

# People Parking Bay

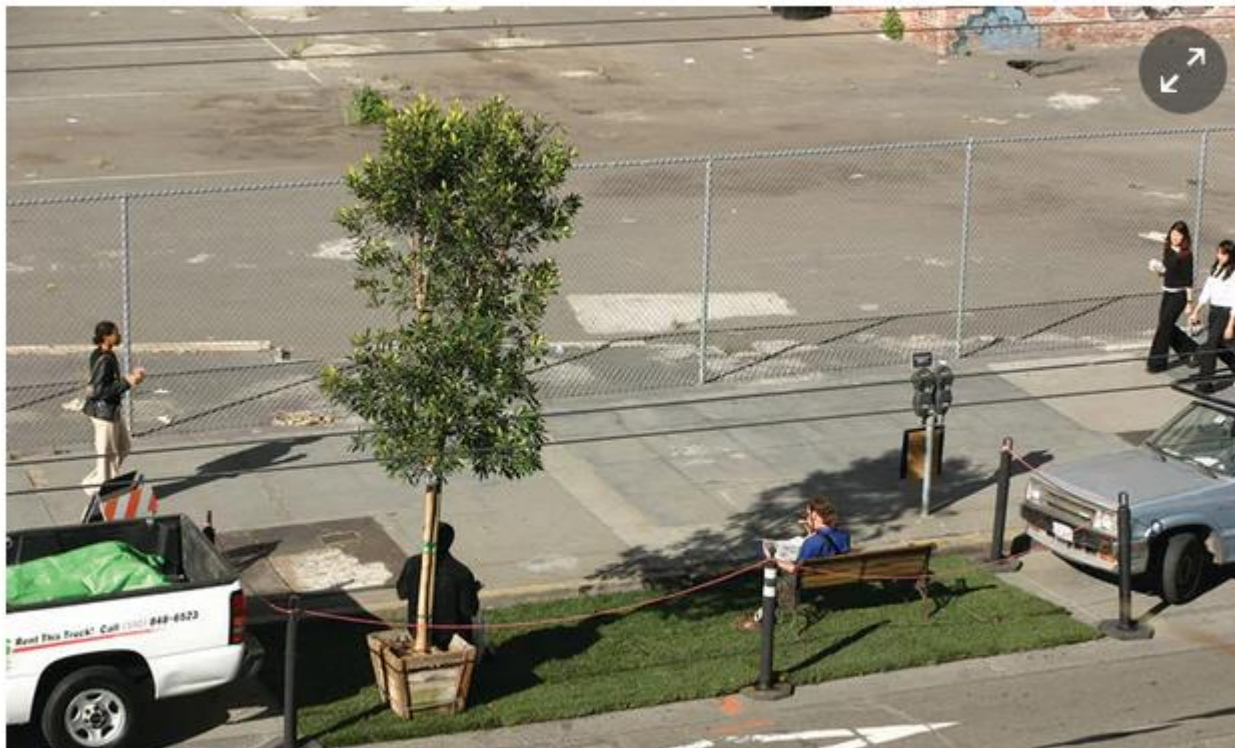
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The quest for a parklet permit

Brenda Puech,  
Hackney resident

# Rebar Park(ing) Day November 2005

Going global




 From little things: Rebar's original pop-up park in San Francisco in 2005. Photograph: [my.parkingday.org](http://my.parkingday.org)



## RECLAIMING THE RIGHT OF WAY

A Toolkit for Creating and Implementing **Parklets**

 UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

# Public parklets

San Francisco



New York



# San Francisco Parklet manual

## SAN FRANCISCO PARKLET MANUAL

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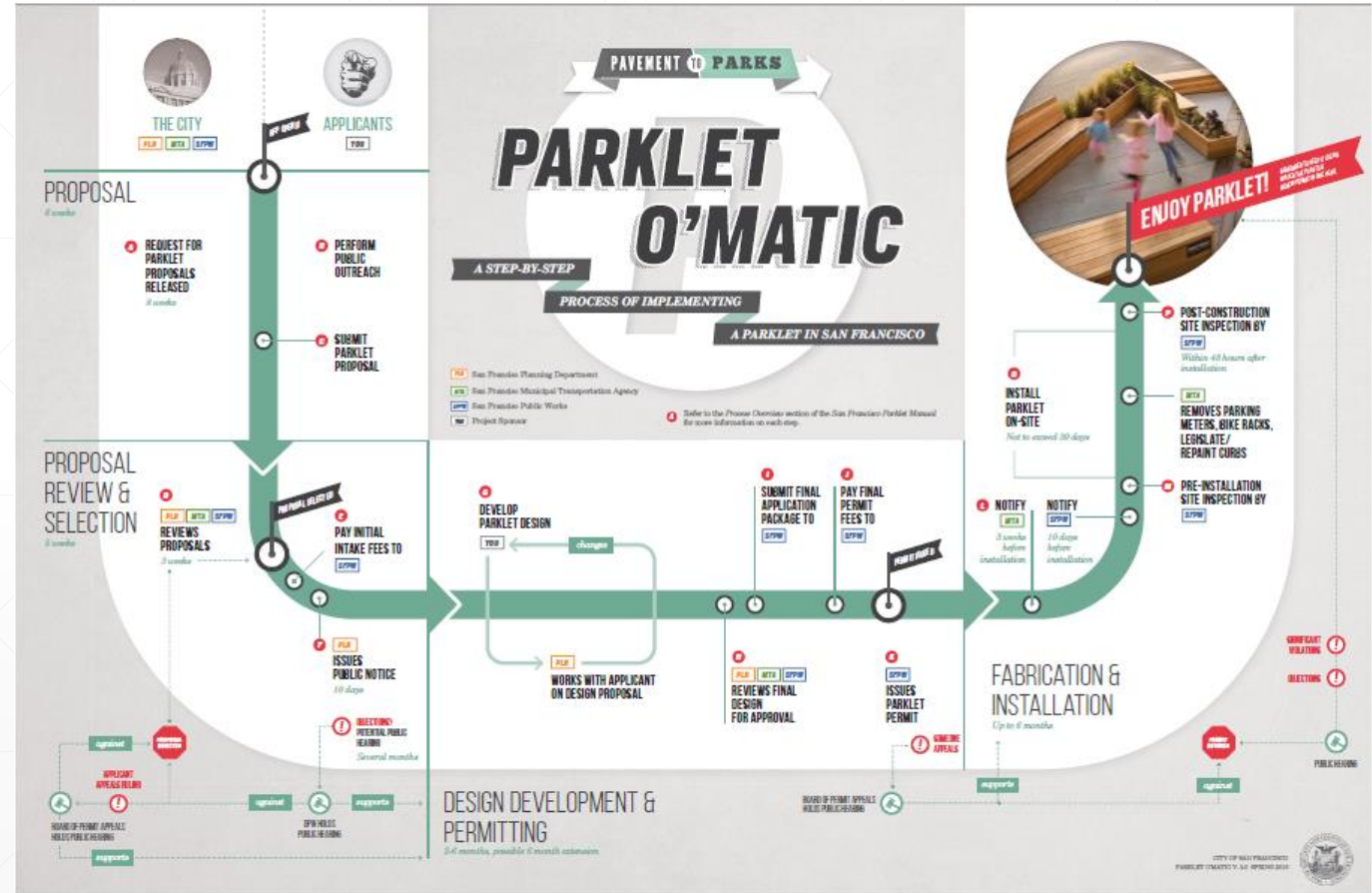
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# Parklets in London

