

Grange Prestonfield Community Council Roads and Transport Report, January 2013

Residents Priority Parking in Blackford / Nether Liberton

After the last meeting we wrote to CEC with our views. After the Transport Committee met What will now happen is that the Roads Dept will proceed to consult on a scheme for the area lying to the east of Mayfield Road. The boundaries of any scheme will depend on the consultation. For the moment they will proceed with the whole eastern part of the area.

The scope of the scheme will effectively be decided by the outcome of the consultation process. They will proceed with a scheme that provides parking in every street, at a level designed to meet the demand from residents.

They will now pass the necessary documents to colleagues within the TRO team to start the legal process. Normally the would allow 9 to 12 months for a TRO, but will be trying to move the Priority Parking schemes along quicker than this if possible.

Pedestrian Lights at Ratcliffe Terrace

We have had this information from Steven Murrell, Road Safety team; "With regards to difficulties in crossing West Mayfield, the Council's road safety team is adding pedestrian phases to all the traffic signals on the Ratcliffe Terrace/ Mayfield Road junction. The work should be beginning on-site in the next couple of weeks and will be completed on the West Mayfield arm of this junction before April 2013.

Capital Roads Programme

We submitted five proposals for Capital Roads Programme funding – East Mayfield, Findhorn Place, South/Upper Gray Street, Rankin Drive, Lauder Road pavements.

Pedestrian Lights at Dalkeith Road

Alan Stewart got for us an explanantion that the pedestrian lights on the Dalkeith Road corridor are all controlled by the Urban Traffic Control system between 07.00 and 20.00. Because this is a major route all the traffic signals work together on a 104 seconds cycle, although this can decrease if vehicle traffic is light. The pedestrian lights are controlled by push buttons. At night the pedestrian lights are on *Vehicle Actuated Mode*, which is responsive to both vehicle detection equipment and pedestrian pushbutton demands.

Prestonfield Bus Gate

We were informed in December that the gate has been converted to a bus lane, which means that taxis can legitimately use it. The reason is that CEC considers taxis a vital part of public transport in the city. We were also told camera enforcement would be started at the beginning of December. I have now noted on the Twitter account @edintravel that fines will now start to be levied on motorists wrongly using the gate.

Traffic Waiting Restriction

A TRO has been published for Ventnor Terrace where double yellows are proposed on each side of the awkward double bend. This seems quite sensible.

POLLOCK HALLS TO FOUNTAINHALL ROAD/RATCLIFFE TERRACE CYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

We have been informed by CEC they be undertaking traffic surveys within the Newington/Blacket area for two weeks from 21 January.

The Council are in the early stages of investigating the potential for a cycle scheme which would connect the University of Edinburgh's Pollock Halls of Residence with the Quality Bike Corridor route. The route would also link to a proposed 'family friendly' route to Morningside.

The work will comprise traffic surveys, pedestrian surveys and parking counts, and will be undertaken by street operatives and the use of temporary CCTV cameras fixed to existing street furniture. The work will be carried out in stages over the two week period, however not all elements of the survey will be conducted simultaneously and the programming of each element will be, to an extent, weather dependent.

Following this survey work, they will seeking our views on a number of issues from an early stage, before designing any preferred options which would then lead on to a more detailed consultation exercise in the future.

Climate Challenge Fund

We also received notification about Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) grants available each year from the Scottish Government until March 2015.

CCF funding can provide grants of £150,000/yr and support the Community Council to reduce the community's carbon footprint and improve local facilities.

CCF grants have helped community councils work with their community to:

- Provide household energy efficiency surveys and advice to cut fuel bills.
- Provide facilities so the community can grow their own fruit and veg.
- Open up local rights of way and promoted low carbon transport options.

We have written for a bit more detail, particularly about the family friendly route to Morningside and to suggest discussing the CCF option.

20 mph Zone

There was an article in the Evening News in early December on the pilot zone, with some residents expressing frustration that cars were still speeding and which rather inaccurately sensationalised the figures from the Police enforcement actions.

We decided not to respond, as we thought it was sloppy journalism, but Mike Hunter got a response from CEC Roads Safety Team on when the pilot will be monitored. Further traffic speed data; traffic volumes and road casualty statistics will be collected in March 2013 and a report made to Committee in August 2013.

John Palmer
Chair