# Clevedon council removes wiggly lines after £2 million road-marking fiasco



The notorious "wiggly lines" on Clevedon's seafront have finally been removed, much to the relief of a community fed up with reckless local governance. Initially introduced in 2022, these bizarre road markings—meant to narrow the road and slow traffic—were a glaring example of how out-of-touch local authorities can be, costing taxpayers a staggering £1.5 million. Despite the purported goal of enhancing safety for cyclists and pedestrians, the project only generated confusion and contempt among the very residents it aimed to serve.

The markings, mockingly dubbed the "yellow brick road," were part of a questionable initiative by North Somerset Council that not only failed to discourage roadside parking but also compromised the safety of road users. Local motorist Cathy Hawkins, who led the "Save Our Seafront" campaign, condemned the scheme as a "disaster" and labelled its execution a "complete waste of money." Cyclists were put in jeopardy as parked cars obstructed their paths, leaving pedestrians scrambling to navigate a perilous environment.

In a move that underscores the council's previous misjudgments, North Somerset has had to backtrack and reinstate a traditional parking arrangement that allows cars to face the sea. This change was met with relief from locals eager to once again enjoy views across the Bristol Channel. The council's belated recognition of the scheme's failures came only after mounting public outcry and urgent calls for accountability from residents who had grown weary of being sidelined in urban planning discussions. Council leader Mike Bell finally conceded the lack of community support, emphasising the glaring need for genuine engagement in future projects.

The roadworks took an additional 13 weeks and added another £500,000 to the already outrageous expenditure. The reinstatement of sea-facing parking and the elimination of the two-way cycle path illustrate not only an attempt to correct past wrongs but also a failure to listen to community concerns from the outset. Bell's acknowledgment that the council must prioritise residents' voices serves as a mere afterthought rather than a genuine commitment to change.

This saga of the wiggly lines reflects a broader discontent growing across the UK, where local authorities often enforce unpopular schemes with little consideration for the people most affected. The irony is glaring to those who witnessed protests, including a lighthearted "conga line" demonstration that highlighted the absurdity of the situation. This narrative has become emblematic of a larger issue facing councils: the disconnection between ambitious urban design and the practical necessities of everyday community life.

As Clevedon grapples with the remnants of this road-marking debacle, other councils would do well to heed the lessons learned—recognising that disregarding community input only fuels frustration and distrust. The removal of the wiggly lines isn't just a resolution to a problematic project; it marks a crucial turning point in the relationship between Clevedon's residents and their local council, setting a precedent for future initiatives that genuinely take community needs into account.

As the area looks ahead, it’s essential that local governing bodies adopt a collaborative approach that aligns with the real needs of their constituents, ensuring that the mistakes of the past are never repeated.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14727655/Britains-daftest-road-markings-finally-removed-council-spent-1-5m-wiggly-lines-left-drivers-cyclists-baffled.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-11-20/we-got-it-wrong-council-leader-apologises-for-13m-wiggly-line-scheme> - North Somerset Council leader Mike Bell apologized for the controversial £1.3 million 'wiggly line' scheme in Clevedon, acknowledging it wasn't supported by the community. An independent review recommended reinstating sea-facing parking, removing the two-way cycle path, and adjusting the roundabout to a traditional layout. The council committed to finding the necessary funds to implement these changes.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2024-08-30/controversial-wiggly-lines-scheme-to-be-removed-by-summer-2025> - North Somerset Council announced plans to remove the controversial 'wiggly lines' from Clevedon seafront by summer 2025, at a cost of £425,000. The original £1.3 million scheme, which included sea-facing parking removal and a two-way cycle path, faced public criticism. The reversal aims to address community concerns and improve the area's usability for residents and visitors.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2025-01-23/work-to-remove-controversial-wiggly-line-road-markings-to-start> - Work to remove Clevedon's controversial 'wiggly lines' road markings is set to begin in mid-February, with completion expected by May half-term. The £425,000 project will reinstate sea-facing parking, replace the two-way cycle path with a single contraflow cycle path, and adjust the roundabout to a traditional layout. The council aims to address public dissatisfaction and improve the seafront's functionality.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn5rv624le7o> - Residents in Clevedon have been presented with plans to replace the controversial 'wiggly lines' road markings. The original £1 million scheme, introduced in 2022, included a segregated two-way cycle lane and wavy road markings. The new plan, costing an additional £425,000, proposes reinstating sea-facing parking and replacing the painted roundabout with a physical one. The council emphasizes community engagement in the revision process.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp9rv0nxv54o> - North Somerset Council has announced a timeline for removing the controversial 'wiggly' road markings in Clevedon, with work starting in February and completion by summer 2025. The £425,000 reversal includes reinstating sea-facing parking, removing the two-way cycle path, and installing new loading bays and a coach drop-off point. The council aims to address public criticism and improve the seafront's usability.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-66113350> - North Somerset Council has appointed independent experts to review the controversial 'wiggly lines' road scheme in Clevedon. The review will assess safety, accessibility, aesthetics, parking arrangements, and the scheme's effectiveness in promoting active travel. The council acknowledges the controversy and aims to address community concerns through this independent evaluation.