Arup parklet in Camden



Hackney Wells Street



# Parklets in Majorca



# Trying to apply for a parking permit in Hackney

Application for permit turned down

**Application for an Estate Parking Permit**

Please complete this form and post it to **North East Neighbourhood Office, 149 Stamford Hill, N16 5LG**

**Part 1. Applicant details (IN BLOCK CAPITALS)**

Title  Main contact number   
(Mr, Ms, Mrs, Dr)  
First name  Secondary contact number   
Last name  Date of birth   
Address   
  
Post code  Email address   
Tick this box if you want an online account to be set up ☐

**Part 2. Details of vehicle owned or kept by applicant**

Vehicle registration number   
Vehicle make, model and colour   
**Self-certification** – In ticking this box I can confirm that the vehicle for which I am applying for a permit is registered with the DVLA at the address stated in this application, or that I am the authorised keeper of a company vehicle, or the owner of a foreign-registered vehicle. I understand that if my vehicle is found to be registered at a different address, my permit may be cancelled. ☐ ☒ N/A

**Part 3. Change of vehicle Information**

Duration of permit required – Your annual permit is valid for a period of 12 months

Deciding to go for it anyway

## People Parking Bay

You're welcome to park yourself on the bench, your bike on the stand and your drink or shopping on the table

### Why am I doing this?

Because parking bays can be used for more than just parking cars.

When I offered the Council full price for an annual parking permit they refused because I do not have or want a car. Instead I wanted to show how the same space could be used... I'm afraid I took matters into my own hands.

Households in Hackney who don't have a car number twice as many as those that do. Yet all our kerbside space is devoted to car parking. And cars are parked - on average - for 95% of the time. What a waste! Surely we can find a better use for at least some of our precious roadside space?

Why not allow people to park themselves along a road instead, or give children a space to play, or simply have something lovely to look at, say, a mini-garden?

This is just one quirky example of what we could do in a parking space. Please do park yourself here, as long as it lasts.

26 May 2017

[www.PeopleParkingBay.com](http://www.PeopleParkingBay.com)



