

Solihull Street Charter

Improving Highways Access and Movement for Vulnerable Road Users

Accessible version



Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council is committed to engaging all vulnerable road users and values their input on how we plan, develop and manage our roads, walkways and pedestrian areas

This charter has been developed in partnership with local stakeholders including:

- **Individual blind and partially sighted residents**
- **RNIB**
- **Solihull Vulnerable Road Users Group**
- **Solihull Association for the Blind**
- **Guide Dogs**

The street charter will continue to develop and change to meet the needs and requirements of vulnerable road users.

Reporting:

We commit to:

- **Promote easy ways for people to report issues, collisions or injuries that they face.**

Engagement:

We commit to:

- **Involve and consult with vulnerable road users on new developments and, where possible, make any necessary changes to the schemes.**
- **Promote the use of the Stay Connected e-bulletin service, to provide regular informative updates on important developments.**

Advertising Boards (a-boards) and Street and Café Furniture:



✗ Example of bad practice



✓ Example of good practice

Advertising Boards (a-boards) and Street and Café Furniture:

We commit to:

- Carry out regular checks of street and cafe furniture and advertising boards in town centres.
- Take a more robust approach to the enforcement.
- To regularly update policies to reflect local people's needs and to have clear policies available to the public.
- Work with vulnerable road users to monitor and minimise the impact of any temporary obstructions that appear on the pavements.
- Work with local business owners to improve awareness of how a-boards cause difficulties for vulnerable road users and to encourage the use of alternative forms of advertising.
- When town and village centres are redeveloped, actively engage vulnerable road users around the design and implementation of street furniture.

Parking on Pavements:

We commit to:

- Work with the Police to keep the pavement clear of obstructions caused by parked cars.
- Investigate and, where possible, implement new and innovative ways of tackling school related parking issues.

Temporary Highway Works:

We commit to:

- Where feasible ensure pavements remain accessible whilst work takes place. If not consider alternative facilities.
- Make sure that suitable alternative pedestrian routes are properly signed and accessible.
- Ensure that, unless unavoidable, blue badge only parking bays are not taken away and if parking bays are temporarily lost, nearby alternatives are provided.

New Developments / Shared Space:

We commit to:

- Continue to work with and consult the established Vulnerable Road Users Group in relation to new major developments within the borough.
- Ensure that consultations about new developments are accessible to all vulnerable road users.

Crossings:

We commit to:

- Work with the Vulnerable Road User Group to review and audit pedestrian crossings.
- Continue to enforce national guidance when it comes to the use of audible beeps, rotating cones and tactile paving.
- Where there are plans to change or remove existing crossings, to talk directly with vulnerable road users.



→ Photograph of Solihull Gateway



→ Photograph of Solihull Gateway

Waste and Recycling Containers:

We commit to:

- Continue to ensure that all rubbish bin collection teams are aware of the importance of not leaving bins in a position where they can cause an obstruction.
- Continue to encourage residents to be considerate in how they leave their bins out for collection and storage.



✘ Example of bad practice

Overhanging Shrubbery and Branches:

We commit to:

- Provide easy ways for vulnerable road users to report overgrown shrubbery and branches to the Council.
 - Act swiftly upon reports by alerting the residents or taking action if it is a council owned property.
 - Encourage residents to be considerate in managing their shrubbery and trees.
-

End of booklet