional parking infrastructure, which could alleviate issues faced by businesses like the Clock Café.
6. <https://www.northfieldplaza.com/amenities/parking> - This page describes the parking facilities at North Field Plaza, highlighting ample free parking and the availability of covered and reserved spaces. While not directly related to the Clock Café, it provides insight into parking options in Northfield that could influence customer choices.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiiwFBVV95cUxQZ2VvYnFrU0QxLWRPYzFKUmhSUUNuUC1pSnpWcVVuVzVqbXBTSFpxTmxIZ0lzOHhjN2I2WFQ4TnZYMGEyR1dTMV9RV0pwbDNwME5BXzhDSVdGZXk5el94NjJLZTY1OUI3MVN3UmtlU0VMWXYyZE1renFteDI0eTNLR29fTmZ6YWYzQmgw0gGQAUFVX3lxTFA0ZUVUemNpU0JKOVRDLVVVZG5wVzdxTlN3eGJkclFRVzVmdklxZVhuWjZTV2M2UVF6U1hRQXFmaWFVVHFNSUJ4ZEVzSTZpSENKMWRLcnk0VkFHT3VhTnZZQTd6aTFwUGJ3LTEzX2hXb2t0V3JReXpSdDU5NWttZWFDT2FOanVoak50dHVGUGJieQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data