# Launch 26 May 2017

Invitation to opening

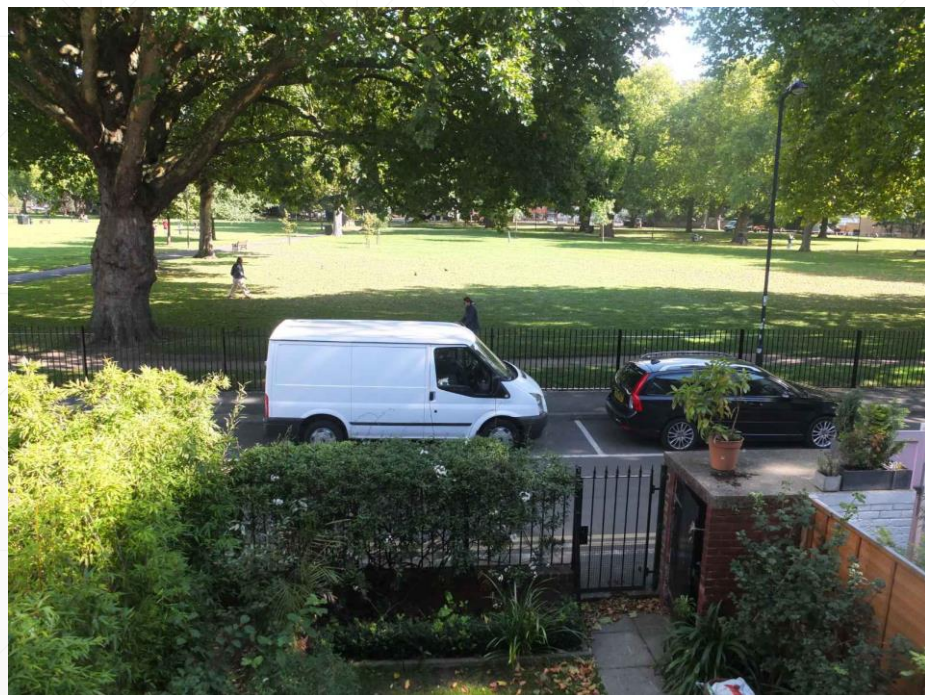


Cutting the ribbon - Green GLA member Caroline Russell



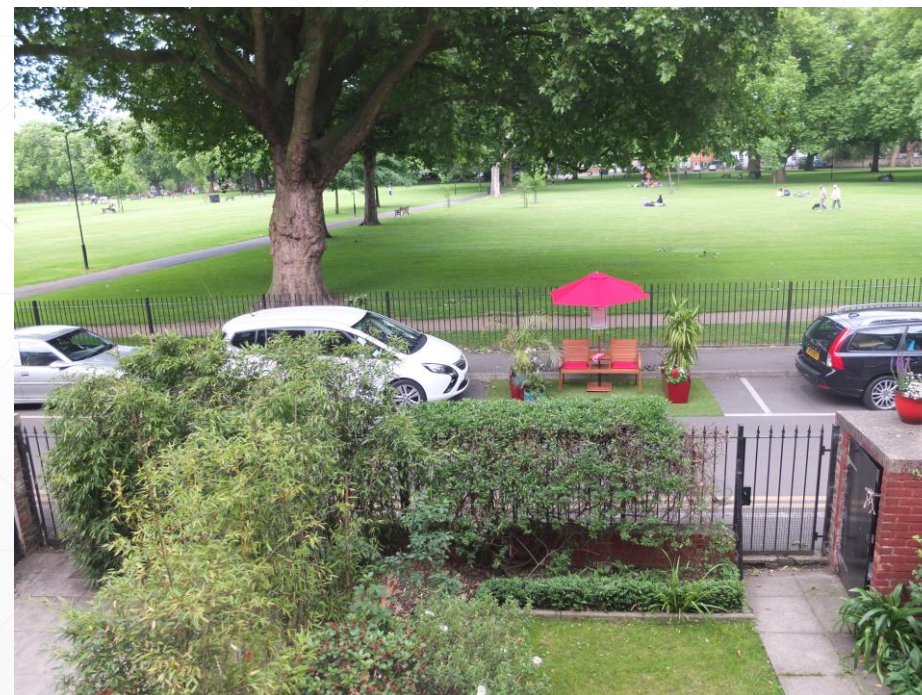
# BEFORE

View from my window



# AFTER

View from my window



# BEFORE – My street

View down the street



# AFTER – My street

View down the street



# The bay in play

Sitting with my friends



Family partying



# Reaction to the bay

Curious visitors reading the notice



People gather to chat



# Visitors to the bay

Passersby chatting



Children gathering in the bay



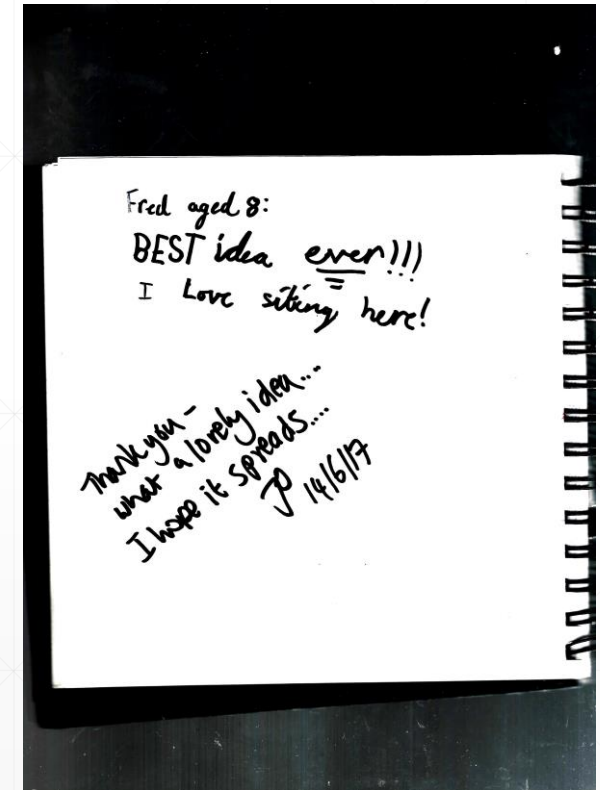
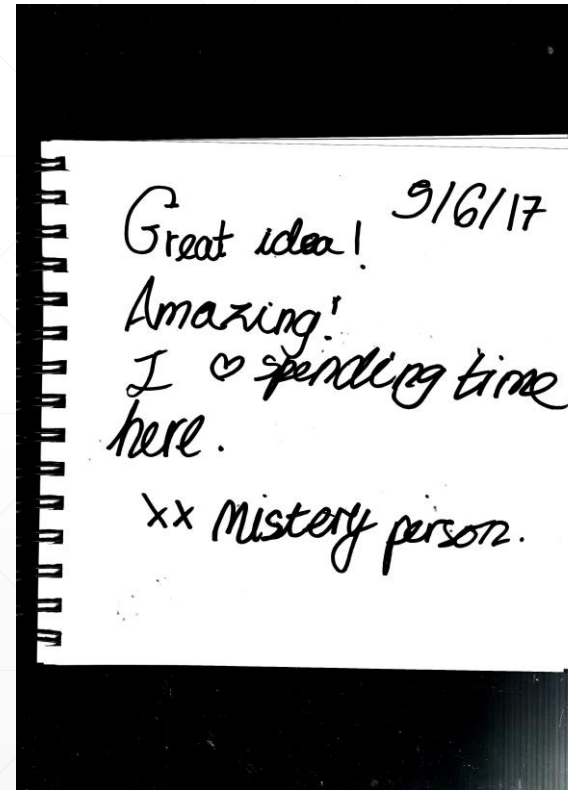
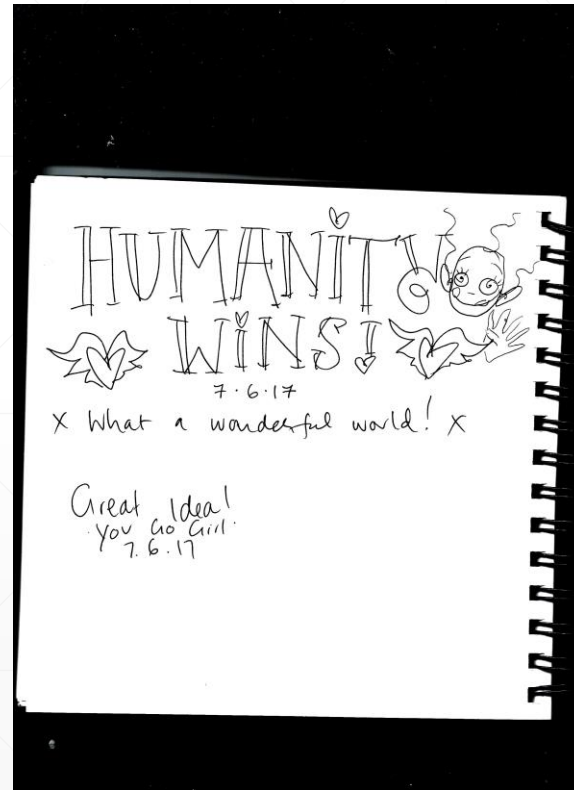
# Visitors – children's playing space



