

COUNCIL
23 APRIL 2026

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following amendment to a motion has been submitted:

Verge and Footway Parking Protection Orders in Letchworth Garden City

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alistair Willoughby and seconded by Councillor Clare Billing:

Council notes that:

North Hertfordshire contains a mix of historic, garden-city (being home to the first garden city, Letchworth), and modern residential areas, many of which include grass verges, narrow streets and pedestrian routes that are vulnerable to obstruction or damage from vehicles mounting pavements and verges.

In a number of locations, grass verges are being damaged by repeated vehicle parking, and vehicles mounting footways can obstruct pedestrian routes, creating particular difficulties for people with disabilities, wheelchair and mobility scooter users, parents with pushchairs, and older residents who rely on clear and accessible pavements and verges.

Protecting verges and ensuring safe pedestrian access is therefore important not only for environmental quality and local character, but also to ensuring that streets remain safe and accessible for all residents.

Council further notes the Government's announcement (January 2026) that local authorities will be given new powers to restrict and enforce pavement parking later in 2026, and that removing pavement parking without mitigation risks displacement, neighbour disputes, and reduced access for emergency vehicles. Council also recognises that Hertfordshire County Council must lead on this work as the 'Local Transport Authority', with North Herts Council acting as a consultee and enforcement body only once the work is commenced.

That in some streets pavement parking has become informal but essential due to limited capacity, and that verge damage forms part of a wider need to improve the quality, safety and appearance of North Hertfordshire's streets.

Therefore, Council resolves to:

- Ask officers and councillors to begin identifying locations across North Hertfordshire where pavement parking and verge damage are causing accessibility, safety, or environmental concerns, and where future enforceable restrictions may be appropriate once the Government's secondary legislation is published and Hertfordshire County Council has begun consultation.
- Request that North Hertfordshire District Council, ~~working with Hertfordshire County Council~~ works closely with Hertfordshire County Council, as the highways authority, to identify both the areas that may require enforceable restrictions and the areas where limited or formalised

pavement parking may remain appropriate, ensuring that displacement impacts and local parking needs are fully considered.

- Ensure that any proposals brought forward are subject to appropriate consultation with residents, including engagement on the balance between accessibility, safety and practical parking needs.

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Receive a report back to Members with proposals for implementation once the Government's secondary legislation is available and the consultation framework is confirmed.