

Grange Prestonfield Community Council Chair's Report September 2011

Newsletter

Over the summer we produced our third newsletter; copies are available at the meeting. Many thanks should go to Ray Footman for laying out the stories that needed to be covered in an initial draft. The office bearers provided editorial comment and any faults in layout and design should be laid at my door.

We have nearly distributed copies to all parts of the Community Council area; many thanks to members and volunteers who have helped with this. There are still a few patches left to be covered; please see Sue afterwards if you can help.

Parking

We were pleased to see the B1 Residents' Priority Parking scheme implemented at the beginning of September. Despite a few early hiccoughs there seems to have been good take-up of the permits from residents. I have received positive comments so far from residents, saying that it has eased parking for them in the worst affected areas and I have had at least one request for increased provision.

It is important to note that the Council decided to phase in the amount of priority parking being provided and has installed only 60% of the potential priority areas. An assessment will be made of the demand for spaces, determined primarily by the uptake of residents' permits. If further on-street space is required, a second phase of implementation will take place towards the end of September.

Prioritising Parking Schemes

The report to the Council Transport Committee of 2nd August stated schemes should be prioritised based on the level of commuter parking and the available funding. It then put Priestfield and Blackford/Nether Liberton into a priority list with other areas of the city, in which Blackford/Nether Liberton should be fifth behind Roseburn, but is placed above it for financial reasons and Priestfield is sixth.

However, looking at total demand - commuter, residential and other - Roseburn has 107.5%, Priestfield 100% and Blackford / Nether Liberton should be sixth with 80.6%.

The Community Council is asked to consider whether we should notify our concerns to the Council about the situation in Priestfield and ask that areas are prioritised according to total demand, not just commuter demand.

20 mph limit

At the same meeting on 2nd August the Council Transport Committee approved the pilot 20 mph limit. It however noted the objections received from the Police and Lothian Buses and omitted the north-south route from Marchmont Road – Kilgraston Road – Blackford Avenue – West Mains Road – Esslemont Road; and the east-west Church Hill – Strathearn Road – Grange Road route from the scheme.

We are disappointed Blackford Avenue north of the railway to Marchmont Road is not included. We are concerned this will increase the number of signs required and not reduce the potential for accidents as this route is used by school children and students. We are however liaising with officials about where to place signs so they are unobtrusive.

Our neighbours in Marchmont Sciennes Community Council are concerned also about the omission of the east-west route, arguing this affects all school children from the south of the area who have to cross these roads. They point out a contradiction in the Police objection, in that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams work to prevent unsafe incidents and would prefer not to have to react to accidents. Also, as this is a pilot, if at a later stage it is decided to include these routes in the limit, it is doubtful the then unnecessary signs would be removed. As a pilot, it would be better to include these routes to start with, save expense, and include them if Lothian Buses fears were realised.

Quality Bike Corridor

The Traffic Regulation Orders for this scheme are now being issued.

The Transport department, as part of the Active Travel Action Plan, have begun to design a scheme to make the north-south route mentioned above, from the King's Buildings to Marchmont Road, safer for cyclists. They met with the University about this and about the proposals for the Mayfield Road / West Mains Road junction.

We have written to them asking to be consulted on the scheme.

John Palmer
Chair