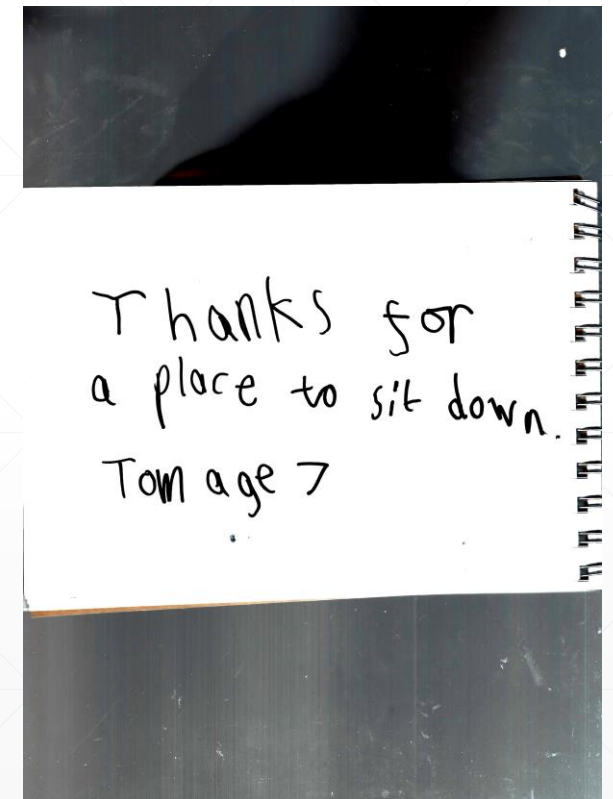
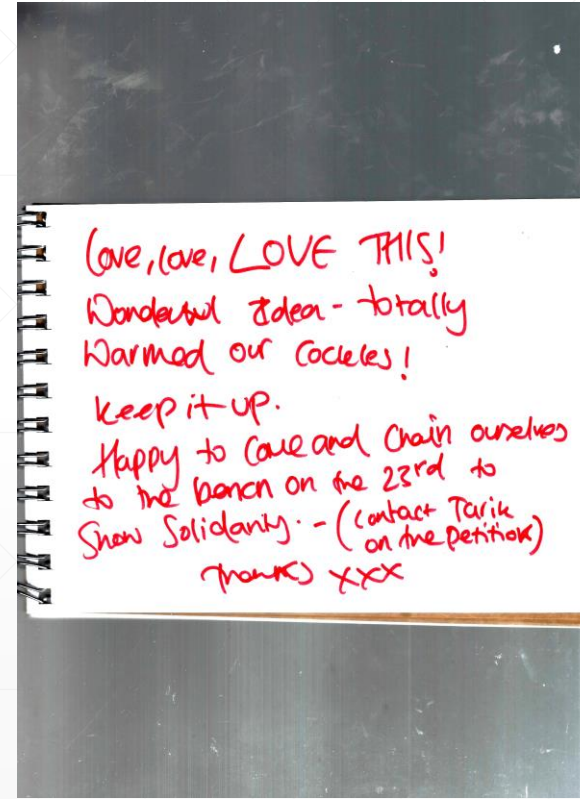
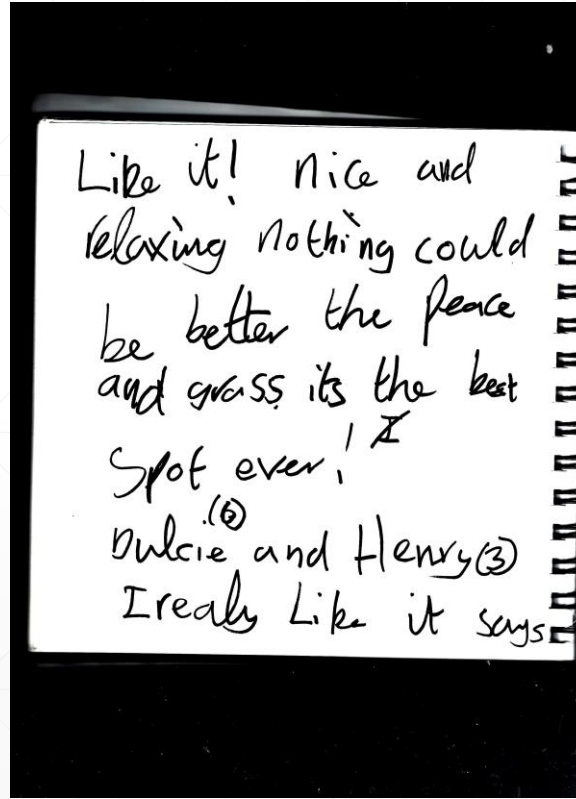
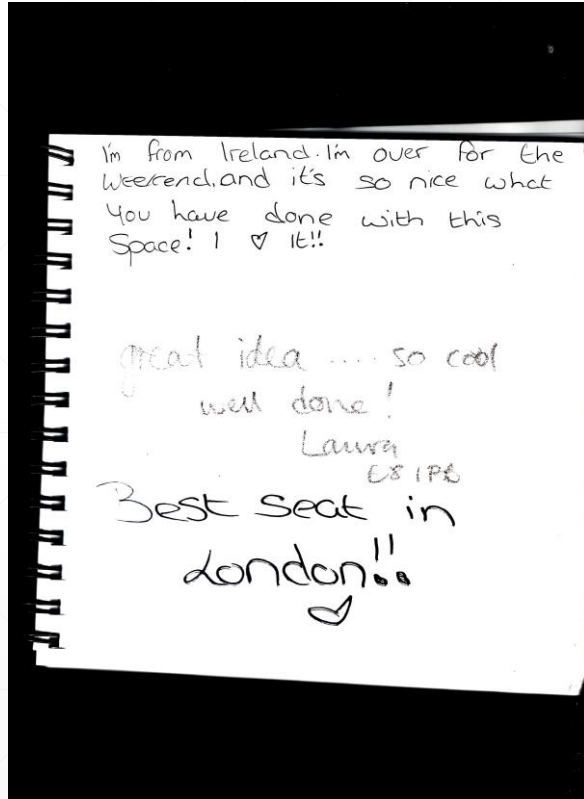
## Visitors – children's playing space



