

27 February 2014

{MM:Honorific} {MM:First Name} {MM>Last Name} {MM:Honours}
{MM:Job Title}
{MM:Address Line 1}
{MM:Address Line 2}
{MM:Address Line 3}
{MM:Address Line 4} {MM:Address Line 5}

Dear {MM:Salutation} {MM>Last Name},

Risks to child and adult pedestrians and legality of footway parking

I am writing to you as someone who has (jointly with others) responsibility for the safety of pedestrians.

I am writing to ask that you give a clear answer to the question posed on the enclosed poster concerning footway parking like that of the Sainsbury's delivery van and the Merseyside Police car.

I (and many others) feel that this question needs a clear answer because of the increasing practice of driving on to footways for parking (on the Wirral and elsewhere) and the insufficient attention of those in authority to the resulting threats to the safety of children and other vulnerable pedestrians. These threats are from the risk from the moving vehicles and from pedestrians being deprived of the safety of the reserved space. Details are given on the reverse of the poster.

I am writing to a number of people in order to establish if there is consensus on this question, and if so, what that consensus is.

Please reply as soon as possible and in any case within three weeks via the enclosed answer sheet and stamped addressed envelope.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Campbell MD FRCS FRCR

IS PARKING LIKE THIS LEGAL OR ILLEGAL?



PEDESTRIANS NEED A CLEAR ANSWER

Legality of footway parking: Why Pedestrians need clarity

Risks to pedestrians

- footways have become impassible, particularly for the most vulnerable: those with disabilities, in pushchairs, in wheelchairs, or on mobility scooters
- numerous near misses have occurred from vehicles driven on to footways at speed
- an arrogant and selfish attitude towards pedestrians is developing
- Merseyside has the worst pedestrian reported KSI rate in Great Britain
- a January 2014 Wirral Council report states “Pavement/verge parking is a major problem at peak times outside most of the school sites in the Borough”, but provides no plan for effective action
- Guide Dogs, RNIB, National Federation of the Blind of the UK, Leonard Cheshire Disability and Living Streets are all campaigning for action

Clarity is fundamental in road safety

- Road safety depends on the three “E”s: Engineering, Education and Enforcement. If there is no clear statement of what is legal, how can engineers plan schemes, or road safety campaigns encourage compliance with the law, or the police enforce the law consistently?
- The October 2013 Transport Select Committee Report stated that “local authorities must ensure that they communicate clearly to motorists”.

Merseyside Police officers and Wirral Council officers have failed to give clear answers

- Merseyside Police and Wirral Council officers have given numerous different and contradictory statements.
- Wirral Council reports are inconsistent
- Repeated requests for clarification have been ignored or evaded
- Commitments by Wirral Council officers to give written clarification have not been honoured

Contrast with other forms of transport

- The test of civilised society is often said to be how it treats its weakest members. Large resources are being devoted towards airport expansion, road building and HS2. Questions of safety in these sectors are dealt with professionally and with attention to detail. The contrast with the resources devoted to protecting vulnerable pedestrians when travelling on footways is stark and shameful.

Why this approach?

- Many Wirral residents have raised concerns over several years by letter, email and telephone and via attendance at public Police and Council meetings, but without any consistent response. It seems that a more eye-catching approach is necessary.
- A common feature of tragedies affecting vulnerable children and adults has been that clear warning signs and genuine concerns were ignored by those in authority. Examples include the failures of child protection systems in Birmingham and Haringey.



Is parking like this legal or illegal?

Please tick one box

legal ☐

illegal ☐

don't know ☐

Signed Date



Comments

Please return via the enclosed stamped addressed envelope.

Notes

The question is a general question i.e. about parking by motor vehicles *like* that in the photographs, rather than the particular cases of the Sainsbury's delivery van and the Merseyside Police car.

The question relates to

- areas outside London
- cars and vans (not HGVs)
- where there are no emergency circumstances
- where there are no signs permitting footway parking.

If you feel that parking like that shown in the photographs is in some circumstances legal and in others illegal, please say in what circumstances you feel that it is legal and in what circumstances you feel that it is illegal.

From