



Lilian Greenwood MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Transport)
By Email

30 January 2025

Dear Lilian,

I agreed last year to represent Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking, as a Walking Advocate. I've chosen to do this as I want a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys. I believe in Living Streets' mission to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.

The organisation has released [their first steps to create child-friendly streets](#), with their immediate priority for the new UK Government to act on pavement parking.

Vehicles parked on the pavements force people into the road. This is dangerous for everyone but is a particular problem for disabled people and parents/carers with young children. When asked, 80% of parents said they would feel safer allowing their child to walk to school if vehicles weren't parked on pavements.

This is an issue my constituents have been in touch with me about. One constituent, whose brother has MS and uses a wheelchair, shared her deep concern about the dangers of pavement parking. She described how wheelchair users, as well as parents with pushchairs, are often forced onto busy roads just to navigate past parked cars—first having to locate a dropped kerb before moving into traffic. She fears that without action, a serious accident is inevitable.

Pavement parking is an issue your Ministerial team care about. You have been calling for action on this issue throughout your Parliamentary career.

In 2019, the Transport Committee which you chaired published a report criticising the Department for Transport for failing to act on pavement parking. Amongst other recommendations, the report called for:

- Commitment to tackle pavement parking as part of its Loneliness Strategy
- Legislation for a nationwide ban on pavement parking across England
- A national awareness campaign to highlight the negative consequences of pavement parking



Ellie Chowns MP
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[The full report can be read here.](#)

Noting this, I would like you to consider:

- Immediately publishing the results of the Department for Transport's Pavement Parking consultation, which closed in November 2020
- Creating an action plan to end pavement parking in England for good

Such action would be popular and a win for road safety. Indeed, over 4,000 people have signed Living Streets' online action in support of tackling pavement parking. I hope you will consider acting in support of these voices.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Chowns'.

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.