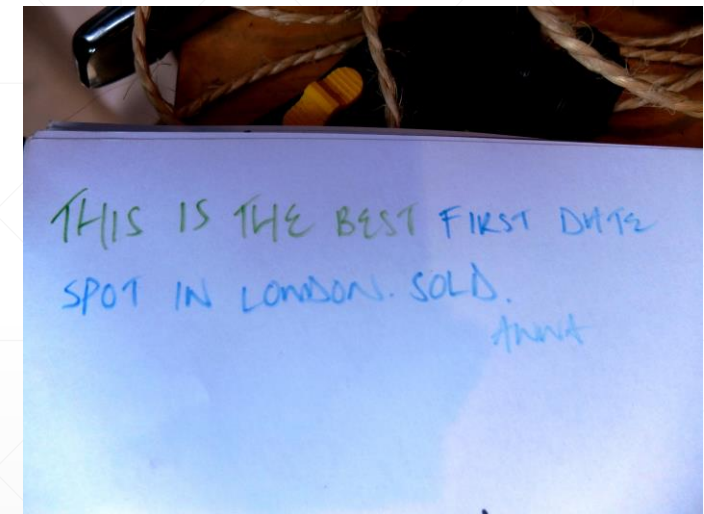
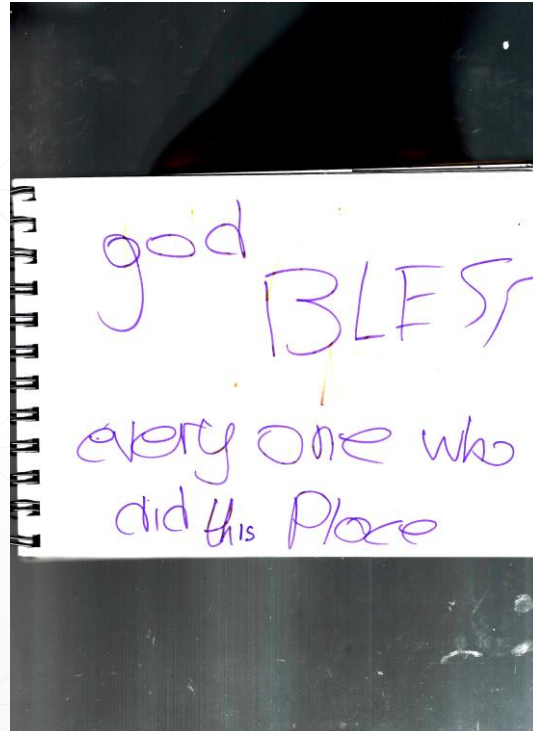
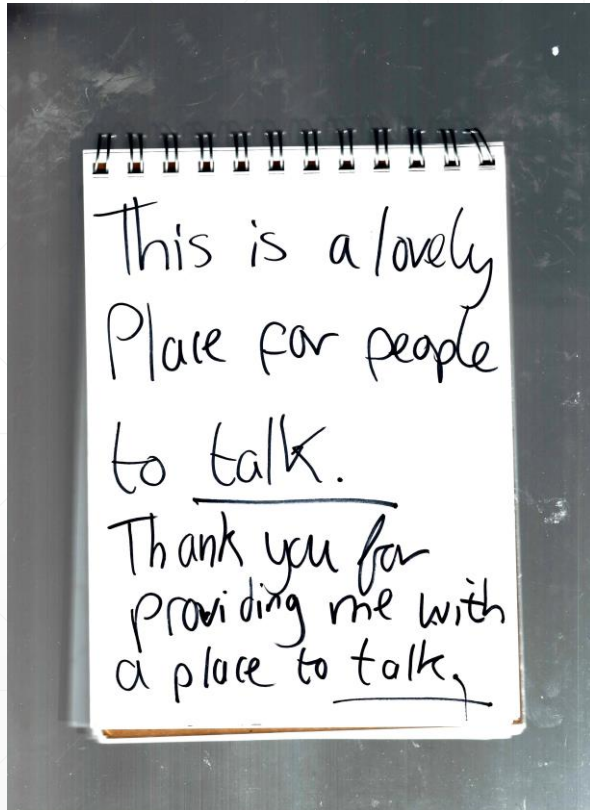
## Visitor book comments



# Visitor Book starts filling up



## Four Visitor Books fill up



# Twitter #PeopleParkingBay

Better Streets TH liked



**Chamoun Issa** @ChamounIssa · Jul 15

Genius! #PeopleParkingBay



**Gemma Clarke** ✨ @GemClarke24 · Aug 23

Two fingers to the council & their parking permits with this cute little set up down the road from me! #Hackney #takeaseat #PeopleParkingBay



# Twitter #PeopleParkingBay

WalthamForestCycling and 13 others Retweeted

**Hackney Cyclist** @Hackneycyclist · Jul 5

Took a detour past the [#peopleparkingbay](#) last night. Nice to see it being by a child reading. I hope it stays!



5 67 141

**Paul Thompson** @raganello · Jun 10

The Best Seat in London: Comments left at [#peopleparkingbay](#) convinced me what welcome oases they'd become if installed throughout London.



2 29 29

# Twitter #PeopleParking

PhilipGlanville liked

Kylie @netwench · Jun 1

In photo:

1. Campervan parked, unused, never moved
2. Kids sit, drink & eat in [#peopleparkingbay](#)  
[@hackneycouncil](#) [@PhilipGlanville](#) more of #2



🗨️ ↻ 4 📧

TAP London @LondonTap · Aug 15

'It seems extraordinary that residents cannot pay to use road space for small parklets that beautify the street' [#peopleparkingbay](#) [#Hackney](#)



🗨️ ↻ 1 ❤️ 1 📧

# Media reaction

## Hackney Gazette

Home News Sport Entertainment What's On

Meet the transport campaigners trying to make Hackney's streets safer using mobile speed cameras – and flowerbeds

PUBLISHED: 18:30 30 May 2017 | Tom Horton



Green London Assembly Member Caroline Russell opens the 'people's parking bay' and chats to Adam, five. Picture: Tom Horton

Campaigners looking to reduce the impact of cars on Hackney's roads are taking matters into their own hands by filling parking bays with benches and flowerpots and using mobile cameras to catch speeding motorists.

# HACKNEY CITIZEN

News / 3 July, 2017

## People's Parking Bay founder urges council to reverse removal threat

Brenda Puech's parking space garden could be driven out following complaint from car owner

Hackney Citizen

Share this:



Double mellow: visitors relax at the parking bay. Photograph: Brenda Puech

The creator of a popular parking bay garden in London Fields has been told to up sticks by the council – or face seeing her decorations wheeled away.

Pro-walking campaigner Brenda Puech was refused permission by the council to pay for a parking space for anything other than a car.

# Media reaction



News ▸ Cambridge News ▸ Cambridge

## 'Parklets' could transform the streets of Cambridge, say campaigners

Parking spaces on the streets should not just be used for cars, it is being proposed



Members of the public enjoying a People Parking Bay in Hackney

Miniature constructions called 'parklets' are transforming streets in cities around the world — and now people say they should exist in Cambridge.

Campaigners are calling for the introduction of these pint-sized hang-outs after a woman in London created a sensation by building one on her street without the council's permission.

Brenda Puech, 54, from Hackney, decided to build a parklet after Hackney Council told her she could only use a parking permit for a car.

"I felt, if you don't have a car, why shouldn't you be allowed to have a parking space," said Ms Puech, a disability access consultant. "For me it is a civil liberties issue as much as anything else."

