TO: letters pages, Oxford Times

From: Hazel and Steve Dawe – COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP – [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

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Dear Editor,

Pavement parking is a blight throughout Oxford and can be seen in many places in the City on any day of the week at any time. Scotland is introducing a ban on pavement parking, which comes into effect next year (1). Our Government is now consulting on a pavement parking ban in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking>

Why is this important? For those with mobility problems, and for those with pushchairs, vehicles on the pavement can be a big problem. If the vehicle concerned is a van or larger vehicle, pedestrians have no choice but walk into the road. Since pavements are not designed to bear the weight of vehicles, pavement parking causes damage to pavements which is a cost to council tax payers when repaired. But repair is often a long-time coming so pavements, despite complaints, may remain in disrepair for long periods, a hazard to the less mobile and to small children. Also, pavement parking often partially or wholly blocks cycle routes.

Reclaiming our pavements will require adjustments on the part of vehicle users. Very narrow roads with perpetual pavement parking may need double yellow lines on one side of the road, to allow through traffic movements. But there may have to be exemptions to a ban such as for those commercial premises where customers are habitually using areas of pavement for temporary parking as long as the pavement is not blocked. But our pavements were never meant to be parked on, so we should all support a pavement parking ban.

c250 words

Yours sincerely

Hazel and Steve Dawe – COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes:

1. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/scotland-pavement-parking-ban-what-it-and-when-does-it-take-effect-815074> & <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/ban-pavement-parking-in-scotland>