

Dear Mr Metcalfe,

I am writing to you with regard to the issue of pavement parking, in particular the impact this has on the mobility of blind and partially sighted people as I understand this is under discussion within your local authority. There are an estimated 6,600 people living with sight loss on the Isle of Wight.

As you may be aware, the Department for Transport have launched a consultation on this issue, under new plans to boost safety and to make journeys more accessible for disabled people and parents. A recent review found that a third of people with visual impairments were less willing to venture out due to antisocial pavement parking.

Specific problems that pavement parking can cause for blind and partially sighted people include:

- Unexpected accidents or bumps into vehicles like cars can damage people's independence and confidence in navigating
- Sometimes pavement parking can lead to blind or partially sighted people having to walk into the road to avoid the car – a scary and dangerous experience
- The overall impact may mean people are more reluctant to leave their home due to safety concerns, which in turn leads to loss of independence and increased levels of isolation.

Blind and partially sighted people tell us that being able to make walking journeys is fundamental to maintaining independence, getting exercise, staying connected with family and community, and accessing work and key services such as healthcare.

Indeed, 81 per cent of respondents to our travel survey told us that it is important or very important to them to be able to make walking journeys independently, without a sighted guide.

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We hope that you take these factors into consideration when looking at the management of issues around pavement parking, for the benefit of local residents who are blind and partially sighted as well as society as a whole. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Wordingham', written in a cursive style.

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