According to Ms Puech, parklets originated in San Francisco and are built in parking spaces next to the pavement to create extra space for pedestrians to stop and relax.

Asked if a parklet could work in Cambridge, she said: "I think that would be wonderful. It makes a great community focal point and it shows that you can use spaces for alternatives to cars."

A Cambridgeshire County Council spokesperson said: "The County Council has an approved policy for the management of parking across the county.

"We work closely with local communities to ensure the application of our policy is effective and meets their needs. Any changes to how road space is used involves full consultation with the elected members residents and businesses."

# Media reaction

## TransportXtra

by Landor L

18th EPA Congress and Exhibition

Rotterdam, 20 - 23 September 2017

Rotterdam, 20 - 23 September 2017

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Monthly journal Parking Review has been the definitive source of news and intelligence on the UK and international public and private parking sectors since 1989.

"I believe a programme could be developed that harnesses people's creativity and willingness to invest in the street outside their home and that enhances the public realm, without costing the tax-payer any additional money."

Brenda Puech wants to see 'people parking bays' on every street in the borough, where residents and businesses can place something apart from a car for communal use in a bay when they buy a permit.

"This does not have to cost money for local authorities, or even lose them car parking revenue," said Puech. "Parklets are common in San Francisco, New York and many US and European cities."

The number of households in Hackney and other inner London boroughs that do not have a car outnumber car owning homes by two to one, according to Puech. "Yet all our kerbside space is given over to car parking. What is worse, cars in London are parked on average 96% of the time. This is a waste of valuable street space. A public resource - the street - is being allocated very inefficiently.

"With a decrease in car ownership and car use in cities, are we allocating too much space for cars and not enough for other uses? Walking is the most common way for people to get around and yet car parking dominates kerbside space. There is little or no provision for walkers to rest. Many people, including older and disabled people, and people with kids need regular rest stops while walking, and many pavements are too narrow for walking, let alone for benches."

## Hackney resident wants to convert parking bays into people places

Deniz Huseyin

15 June 2017



A Hackney resident has launched a campaign to turn surplus on-street parking spaces into car-free 'people parking bays'. Brenda Puech contacted the London Borough of Hackney to request an annual parking permit as she wanted to install a bench, cycle stands and plants in the bay outside her home.

Her request was turned down by the authority, which said the permit could only be used for parking a vehicle.

Undeterred, Puech organised a 'direct action' event on 26 May, transforming the space outside her home into a 'people parking bay'.

The action was supported by London Assembly member Caroline Russell, who said: "I'm delighted to support Brenda Puech's people's parking bay direct action which humorously and gently points out the absurdity of confining the use of precious street space for storing cars.

"With car ownership plummeting it seems extraordinary that residents who don't own



cars cannot pay to use road space for small parklets that beautify the street and make streets into less hostile and more sociable places.

# Eviction notice received on 16 June 2017 – three weeks after the launch



 Hackney

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

WOULD THE OWNER(S) OF THESE ITEMS PLEASE REMOVE THEM FROM THIS PARKING BAY.

If the items are not removed by **23 JUNE 2017** Hackney Council will have no option but to remove them and dispose of them without further notice and without liability.

The costs of removal and disposal may be passed on to the owner(s).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION  
Estate Management

16 June 2017

# Reaction by locals to eviction notices

To: Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville

## Please let the People Parking Bay in Hackney remain



Campaign created by  
Brenda Puech



Please allow the People Parking Bay in Hackney to remain for at least the summer in order to gauge public support for a 'parklet' programme in Hackney.

