

RESPONSE TO ITEM 9(a)

Petition - Parking on Pavements in Olney

Thank you for the petition, explaining the problems experienced by disabled people and their carers due to inconsiderate parking in Olney. I also assume those with pushchairs will be similarly affected and agree the problem needs addressing. As an administration we have been clear about the need to make our streets accessible for all and have introduced capital funding for small schemes around the borough to aid that.

To deal with the specific problems, the Council only has the powers to enforce parking restrictions that are backed up by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO - a sort of local by-law that legally sets out what is permitted on the road-space). These restrictions will be signed and/or lined, for example, single and double yellow lines. In the absence of a TRO the Council are not empowered to issue a penalty for parking although the Police do have these powers as the offence of obstruction has remained a criminal offence. Therefore, at the moment, parking on dropped kerbs and the pavement can only be enforced by the Police. This can be reported on the non-emergency number 101.

The Council does have the powers to implement a prohibition of verge and pavement parking ban and there is a policy and process for communities to active this in their locality. This would allow the Council to undertake parking enforcement rather than the Police.

Olney does have regular parking enforcement although at the moment, this is mostly for time-restricted limited waiting to spaces on the High Street, as these are the restrictions we can currently enforce.

I have requested officers from our parking team to contact the Town Council to open discussions on how to best take this matter forward and identify solutions.