
Redbridge Disability Consortium

London Borough of Redbridge
Parking Consultation, 2015

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Introduction

Redbridge Disability Consortium welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Redbridge Parking Consultation. In our recent report, *Redbridge Voices, The views of Deaf, vision impaired, hard of hearing and disabled people (2015)* a major and re-occurring theme that emerged in our focus groups, workshops and talks with local residents was concerns about transport and parking.

With rush hour traffic and limited parking driving into Redbridge can be a trial. Yet, how often do you have to worry about the kerb being too high or too low to get out of your car? Alternatively, if the only place you can park will be vacant? How often is another car parked so close to yours that you are forced to wait hours until the owner returns to allow you to go home? Finally, how often do you have to lift a heavy wheelchair out the boot of your car so you are able to go shopping with your partner? Not often, if at all?

Well, these are just a few of the obstacles that disabled people and their families face every day when they drive or are driven into Redbridge. It does not stop there. Using public transport is as challenging, if not more so, for many disabled citizens in this Borough. Yet, we all know that being able to get out and about is a key component of independence and being included in society.

Recommendations

1. We call for more parking bays accessible and dedicated to disabled people in Redbridge.
2. London Borough of Redbridge should make concerted efforts to enforce the law on pavement parking and parking on crossovers
3. In areas where Redbridge Council permits car parking on the footway (and forces pedestrians to walk on the carriageway) this practice should be re-examined and the needs of disabled pedestrians taken into account
4. Targeted measures should be taken to eliminate uneven pavement surfaces.
5. A Need for education – our research has highlighted a general perception that there is, among some people, a lack of respect for disabled people and of the adverse and negative impacts that parking abuse can have on a disabled person's independence.
6. Better enforcement – there appears to be a lack of visible intervention or clear signage to warn drivers
7. Further consultation with disabled people is important, to determine user needs

What people told us

Lack of accessible parking bays dedicated to disabled people in Redbridge.

Disabled people have told us time and time again that there is a lack of accessible parking bays dedicated to disabled people in Redbridge. In addition, a specific concern for disabled people was finding a suitable place to park when reaching their destination.

I have a wife who suffered a stroke. She is in pain, she can't walk, or, just around the house from the armchair to the toilet. If I take her out, I have to use the car. Parking spaces are few and far between and usually used by other people.

As you open the door of the car there is a pole or trees, which does, not give the space for my wife, to come out, so there is no space.

I go to the pharmacist (Wanstead Pharmacy) there are two parking places, one with a tree in the middle when you open the door.

At the corner of -- what is the name of the street there? Where the Cooperative is. There are again two places for

disabled.....Even there, there is a tree.

In Hainault, (Manford Way), they put in disabled bays, which you can't access if you drive, because it is one way. If you park, you actually have to get your wheelchair out of the car and put it right in the middle of the road

Enforcement against parking abuse is weak

There is a perception that enforcement against parking abuse is weak.

The other thing with that is there is no policing. I was on my mobility scooter the other day and nearly got hit by a car, and I'm using a cashpoint because you have to park along the pavement. No policing whatsoever of blue badges. You see one car with a blue badge, the next five bays you pass, or go past, no blue badges or nothing.

You've got two pedestrian crossings, you've got the little pimples for visually impaired people and two days running there's cars parked right across the exit.

I challenged one person and said "You can't park there" and they just got in their car without saying a word, and I've left my scooter right in front of her. She reversed and drove off and nearly hit my scooter

I actually had a word with our local community policeman, and I sort of mentioned to him about parking on dropped kerbs and was told that the police have no responsibility to move people or anything like that, it is down to the council. That surprised me.

Vehicles parked on pavements

Vehicles parked on pavements can force people to walk unsafely on the road. This is particularly a problem for people with mobility and visual impairments, but it is also a danger to all pedestrians.

But people without blue badges parking in disabled spots. That's a big wind-up. Sometimes, on private property like a swimming pool or something like that..

My main bugbear is car parking in disabled bays.

My other main bugbear is cars parking over dropped kerbs. It gets impossible, sometimes, especially on the scooter. If you're crossing a road and your exit across the road is blocked, you either have to stay on the road, which is incredibly dangerous, scooters go 8 miles and hour maximum and you've got nowhere else to go

About Us

Redbridge Disability Consortium

www.redbridgedisabilityconsortium.org

Our work is driven by the goal of a society in which disabled people are treated with dignity, fairness, respect and understanding. We are passionate about developing high quality, accessible services for disabled groups, working in partnership to influence policy and outcomes affecting disabled groups; and challenging the stigma and discrimination that disabled people encounter in their day-to-day lives

Redbridge Concern for Mental Health

www.rcmh.org.uk

Redbridge Concern for Mental Health - established over 15 years ago – is a service user led organisation based in the London Borough of Redbridge dedicated to promoting, improving and protecting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the wider community.

We offer high quality services to local residents seeking mental health support. We also provide information and signposting as well as challenging the stigma and discrimination that people experience in their everyday lives.

Redbridge Forum

www.redbridgeforum.co.uk

Our aim is to help improve the quality of life for people with a learning disability and their carers, including those on the autistic spectrum. A lot of our work at present is based around children's services and we run 4 projects Fun 4 All, Bright Ideas, TrueColours and Childrens Advocacy. We also support people with a learning disability to speak up for themselves and we also engage with local carers to find out what they think about services in Redbridge