To: editor letters pages OXFORD MAIL/TIMES

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

53 Bulan Road Oxford OX3 7HU – 28th January 2021

Dear Editor,

Happy to hear that the City Council backs the Government’s plan to make pavement parking illegal (Oxford Mail, 28th January 2021). In the autumn of 2020. Cowley Area Transport Group put in a submission supporting a ban to the Government consultation on banning pavement parking. Scotland has already passed a ban, scheduled to come into force this year(1).

Pavement parking cannot simply be described as leaving space for other vehicles. It is also taking space from pedestrians. It occurs inside double yellow lines if pavements are wide enough, for example regularly on the south side of the Slade between the Wood Farm and Lye Valley communities in Oxford and on Hollow Way near the junction with Horspath Road. It can also do serious damage to pavements which have not been designed to carry the weight of vehicles. Because of the large increases in online shopping in recent years, a lot of pavement parking is the result of delivery vehicles dropping off goods. This very short-term pavement parking may actually continue under a ban, as would parking by emergency vehicles. But it would be good to see better emphasis by City and County on more goods entering Oxford in cargo bikes to help reduce traffic levels and wear and tear to both roads and pavements.

Unfortunately, a lot of pavement parking also blocks cycle tracks and pushes cyclists into the main traffic flow. This needs to be countered as far as possible. A more difficult question about introducing a ban is that building construction vehicles, and those of workers doing things like electrical, heating or water maintenance work, may be up on pavements for lengthy periods. So, a pavement parking scheme needs careful attention to exemptions if it is going to work smoothly.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel and Steve Dawe – COWLEY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes:

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