

QUESTION 3

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 JULY 2022

Question to Cllr David Williams Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

By Cllr Clements

Question

Please can the Cabinet Member please tell me the costs to repair pavements specifically in Tamworth where people use them to park inconsiderately and make them unsafe for pedestrians and those with disabilities?

Reply

Parking on the footway can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Rule 244 of the Highway Code clearly states that drivers must not park partially or wholly on the pavement in London and should not elsewhere unless signs permit it.

In 2020, the Department for Transport carried out a consultation on managing pavement parking which outlined options to tackle pavement parking at a local authority or national level which included three options; improving the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, under which local authorities can already prohibit pavement parking; a legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'; or a legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England.

The consultation closed in November 2020 and as of July 2022, the Department for Transport advice on the consultation page is that the feedback is being analysed.

Currently, if there are no parking restrictions and vehicles are parked in contravention of the rules of the Highway Code the matter can be reported to the police who have access to powers enabling them to identify vehicle owners and issue on the spot fines if necessary.

We repaired around 2,300 footway defects across the county in the past year at a cost of around quarter of a million pounds. However, but we don't collect the cause of defects so it's not possible to say how many of these were as a result of footway parking as opposed to other general ageing and deterioration.