

## Man paints own 'no parking' lines outside his house

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."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [nzherald.co.nz](http://nzherald.co.nz) / [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz)

## Writing

No one should be allowed to park cars on city streets. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

hands / parking / news agency / traffic safety / capital / gentrification / accidents / road markings / devices / complaints / fire service / residents / no parking / history

## True / False

- A man in New Zealand hurt his hands controlling the traffic. T / F
- The man painted red lines outside his house for 20 years. T / F
- The man didn't like the council's lack of interest in road safety. T / F
- The man said he had never seen any accidents on his road. T / F
- Wellington Council said it would not remove the lines the man painted. T / F
- Parked vehicles stopped the fire services from getting to a house. T / F
- The council will meet residents to talk about no parking signs. T / F
- The council will not take any legal action against Russell Taylor. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>illegally</b>    | a. sick and tired |
| 2. <b>improve</b>      | b. wonderful      |
| 3. <b>protest</b>      | c. many           |
| 4. <b>fed up</b>       | d. erased         |
| 5. <b>numerous</b>     | e. boost          |
| 6. <b>removed</b>      | f. putting in     |
| 7. <b>residents</b>    | g. complain       |
| 8. <b>installing</b>   | h. undesired      |
| 9. <b>glorious</b>     | i. unlawfully     |
| 10. <b>unnecessary</b> | j. citizens       |

## Discussion – Student A

- How is parking in your town?
- How is road traffic safety in your country?
- Is illegal parking a problem in your town?
- What do you think of Mr Taylor's actions?
- What problems are there in your neighborhood?
- What kind of gentrification is there in your town?
- What would you complain to your local council about?
- What advice do you have for Mr Taylor?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. taken road traffic safety into            | a. residents to discuss the idea |
| 2. Taylor has been illegally painting yellow | b. improve traffic safety        |
| 3. the reason for his actions was to         | c. and near-collisions           |
| 4. He also wanted to protest                 | d. an unnecessary fight          |
| 5. he had seen numerous accidents            | e. parking-restriction lines     |
| 6. It pointed                                | f. his illegal road markings     |
| 7. We're aware of problems and               | g. his own hands                 |
| 8. It also said it would be meeting          | h. out that it was illegal       |
| 9. Mr Taylor would not be prosecuted for     | i. against gentrification        |
| 10. we would rather not pick                 | j. complaints                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How can road markings help traffic safety?
- Are there too many cars in towns and cities?
- What would you like to meet your local council about?
- Do you think Mr Taylor should be prosecuted?
- How important is civic activism?
- How can we make the roads safer?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Taylor?

## Spelling

- lelyllaig painting yellow parking-restriction lines
- opmvrie traffic safety
- he llyitnaji painted the yellow lines
- following up residents' lapctonmis
- he had seen nmousreu accidents
- near-iliosnocls on his narrow street
- Wellington City Council rmocnifed it
- fake traffic desveci
- We're ewaar of problems
- parked ciehvesl
- Mr Taylor would not be sdeeroctpu
- Given the loosugri and healthy history

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. i | 2. e | 3. g | 4. a | 5. c  |
| 6. d | 7. j | 8. f | 9. b | 10. h |

## Role Play

### Role A – Higher Car Tax

You think higher car tax is the best way to reduce traffic in towns. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more buses, underground roads or free bicycles.

### Role B – More Buses

You think more buses is the best way to reduce traffic in towns. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): higher car tax, underground roads or free bicycles.

### Role C – Underground Roads

You think underground roads is the best way to reduce traffic in towns. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more buses, higher car tax or free bicycles.

### Role D – Free Bicycles

You think free bicycles is the best way to reduce traffic in towns. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): more buses, underground roads or higher car tax.

## Speaking – Traffic

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of reducing traffic at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • more expensive cars | • car-pooling   |
| • underground roads   | • car-free days |
| • more buses          | • drone cars    |
| • car-free areas      | • free bicycles |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.