

Email from Edinburgh Council to Stuart Hay of Living Streets, in response to his complaint re. motor vehicles parking on pavements and in cycle lanes.

From: Anna Herriman [mailto:Anna.Herriman@edinburgh.gov.uk]

Sent: 24 December 2014 14:04

To: Stuart Hay

Cc: Services for Communities Central Neighbourhood

Subject: SR: 810315 - Double Parking on Leith Walk.

Dear My Hay,

Thank you very much for contacting the Council yesterday, through our contact forms, regarding the issues of double parking / parking infringements on Leith Walk and its cycle facility.

We are very aware of this issue as both an ongoing issue, and also, from contact made on social media, we are specifically aware of recent incidents to do with double parking on the new cycling infrastructure.

Historically, since the diversion of utility services along Leith Walk in 2010, there was a mis-match between the signing and road markings in the area, and the underlying Traffic Order for the area. This has meant that parking infringements were unenforceable, which has led to very poor parking behaviour becoming established and this has prevented a good turnover of shopper vehicles, interruptions to public transport and issues for cyclists.

As part of the Leith Programme team I can absolutely assure you that we are preparing, in partnership with Parking enforcement services, to commence parking enforcement in the New Year; and a firm date is to be set for early in the new year to commence enforcement.

Once the final 'lining and signing' (on road markings and signs fixed to lighting columns / poles) is complete (this is almost complete), a thorough check will be required, to ensure that enforcement can be legally carried out. Following that, a wide circulation letter will be distributed to all local residents and business owners, to explain that enforcement is due to start, and provide the date. We will place temporary on-street notices placed throughout the entire scheme area. We have all arrangements for the distribution of these letters in hand and on stand-by.

We are, as you described, planning an initial 'blitz'. In the first weeks after enforcement commences, we will be providing additional enforcers – more than normal – in the area. Week one of operation will act as a 'grace period' to encourage positive adoption of new behaviours. In this week, enforcers will patrol the area and check all vehicles are correctly parked. Those that are not legally parked or that stay too long will be issued with a warning notice that explains the vehicle is incorrectly parked. In week two, enforcement staff will be issuing fixed penalty notices. This will include notices for double parking and parking in the cycle lanes.

With regards to the signage issues you have identified on Jamieson Place, I will forward this to relevant staff and this will be dealt with; thank you for making us aware of it.

I completely understand that the behaviours of people parking cars illegally on Leith Walk has been a source of significant frustration to many; it is a frustration that the Council shares with you and I am very happy to hear from you further on this issue if you wish

I will be on annual leave from today until 6 January, however if you need to contact someone in this period, please contact Ian Buchanan, Neighbourhood Manager for City Centre and Leith, (ian.buchanan@edinburgh.gov.uk) who will respond to you.

My contact details are below, and once again, thanks for raising these issues.

Many thanks

Anna Herriman

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Stuart comments...

Here is some interesting info on Leith Walk in response to a complaint I made having walked and cycled on the newly improved section. Mainly cycling related issues but I also noted parking on the wide pavements too.

Looks like the council is set to take decisive action sometime soon although the date isn't specified.

I also flagged up the poor signage treatment on Jamieson Place where there are street clutter issues.

Overall I think the scheme has calmed the area by removing vehicular space and crossing should be much easier. However, the credibility of future schemes is at stake unless the Council can enforce so the cycle ways are functional and wide pavements don't become van parking areas.

Best regards
Stuart

We add...

Thanks to Stuart for making the formal complaint and getting this reply.

Great to hear that strong action is promised soon, and we hope it lives up to the promise. However...

- The letter says that the anti-social parking has up till now been legal, and thus unenforceable, due to a mismatch between the Traffic Regulation Order and the actual signing. Clearly this should have been foreseen, so that action could have been taken from the outset before bad parking behaviour became established.
- Different design (e.g. with parking outside the cycle lanes) could have prevented at least some of these problems entirely.
- The work on the top half of Leith Walk needs to retain the planned segregated cycle facilities, despite the returning possibility of Leith Walk tram. [See para 1411 [here](#)]. The cycle facilities and footway need designed – and signed! - such that illegal or antisocial parking is not an option.