

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/design-cycle-walk-balgreen-road/>

## *Cycling and walking improvements to Quiet Route 8 on Balgreen Road*

**Sent:** 26 November 2016 12:54

**To:** [martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Subject:** Cycling and walking improvements to Quiet Route 8 on Balgreen Road

Martyn,

Spokes welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Council proposals for improving the crossing at Balgreen Road between Baird Drive and the path running parallel to the tram line so that it is improved for walkers and cyclists.

We recognise that the proposals to replace the Puffin Crossing with a Toucan; and moving or removing various obstacles around the crossing will improve it for both cyclists and pedestrians. It is unfortunate that this remedial work is needed at all as it should all have been done as part of the original creation of the crossing, which formed part of the Tram Installation works. However, beneficial though the proposals are, we feel that the failure of the proposals to provide a clear route for cyclists moving through the junction from west to east is a serious omission as it means that individual cyclists need to make their own arrangements for joining eastbound traffic on Baird Drive having crossed Balgreen Road. We believe this will be an off putting factor to less confident cyclists. Given the Council's ambitions to achieve a significant uptake in cycling we believe more needs to be done to make the eastbound route safe and obvious.

This could be achieved by implementing the following measures:

Southbound traffic on Balgreen Road is stopped before the junction with Baird Drive and a right turn prohibition is enacted for traffic exiting Baird Drive. With these measures in place, when the pedestrian/cyclist phase of the crossing is active, cyclists would be able to go safely and directly to Baird Drive to continue eastwards. It would also be advisable to minimise potential pedestrian and cyclist conflict at the crossing by widened it northwards from its existing location.

In our view, without the proposed additional work that we suggest, the proposals, will be off-putting to a considerable proportion of potential new cyclists and as a result cycling mode share in the city will be reduced below what it could be.

Euan Renton  
for Spokes Planning Group