

Solving the pavement parking puzzle

Living Streets raised the problem of pavements at Spotlight on Parking

Retailers over-emphasise the extent to which customers drive and the importance of parking, the pedestrian charity Living Streets told a gathering of local authority parking managers, organised by the London Borough of Hounslow and Alpha Parking.

Dr Kevin Golding-Williams, public affairs and policy manager at Living Streets, told the Spotlight on Parking seminar: "A good street environment is important and people are willing to pay for it."

Well-planned improvements



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to public transport can increase footfall by up to 40%, he told the seminar,

Living Streets' solutions included ensuring footways are free from cars, preventing vehicles causing damage to pavements and maximising pedestrian vision, particularly at road crossings. "Poorly parked vehicles force pedestrians onto

the road," said Dr Golding-Williams. "A vehicle that blocks a road could force a mother with a push chair, a wheelchair user or someone with visual or mobility impairment to step out into the traffic. The parking consultation currently being reviewed by the government must consider the impact of inconsiderate parking and look at all options, including a national ban on footway parking."

A survey carried out for Living Streets indicated that 41% of residents said that cars parked on pavements were the biggest issues when it came to street clutter and the local environment.

Regulations covering street parking are contradictory,

Living Streets points out. Parking on pavements is banned in 32 London Boroughs and the City of London, but in most other regions of England and Wales, local authorities have to make a street-by-street Traffic Regulation Order in line with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Transport Select Committee, said Golding-Williams, recently agreed that the current legislation was a "confusing patchwork".

It is around schools that the cameras were proving most effective, and Golding-Williams gave examples of local residents living near schools offering their driveways to the CCTV crews so they could keep the streets clear of traffic.