



Media Release  
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### **Parking campaign to focus on safer footpaths**

Selwyn District Council is stepping up efforts to stop people parking on footpaths across the district – with departments working together to make footpaths safer.

It is illegal to obstruct a footpath and vehicles parked on them has been a growing problem for the Council.

Regulatory Manager Susan Atherton says the safety of pedestrians is paramount. “Footpaths should be unobstructed and pedestrians using them should not have to walk around vehicles and onto roads – it really is dangerous,” she says.

“We would prefer not to issue any parking infringements, however where a safety issue is identified, we will now be handing out tickets.”

Illegal parking has also become a significant problem according to School Road Safety Coordinator, Stephanie Hautler. “We have noticed over the last couple of years parking on footpaths is happening more and more. It’s a huge concern for vulnerable pedestrians and in particular school children who can panic and make a bad decision when their usual route is blocked.”

The Council is also urging developers and builders to check the safety of pedestrians around their sites. Rosie Flynn, Team Leader Resource Consents, says developers are being advised that parking and obstructing footpaths is not acceptable. “We’re including information whenever a resource consent is issued advising developers that they need to plan their operations and make sure the footpath is not being used as part of their worksite,” she says.

Building Manager Vanessa Mitchell says with all the development across the district on smaller section sizes, it can be difficult for contractors to contain vehicles and trailers on site.

“Builders and their contractors need to keep an eye on what is happening”, she says. “Contractors should check that temporary fencing feet do not overhang on the footpath and ensure deliveries are booked outside times when kids are heading to and from school.”

“You may think you are being courteous and keeping the carriage way clear by putting two wheels up on the footpath, but you are creating a hazard. Park legally on the road and keep the footpath clear for everyone to use safely” says Tania Watkins, Corridor Manager.

Large vehicles and delivery trucks also cause damage to asphalt surfaces and utility service covers. Footpaths should last up to 20 years, but are not designed to take heavy traffic. Their lifespan is significantly shortened when vehicles constantly drive on and over them.

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