

NEW PARKING ENFORCEMENT RULES COMING INTO EFFECT FROM 1st APRIL 2021.



Motorists in Southend could soon be hit with fines and bills if they are caught driving over footpaths or grass verges.

Parking on pavements and grass verges is set to be banned from April 1 under the council's new parking strategy for the borough.

The council has previously warned a team of enforcement officers could hit motorists with fines for driving over footpaths and grass verges. But, deputy leader Ron Woodley said anyone causing any damage to verges outside homes will be notified repair costs will be recouped by the council. Southend Council wants to crack down on anyone damaging footpaths with a "more vigorous enforcement" which would also open up "a new source of revenue".

Deputy council leader, Ron Woodley said: "This is going to go ahead. We are hiring and training people at the moment to become enforcement officers. The damage is usually severely broken up paving slabs and under those slabs you have services like water, gas, and electricity. "All of it needs to be repaired otherwise it can create trip hazard and other problems. We spend £1million on pavements every year and then have to spend £2million repairing damage from people parking on verges and pavements. This also applies to builders who do damage during construction work and it applies to households who have skips on pavements".

"If damage is spotted the homeowner will get a letter from our legal department outlining the damage caused and that we will be recouping it from households. If we see damage done people will be held responsible. The Government has backed that, and we will be enforcing it.

Councillors have backed the move, saying they are 'inundated' with complaints from residents. The move is part of the council's £50m highways budget, investing in roads, pavements and car parks over five years.