

Grange Prestonfield Community Council Roads and Transport Report November 2011

Parking

Cllr MacKenzie has responded to our e-mail arguing that the scheme to prioritise the implementation of new Priority Parking schemes across the city was flawed. He argues, as a resident of Priestfield, that while the parking situation is bad, it is not significantly worse than before the implementation of the B1 scheme. He has had similar feedback from residents in the Savile Area Residents Association about the impact south of the railway.

That said, he expects the B2 scheme in Morningside, following consultation, will be scaled down and so free up funds to bring forward the following schemes earlier. He has also asked the Head of Transport to look at ways to accelerate the process as a whole and would expect him to report back in February - this would obviously have to tie into Council budget deliberations.

However, he points out the reality of the situation is that residents and Councillors (of all parties) in other parts of the city have expectations, based on the August report, of the order in which these schemes will be dealt with. He does not expect the Councillors in those area will readily agree to Priestfield being reprioritised (or jump the queue as they may see it!).

With regard to Pollock Halls he would have to take advice on whether it should be included in the Priestfield Zone.

For discussion:

1. Accept Priestfield not being re-prioritised against other parts of the city, but suggest it be re-prioritised ahead of Blackford / Nether Liberton within the same CC area and Ward?
2. Should Pollock Halls be included in a Priestfield Zone?

Zone 7

We mentioned the problems of residents in Zone 7 not being able to buy tradesmen or visitor permits. Cllr MacKenzie has responded that the underlying problem is there are more residents with car permits than there are spaces for them to park. Adding visitor permits to that situation would mean that residents were less likely to be able to get parked in the area. He was not sure of the details of the scheme for tradesmen.

Improving the situation is difficult; probably the most widely acceptable ways are to better utilise the existing space e.g. shared use of bays, or encourage owners to swop ownership of a vehicle for car sharing / car club or other forms of transport.

He has spoken to CEC Roads (Parking) who acknowledge responsibility to come back to us with revised proposals on shared use. He said however, if there were to be funds available he suspected analysis would show City Centre would have the higher priority as the problem is even more acute in that zone.

He asked the CC to advise if there were other options we would like the Council to explore?

Access to the Astley Ainslie Hospital

I have written to the hospital suggesting one of the gates on British Heart Foundation Lane be kept open and only closed when staff are working at the waste bins located in the lane. I have had a phone call stating this was discussed by a hospital traffic management group and was referred to more senior officers for decision.

I continue to receive representations from residents and I know they have been in touch with Councillors and CEC's Safer Routes to School staff about the issue.

I will write again to the hospital asking them to come to a decision on this simple request.

John Palmer
Chair