

date: 16 September 2016 at 13:28  
subject: Notes for TEC meeting

My name is Rosie Bell, and I have lived in Roseburn Street since 1999. I have shopped and commuted by cycle in Edinburgh for many years and have noticed the increase in the number of cyclists and some definite improvements eg the route through the Meadows and the link across the Southside to St Leonards and the Innocent Railway as well as the route beside the tram tracks to Edinburgh Park. But these routes don't join up in a coherent system through central Edinburgh.

For years I commuted to central Edinburgh and Tollcross, which meant going along West Coates, the A8. The other option, up the zig-zag path off Russell Road and parallel to the train line to the Haymarket, is difficult - convoluted and narrow, involving conflicts with pedestrians. Now it has the tram tracks a few inches from your wheel as well.

So I mostly commuted on the A8, and how brave I was to do this, my friends and colleagues would tell me.. Cycling is a cheap and efficient means of transport and shouldn't take any great courage. I have met people who cycle in other cities in Sweden or the Netherlands and they have said, I would not cycle in Edinburgh, it is too dangerous.

I was therefore delighted when I saw the Council's plans for a new route along Roseburn Terrace and along West Coates. This is a safe and more direct route and should encourage more commuting.

The Roseburn section has caused controversy, and there are now two options for the Roseburn Area, A & B. A is direct and obvious, B convoluted. If you opt for Option B then I fear that "hardened" cyclists will simply stay on Roseburn Terrace, less confident cyclists will not be encouraged to use their bikes to get into and across the centre of Edinburgh. I can see the B option not being used and then people complaining that the Council wastes money on cycling routes.

As well as an improvement to cycling this scheme offers other improvements to Roseburn. For instance, widening the pavements, and also the extra crossing. I've stood on the top end of the street at the intersection, thinking can I be bothered walking down, across and up again to get to Vigo's the café? No. The area is not friendly to pedestrians and the shops suffer. It has the potential for being a much pleasanter area rather than a conduit for cars.

So I hope this scheme goes through, and that the Council takes up Option A for the Roseburn section.

Thanks for listening.