

## GET WISE TO THE LAW

The Department of Transport is currently considering legislation to empower local authorities to introduce their own anti-pavement parking legislation.

At present it is unlawful to drive on the pavement, but most magistrates do not accept a pavement-parked vehicle as proof that it has been driven there! A witness to the offence of pavement driving is usually required.

Lorries are sometimes permitted to park on the pavement whilst loading or unloading. Emergency vehicles and those being used for road or footway repairs may also be permitted to do so.

## GET FOOTWAY-WISE...

...GET THOSE WHEELS OFF!

### Join The Pedestrians Association

This is how you can help the organised fight against pavement parking. The Association's magazine **WALK** carries news of national and local action against this menace as well as other matters of concern to people on foot. It is sent FREE to members. A specimen copy will be sent to enquirers on receipt of an S.A.E.

For more information about the Pedestrians Association return the form below to:  
The Pedestrians Association, 1 Wandsworth Road, London, SW8 2XX

Please tick as required

- Please send full information about the Pedestrians Association
- I/We enclose annual subscription of £..... (Rates: Individuals and groups - £10.00; pensioners and students - £6.00)
- I/We enclose a donation of £.....
- Please send covenant/bankers/GIRO standing order forms  
(delete as applicable)

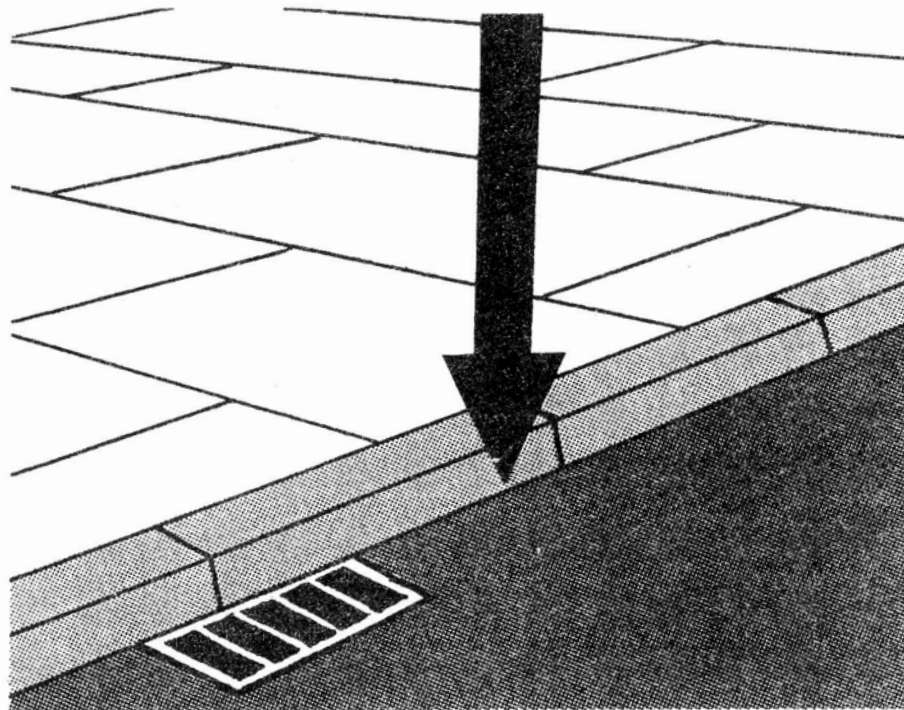
Name.....

Address.....

THE PEDESTRIANS ASSOCIATION  
126 ALDERSGATE ST.  
LONDON EC1A 4JQ



# THE WHEELS MUST STOP HERE



People on foot use footways lawfully. People on wheels use them unlawfully. A pedestrian occupies a minimum of footway space. A car takes up to 20 times as much space and a lorry up to 50 times, and they may stay parked there for hours, perhaps even days, on end.

**PAVEMENT PARKING MUST BE STOPPED**

# PAVEMENT PARKING

## UNLAWFUL

Driving on the footway is forbidden by Section 72 of the Highway Act 1835 (interpreted by Section 191 of the Road Traffic Act 1988) and carries a maximum fine of £400.

Parking on footways and verges in roads where yellow-line restrictions apply is unlawful, as is also the parking of heavy commercial vehicles on footways or verges or the leaving of a vehicle in a dangerous or obstructive position.

In Greater London, pavement parking is specifically forbidden, except in particular streets, under Section 15 of the Greater London (General Powers) Act 1974, and offenders may be fined.

## DANGEROUS

All pedestrians are put at risk, but more especially the blind, the partially-sighted and people using wheelchairs, walking-frames and crutches. An estimated ten million people in Britain (one person in every six) have some form of mobility handicap. People with wheelchairs, prams or pushchairs may even be forced out into the road because of lack of space on the pavement.

## COSTLY

Some three million adults each year fall over broken paving surfaces, many of them damaged by parked vehicles. Half-a-million of these people receive medical treatment under the NHS, and some may need support from their local social services departments.

Pavements are not made to withstand the weight of vehicles, and repairs are expensive. Also frequently damaged are pipes and cables running beneath the pavement, and their repair puts up the costs of such services as gas, water and electricity.

## HOW TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM

### Complain to the police

You may be asked to make a statement, so be ready with as much information as possible: time and place of the offence; nearest shop

or house number; how long the vehicle was seen to be parked on the pavement; the extent to which pedestrians were inconvenienced; vehicle registration number, colour and make; direction faced by the vehicle; number of wheels on the pavement; and the approximate width of the pavement. Draw a sketch-map or, even better, provide a photograph.

The police know that it is an offence to drive on the pavement, but they rarely do anything about it. Shortage of resources is the most common explanation for not taking action. It is up to you to remind them that they must give greater priority to traffic law enforcement.

If the offender pleads 'Not Guilty' you may have to appear in Court as a witness.

### Complain to your Council

Pavement parking is usually dealt with by the Chief Engineer's Department or the Environmental Health Services.

If you are told that no action can be taken, complain to your local Councillor. It is helpful to supply some of the information required by the police: this shows that you mean business. You will be able to obtain the addresses you need from your public library or the Town Hall.

Suggest ways in which your Council can tackle the problem: bollards on pavements where vehicles are most frequently parked; leaflets warning drivers about the offence; postcards inviting the public to complain about pavement parking.

### Write to your M.P. and the local press

Send photographs and point out that pedestrians should have a clear footway width of at least six feet (1.8m.) to meet the needs of the disabled and of people wheeling double-buggies.

### Put stickers on offending vehicles

For two FREE sheets of 25 stickers bearing the words PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS, send an S.A.E. to The Pedestrians Association at c/o 27 Penrith Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym, BRISTOL. BS10 5LX.