869 of 1,000  
signatures

### Sign the petition

First Name \*



Last Name \*

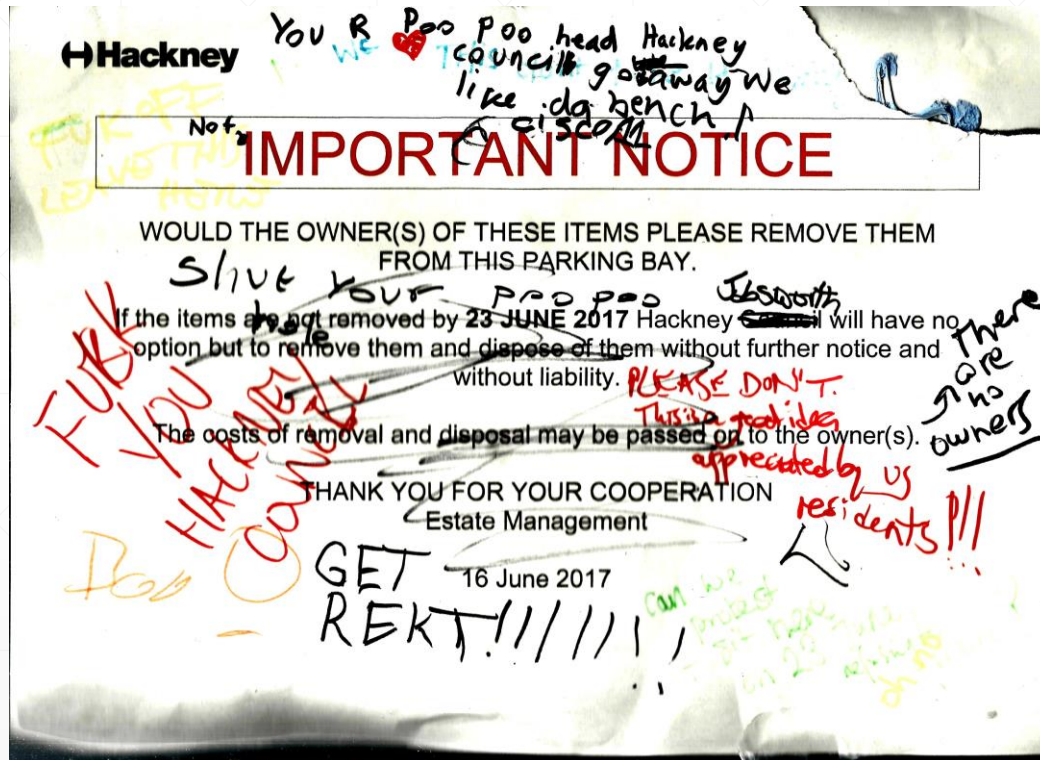
Email \*

Postcode \*

**SIGN**

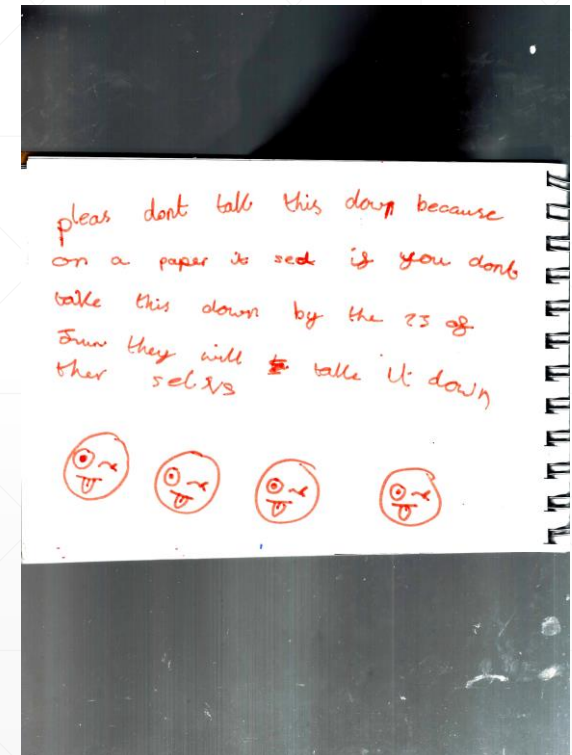
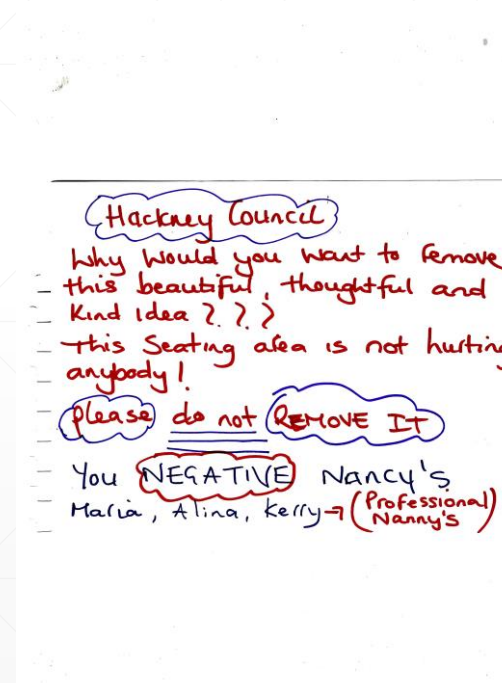
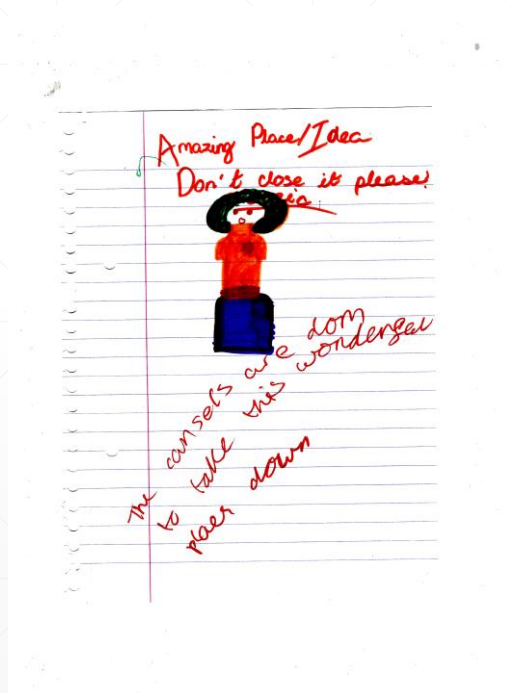
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# Reaction by locals to eviction notices



# Children try to save the bay

Please do not close this place



# Council refuses to allow parklet to remain

## Hackney Gazette

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Entertainment](#) [What's On](#)

London Fields protester who transformed parking bay into garden loses fight with council

**PUBLISHED:** 14:53 30 June 2017 | **UPDATED:** 14:53 30 June 2017 | [Tom Horton](#)



*The bay has proved popular with passers-by. Picture: Brenda Puech*

It was fun while it lasted but a Hackney parking space converted into a mini garden is set to be removed following a driver's complaint.



*The council has told Brenda to remove the bay. Picture: Brenda Puech*

The People's Parking Bay has proven so popular with passers-by in London Fields over the last month it's on its fourth visitors book and 700 people have signed a petition for it to stay.

# Last day of the bay

Children gather around for a last time



Final visitors to the bay



# Moving the bay to a new location

**John Ackers** @JohnAckers · Aug 16

Thx to [@pedalmeapp](#) for moving the **#PeopleParkingBay** to a new location in Hackney on Monday evening. People loved it.



**People Parking Bay on tour**

8 new photos · Album by John Ackers

[photos.google.com](https://photos.google.com)

# New location in Glyn Road Hackney

Parking bay in front of church



Rolling out the bay



# Setting up the bay

Locals gathering to watch



Dog refuses to leave



# Glyn Road bay

Having a well deserved rest



**Streets for people** @BrendaPuech · Aug 14

**#peopleparkingbay** Lovely to see the first kiss in the bay within minutes of it being in a new location. People just LOVE it @hacknycouncil



6 44 81

# Visitors to Glyn Road



# Glyn Road

Locals provide reading material



Amy Firth @amyfirthmusic · Aug 16

Just when I thought I couldn't love #Hackney any more than I already do... I stumble upon @Parking4people! 🌞🌴🧑🚲🌳👏👏 #peopleparking



