

## **Grange Prestonfield Community Council Roads and Transport Report October 2011**

### **Parking**

The Council has not notified us they are planning to implement any more priority areas in the B1 scheme. We know however from residents of a few places where additional priority areas are required; e.g. north side of Mortonhall Road at junction with Oswald Road for residents in the flats on the south side.

Some residents have complained about receiving parking tickets when visitor permits have been incorrectly scratched out. Sue wrote to Cllr Gordon MacKenzie about this and as a result an instruction is going out to Parking Attendants that there is no need to scratch off the time of day; just scratching off the day will suffice (and it won't matter if the time of day is wrong either!).

Following last month's meeting we wrote to Cllr MacKenzie arguing that the scheme to prioritise the implementation of new Priority Parking schemes across the city was flawed. We mentioned too the problems of residents in Zone 7 not being able to buy tradesmen or visitor permits. We have not had a reply to this.

### **20 mph limit**

After the last meeting we wrote to Cllr MacKenzie arguing for a delay in the scheme to allow for the regulations about signage to be clarified and for the TIE Committee to reconsider the omission of Blackford Avenue / Kilgraston Road and Grange Road from the scheme. There were opinions expressed by members who had not been present at the meeting dissenting from this view.

Cllr MacKenzie responded he was also disappointed the Council were not able to get the Police and Lothian Buses behind this part of the scheme, but the Committee decided it was better to work with them on the original proposals. He hoped the pilot would persuade them to support more comprehensive measures in the future. He also did not think signage was a determining factor in the Committee's decision and so was not prepared to revisit this.

The upshot is the scheme will go ahead as planned.

Signage: Cllr MacKenzie said the Council was aware of the UK Minister's announcement on potential changes to the regulations. There was no detail on what changes were forthcoming or the timing. They had been in touch with Scottish Government officials who were chasing up their UK counterparts on these issues. If the proposed changes were clear before the signage was due to go in, the Council would take this into account in determining the number, size and location of signage for this pilot and any measures which might be required for the pilot or any other traffic schemes due to be implemented.

Representatives of GPCC and Blacket Association had a constructive meeting with Council officials discussing signage in the Blackets. Officials were listening to residents' concerns, attempting to make signs unobtrusive and not put up unnecessary poles, etc. It is hoped this approach will be replicated across all parts of the scheme.

### **Quality Bike Corridor**

The Transport department, as part of the Active Travel Action Plan, have begun to design a scheme to make the north-south route from the King's Buildings to Marchmont Road, safer for cyclists. The Transport Department has written confirming we will be consulted on the scheme, but it would probably be some while yet.

### **Gas Mains Renewals**

We received a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order stating that a number of roads around the Grange Road / Causewayside / Salisbury Place junction, plus Salisbury Road and parts of Upper Gray Street will be closed from time to time for up to 6 months from October to allow for gas mains renewals. We ascertained that Scotia Gas and the contractors, Turriff's will be responsible for informing residents of exact details and timings of closures. Works are currently delayed while the contractors sort out a problem that has arisen in both East and West Mayfield.

We are concerned the contractors properly advise residents in Findhorn Place, Seton Place, Grange Road and St Catherine's Place how they are to get access to their houses when the roads are closed.

### **Access to the Astley Ainslie Hospital**

The hospital managers have reinstated the gates on the service road that gave access to the hospital from South Oswald Road. This has caused some confusion and inconvenience to residents and staff who use this point to walk or cycle into and across the site to Morningside and north to Bruntsfield. Access is not completely closed as there is a small gate in some railings opposite Blackford Bank house.

I have received a number of representations both from local residents and for example, from parents accompanying their children to St Peter's School. The hospital authorities state the gates have been installed following a report from Health & Safety on concerns for hospital staff. I have asked to see this report, but it seems reasonable to keep one of the gates open and close it when staff are working at the waste bins on the service road. Following representations from a resident Cllr Steve Burgess is also writing to the hospital.

John Palmer  
Chair