



Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

17th July 2023

Dear Business owner,

Your Town Council needs your help

We are writing to every business in Kirkby Lonsdale with premises fronting our main roads and pavements, asking that all pavements be kept free of obstructions. This is to ensure safe and clear access for all pedestrians, including those with impaired vision, with prams or who use wheelchairs or other means of support.

This request has become necessary as we are receiving an increasing number of complaints about A-boards, displays and street furniture, including tables and chairs, which can block pavements and roadsides. We know of at least one case where legal action is being taken after a wheelchair user was forced onto the roadway and the chair was damaged.

Whilst the overall responsibility for highways lies with Westmorland and Furness Council as highway authority (who can remove obstructions if requested to do so), the Town Council would like businesses in the town to take voluntary action to make the streets safer for pedestrians, particularly those with impaired vision, in wheelchairs or pushing prams.

A Code of Conduct relating to A Boards etc has been adopted in Kendal (enforced by Westmorland and Furness Council) and the Town Council is considering developing a similar code for Kirkby Lonsdale.

Your Town Council understands the commercial desire to attract customers, but obstructions around our shops can prove counter-productive, especially if pedestrians are forced off our narrow and often sloping pavements into the road.

We will monitor the situation over the coming months but with your co-operation we can reduce or end further complaints, or the need for further action.

Kevin M Price

Kevin M Price Clerk to the Council (kevtherev7@hotmail.com) OR

Mike Burchnall, Chair of the Town Council (mikeburchnall@gmail.com)