3

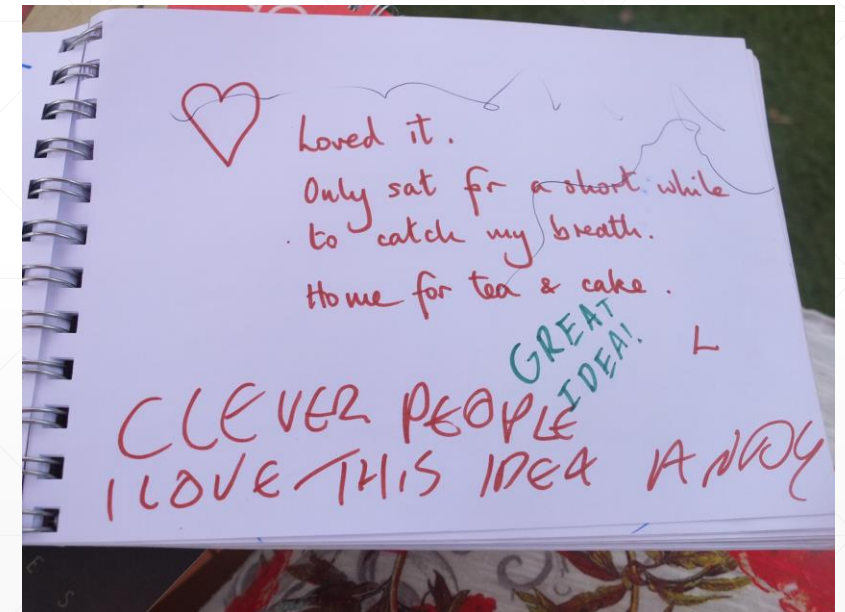
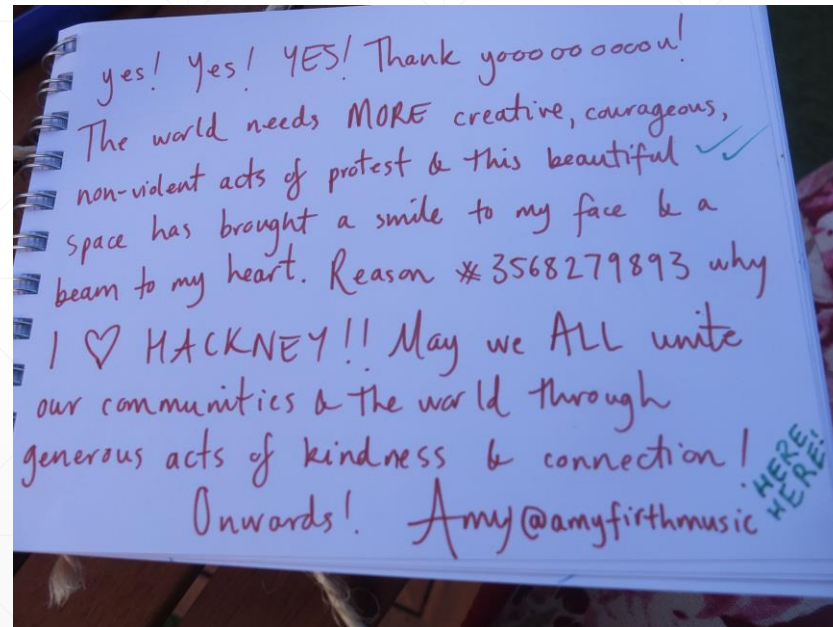
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# Glyn Road: Visitor books 1 & 2

## I Love Hackney



# The future of residential streets

**Bruce McVean** @brucemcvean · Aug 20

The future of residential streets - modal filtering so no through traffic and parking for people #HealthyStreets



5 31 57

## Full marks on Healthy Streets

**Bruce McVean** @brucemcvean · Aug 20

.@LE\_Saunders adds to People Parking Bay visitor book Full #HealthyStreets marks Great work @Parking4people @BrendaPuech #tacticalurbanism



2 22 35

# Eviction notice after 10 days

Notices plastered all over the bay



48 hours to quit Hackney


**Hackney** Notice Reference: 48Removal/647843/1319269  
Community Safety and Enforcement Service

## 48HOURS NOTICE

Section 149 of the Highways Act 1980

We, the Highway Authority, believe that the illegal parklet deposited on the highway on Glyn Road constitutes a nuisance. By notice you are required to remove it forthwith.

Failure to remove the illegal parklet may result in the Highway Authority removing the obstruction in pursuance of subsection (2).

Authorised Officer: Miriam Placide Signature: 

Date Issued: 23/08/2017 Date of Intended Removal: 25/08/2017

Community Safety and Enforcement Service, PO Box 60476 London E8 9EJ, Telephone: 0208 356 4504

# Reaction by locals to eviction notices

**Streets for people** @BrendaPuech · Aug 25

So a local resident has put up a day visitor permit to save the [#peopleparking](#) bay. Aww.



20 68

# Media reaction

EveningStandard.



## Green campaigner wins latest battle with Hackney Council over parking space gardens

JONATHAN MITCHELL | Saturday 2 September 2017 07:29 | 6 comments



Like Click to follow The Evening Standard



The People Parking Bay while set up in London Fields last month Brenda Puech

**A green campaigner who turned a parking space into a garden has won her latest battle with a London council.**

Brenda Puech began setting up her People Parking Bay in different locations in **Hackney** over a month ago, complete with a fake lawn and garden furniture.

The gardens proved a huge hit among locals, but Hackney Council has removed the makeshift bay due to complaints from drivers.

After a month-long row with the 54-year-old, the council has now agreed to meet with Ms Puech next week to “come up with a solution that works for everyone”.



Brenda Puech has moved the bay across different parking spaces in the borough

A spokesman told the Standard officials have agreed not to remove her existing installation in the parking bay while they discuss plans for the “parkets”.

# Move to Wadeson Street, Tower Hamlets

View from a window



Neighbours start talking to each other



# Visitors to Wadeson Street



# Reaction to Wadeson Street parklet



**Evan Odell** @evanodell · Sep 5

Spotted this from [@parking4people](#) near my flat, the only civilised use of a parking bay in London



**Mo adam** @MoeNugal · Sep 9

Replying to [@Parking4people](#) [@TowerHamletsNow](#) [@hacknycouncil](#)

For me your work [@Parking4people](#) is a work of political art it should be at the [@\\_TheWhitechapel](#) 🌞🌞



# Current Council initiatives

**CELEBRATE CAR FREE DAY** in Shoreditch

Friday 22 September 8am - 8pm

**Pop-Up Parklets**  
A number of parking spaces will be temporarily turned into mini parks. Follow the parklet path and discover surprising alternatives for kerbside space. Look out for seating nooks, play areas, and more!

**Garden Walk Garden Party**  
A normally busy street will be transformed into an oasis of calm! Stop by this end-of-summer garden party: enjoy the lush setting and indulge in some great food and drink from local retailers.

[www.hackney.gov.uk/parklets](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/parklets)

ZERO EMISSIONS NETWORK LOW EMISSION NEIGHBOURHOOD Hackney

Car free day

## Why are the pop-up parklets temporary and only in Shoreditch?

We know that there is a demand for parklets across the borough. The pop-up parklets are an opportunity for us to see what works, and how they could be rolled out more widely.

In the future we want to provide a way for local residents to suggest locations and uses for more permanent parklets everywhere - Car Free Day is just the start.

# Are parklets the future for parking bays?

- New regulatory framework
  - Encourage people to apply and pay for parklet permits
  - Provide light touch regulation and oversight
  - Allow people to invest in their public realm
  - Allow people to express their creativity
  - Provide subsidies in poorer areas
-