# Residents in Lambeth face high costs for dropped kerbs on driveways



Residents in Lambeth, South London, are facing significant financial implications concerning parking on their own driveways due to the lack of dropped kerbs. Local authorities have informed drivers that they will be required to pay up to £7,000 to secure permissions for the installation of these necessary modifications to their properties. The absence of dropped kerbs currently forces residents to park illegally, requiring them to manoeuvre their vehicles over pavements to access their driveways.

In order to continue parking on their drives without incurring penalties, homeowners must submit applications for planning permission and proceed with the construction, which amounts to costs of more than £6,000. The enforcement of this requirement has raised concerns among the local population.

Kevin Joyce, a 64-year-old resident who has lived in the area for over 30 years, expressed his frustration with the council's recent stance on dropped kerbs. "I've lived in this house for more than 30 years and when I bought it, the driveway never had a dropped kerb. It's never been a problem, the council have never said anything so why is it an issue now?" he said, adding that while he had not previously considered making a dropped kerb, he might have no choice if he wishes to retain access to his own property.

The council’s regulations have also sparked concern among younger drivers, such as 25-year-old Mohamoud Ali, who noted that the cost of installation far exceeds the value of his vehicle. "My car is only worth around £5,000 which is less than what it would cost me to put in a dropped kerb. I might now sell it and get the bus because my parking space will be worth more than my car. That just doesn't make sense," he remarked.

Fozia Aga, aged 55, shared her displeasure with the system as well. Having applied for a dropped kerb three years prior, only to be denied by the council, she took matters into her own hands and built a driveway independently. However, she now fears that the council aims to exploit desperate drivers for financial gain.

In a statement regarding the matter, a representative from Lambeth Council stated that the initiative to enforce these regulations stems from efforts to address the "climate emergency." The spokesperson reiterated that it is illegal to drive over pavements without an authorised vehicle crossover, and emphasised the importance of approving applications to ensure safe access. The council further explained that unauthorised crossings can result in damage requiring municipal repair and may also obstruct pedestrian pathways.

This development reflects ongoing tensions between local authorities and residents regarding urban planning, vehicle access, and climate considerations, as the community grapples with the financial and practical implications of compliance.

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

## References

* <https://www.checkatrade.com/blog/cost-guides/dropped-kerb-cost/> - This URL provides information on the average cost of installing a dropped kerb in the UK, which can range from £1,100 to £1,800, depending on whether it's for a new or existing access point. It also discusses additional costs such as planning permission fees.
* <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/streets-roads-and-transport/streets-and-roads/dropped-kerbs/step-4-pay-construction-dropped-kerb> - This Lambeth Council webpage outlines the process for paying for and constructing a dropped kerb, emphasizing the need for payment before construction begins. It also mentions the importance of completing the parking area or driveway before arranging for the dropped kerb.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the article discussing the financial implications for residents in Lambeth due to the lack of dropped kerbs and the council's enforcement of regulations.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vehicle-crossovers> - Although not directly mentioned, this government guidance on vehicle crossovers generally supports the legal requirement for authorized vehicle access points, which is relevant to the issue of dropped kerbs in Lambeth.
* <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-budget-and-finance/climate-emergency> - This Lambeth Council webpage discusses their efforts to address the climate emergency, which is mentioned as a reason for enforcing dropped kerb regulations to ensure safe and sustainable urban planning.
* <https://www.gov.uk/planning-permission-england-wales> - This government webpage provides general information on planning permission in England and Wales, which is relevant to the process of obtaining permission for installing a dropped kerb.