# The Venue threatens legal action over lost disabled parking bay in Worthing



The ongoing dispute between The Venue, a live music hall in Worthing, and West Sussex County Council over a disabled parking space has reached a critical juncture, with the venue's management threatening legal action. The owner, who wished to remain anonymous, claims that the space outside the venue’s stage door was previously used as a layby, essential for unloading equipment for concerts and television productions. This arrangement, he noted, was functional until the pandemic changed circumstances.

Post-lockdown, the layby was converted into a disabled parking bay, a change that the venue owner argues severely disrupts operations. He recalls incidents where touring bands found themselves ticketed for parking in what was once a convenient unloading zone. “Our venue went from 'the best venue the band had ever been in' to becoming a place they vowed never to return to,” he stated. This shift in sentiment, compounded by the perception that the venue is no longer accessible for unloading, has reportedly led to a loss of over 60 per cent in bookings for the year.

The situation was exacerbated when a council-contracted dump truck was parked in the same space, leading to accusations of hypocrisy against the council. In light of ongoing construction work disrupting the venue further, the owner expressed frustration at having to cancel yet another show. “With the road coned off and sections closed, we resigned ourselves to another setback,” he commented. His attempts to reclaim the space have been met with resistance, as traffic cones placed to mark the area were consistently removed shortly after being set up.

West Sussex County Council, however, maintains that the disabled parking bays outside The Venue are under its jurisdiction and that only vehicles with a valid disabled badge are allowed to park there. A spokesperson for the council stated that enforcement action could be taken against any vehicle improperly using these spaces and clarified that the bays cannot be suspended without prior agreement from the Highways Authority. This strict enforcement adds to the already heightened scrutiny surrounding the availability of accessible spaces in Worthing—a concern that has been echoed in numerous discussions in the community.

Parallel to this, local discourse around disabled parking in Worthing has been tumultuous. In March 2022, the removal of disabled parking bays during improvement works in Montague Place was met with backlash from residents and business owners, prompting council leader Kevin Jenkins to assure that alternative provisions had been arranged. Some critics argued that the consultations had not sufficiently involved local communities, leaving many disabled individuals feeling unsupported and uncertain about proper access to amenities.

Overall, the battle for the layby highlights broader concerns regarding parking provisions for disabled individuals in Worthing. Just a few years prior, a petition was launched to reinstate disabled parking spaces in areas like Montague Place, illustrating persistent public outcry over accessibility. As The Venue's owner contemplates legal recourse against the councils, the implications of this dispute could resonate beyond the venue itself, signalling potential changes in local parking policies that could shape the experience of residents and visitors alike.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25213984.venue-worthing-vows-sue-council-parking-space/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/lost-worthing-disabled-parking-bays-were-replaced-in-different-location-3591287)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25213984.venue-worthing-vows-sue-council-parking-space/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/why-did-they-think-these-plant-boxes-would-be-more-important-than-our-safety-3568920)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25213984.venue-worthing-vows-sue-council-parking-space/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/4351855.worthing-carer-demands-clear-guidelines-on-disabled-parking/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25213984.venue-worthing-vows-sue-council-parking-space/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/lost-worthing-disabled-parking-bays-were-replaced-in-different-location-3591287)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.change.org/p/worthing-borough-council-reopen-the-disabled-spaces-at-montague-place-worthing)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpqjzq7v0w9o)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/why-did-they-think-these-plant-boxes-would-be-more-important-than-our-safety-3568920)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25213984.venue-worthing-vows-sue-council-parking-space/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/lost-worthing-disabled-parking-bays-were-replaced-in-different-location-3591287> - In March 2022, concerns were raised over the removal of disabled parking bays in Worthing's Montague Place due to improvement works. Council leader Kevin Jenkins stated that the bays were not formally wheelchair accessible and that new spaces had been provided elsewhere, including Marine Parade and Liverpool Gardens car park. The council engaged with local residents, businesses, and access groups to address the issue. Jenkins emphasized the commitment to providing alternative and new disabled bay provisions as a result of the traffic regulation order.
3. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/why-did-they-think-these-plant-boxes-would-be-more-important-than-our-safety-3568920> - In February 2022, plans to relocate disabled parking bays in Worthing sparked anger among blue badge holders. The removal of bays in Montague Place for a pedestrianisation scheme led to concerns about the availability of safe spaces for unloading equipment and passengers in Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs). Residents criticized the council's consultation process and the adequacy of alternative provisions, highlighting the importance of accessible parking for disabled individuals in the town centre.
4. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/4351855.worthing-carer-demands-clear-guidelines-on-disabled-parking/> - In 2009, a carer in Worthing called for clearer parking restrictions after his disabled friend received a fine for parking in a marked bay. The council upheld the £35 fine, stating the bay was reserved for resident permit holders. The incident highlighted confusion over parking regulations and the need for clearer signage to prevent misunderstandings among disabled drivers and carers.
5. <https://www.change.org/p/worthing-borough-council-reopen-the-disabled-spaces-at-montague-place-worthing> - In July 2020, a petition was launched to reopen disabled parking spaces at Montague Place in Worthing. The closure of these bays, intended to aid social distancing, led to concerns about the lack of accessible parking for disabled individuals. The petition called for the council to reopen the bays and provide more disabled-only bays in the town to make it more disability-friendly.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpqjzq7v0w9o> - In 2022, businesses in Worthing expressed fears of closure due to parking fines issued in a private car park managed by One Parking Solution. Customers received fines for minor infractions, leading to complaints and a reduction in business. The company stated it operated in accordance with the British Parking Association and International Parking Community code of practice, but businesses feared the fines were deterring customers and impacting their revenue.
7. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/mans-misery-as-car-parked-in-disabled-bay-for-five-days-1139778> - In March 2017, a blue badge holder in Littlehampton was unable to park outside his home for five days due to another vehicle occupying his disabled bay. The vehicle did not have a blue badge, and the incident highlighted issues with the enforcement and availability of disabled parking spaces, affecting the daily lives of disabled residents.