

Man Paints Own 'No Parking' Lines Outside His House

Harder

2nd August 2017

A man in New Zealand has taken road traffic safety into his own hands. For the past 20 years, Russell Taylor has been illegally painting yellow parking-restriction lines on the road outside his house. Mr Taylor told the BBC news agency that the reason for his actions was to improve traffic safety in his neighborhood in the capital Wellington. He also wanted to protest against gentrification. Mr. Taylor said he initially painted the yellow lines after becoming fed up with the local council's lack of interest in following up residents' complaints about road safety. He explained that he had seen numerous accidents and near-collisions on his narrow street and that his actions have made the road safer.



Wellington City Council confirmed it was aware of the road markings and that they would be removed. It pointed out that it was illegal to install "fake traffic devices", such as Taylor's homemade yellow lines. It said: "We're aware of problems and complaints about parking in Holloway Road, and that the fire service had trouble getting to a house fire there in the past year because of parked vehicles." It also said it would be meeting residents to discuss the idea of installing no parking signs. The council added that Mr Taylor would not be prosecuted for his illegal road markings. It said: "Given the glorious and healthy history of civic activism in Holloway Road, we would rather not pick an unnecessary fight."

Vocabulary

- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Capital
- ◆ Gentrification
- ◆ Accidents
- ◆ Complaints



1. How is the road traffic safety in your country?
2. Is illegal parking a problem in your town?
3. What do you think of Mr. Taylor's actions?
4. What kind of gentrification is there in your town?
5. What would you complain to your local council about?



TRAFFIC

Rank these with your teacher. Put the best ways of reducing traffic at the top

- ◆ More expensive cars
- ◆ Underground roads
- ◆ More buses
- ◆ Care-free areas
- ◆ Carpooling
- ◆ Car-free days
- ◆ Drone cars
- ◆ Free bicycles