

Lesley Hinds <lesley.hinds@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
Adam McVey <adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
to: Nick Cook <nick.cook@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
Nigel Bagshaw <Nigel.Bagshaw@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
"Robert.Aldridge" <Robert.Aldridge@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
spokes <spokes@spokes.org.uk>,  
cc: Karen Stevenson <karen.stevenson@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
Sean Gilchrist <Sean.Gilchrist@edinburgh.gov.uk>,  
Phil Noble <phil.noble@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
date: 13 January 2017 at 15:30  
subject: Transport Cttee 17 Jan, Paper 7.3, Setted Streets  
mailed-by: gmail.com

I am emailing about the [Setted Streets report](#) at the 17 Jan Transport & Environment Committee, to ask that the report is amended as suggested below.

In view of the short timescale before the Committee and given my personal experience (below) I am emailing as an individual, but would add that my conclusions are shared by Spokes.

It is extremely disappointing that the report nowhere recognises the problems of setts for cyclists, although the problems for pedestrians are recognised.

This omission is also surprising given the Council's wish to encourage cycling, and the fact that Spokes has several times raised this issue with the Council - for example during various consultations on the High Street and more recently on the Causey project. The discomfort and dangers caused to cyclists by certain types of setts (and their condition) are often raised with Spokes by individual cyclists.

There are a wide range of types of setts, from the flat-topped ones beautifully installed at the High Street junction with George IV Bridge, which are fine for cycling, through to the round-topped which are not just uncomfy but can be literally very dangerous as my experience testifies. Obviously the level of discomfort and danger will also vary significantly depending on the type of bike and tyre.

In my own case, a few years ago I was cycling up the High Street when I was hit by a van emerging from Niddry Street. I was thrown into the air, lost consciousness for a short time, and suffered a fractured kneecap which left me with a leg support and walking stick for some weeks. This is obviously serious, and the outcome could easily have been far worse. The crash was entirely the fault of the driver, emerging from a side street without looking carefully enough, and I received financial compensation through my lawyer. Nonetheless, I was cycling uphill on rounded and wet cobbles, and my attention therefore had to be shared between the traffic and the road surface, to avoid skidding. On a tarmac surface, or on flat-topped setts, there is a high chance that I would have seen the van start to move in time to just avoid being hit.

**I ask therefore that the report should be amended as follows...**

1. Add a new paragraph after 3.12...

*The Council recognises that problems and dangers arise for both pedestrians and cyclists from certain types of setts, and from their condition, although this has to be balanced against heritage considerations. Where possible, flat-topped and skid-resistant setts should be used - an example of good practice is the junction of the Royal Mile and George IV Bridge.*

2. In para 3.13 add this sentence...

*The Fact Sheet specifications will take account of pedestrian and cyclist comfort and safety.*

3. Replace 7.2 with this wording...

*Improvements to setted roadways which take account of the safety and comfort of pedestrians (particularly but not exclusively the elderly and those with disabilities) and of cyclists will encourage walking and cycling and thereby benefit equalities. The Council's Access Panel, cycling organisations, and other relevant user groups, will be consulted as part of the preparation of the relevant Edinburgh Street Design Guidance Fact Sheets.*

I hope these points can be incorporated at the Committee.

Yours

Dave du Feu