

# Proposed Gilmerton Road cycle and pedestrian crossing and cycleway

## **Issue:**

The high levels of traffic on Gilmerton Road at peak times have been reported to the Council as a barrier to people trying to cross the road by bicycle and on foot. Furthermore cyclists currently have to use Gilmerton Road to go between the path on the boundary of Morrison's Superstore and Pillars Path. This is compounded by Pillars Path not being permitted for cycle use. Along this section of Gilmerton Road there is too much traffic to meet the standards of the Council's 'QuietRoutes' cycle network. Additionally, requiring cyclists to dismount on Pillars Path fails these standards.

## **Purpose and context:**

The scheme will make it easier, safer and quicker for people crossing Gilmerton Road on foot and by bicycle.

Along with making Pillars Path permissible for cycling, this will help people on foot and by bicycle reach local and key destinations, such as the supermarket, Primary Schools, Burdiehouse Burn, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and between the Moredun and Gilmerton communities.

The Council is developing a network of cycle routes across the city, called the 'QuietRoutes' network. We know that heavy or fast traffic is the most significant barrier preventing people who want to cycle from doing so. To address this the QuietRoutes are designed to a standard so that people can cycle without having to be with heavy or fast traffic. QuietRoute 61 links Duddingston, Niddrie, The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Moredun and Gilmerton to Midlothian and Roslin Chapel on quiet roads and traffic free paths. The crossing of Gilmerton Road, and the short section along the road, are key barriers which prevents the route meeting this required standard.

## **Proposed scheme:**

The Council is proposing:

- a signalised 'push button' crossing of Gilmerton Road, which could be used by people on foot and by bicycle.
- a segregated cycleway that separates cyclists from traffic and pedestrians. This will run from the new crossing to Pillars Path.
- Permitting cycling along Pillars Path and widening access to the path from Moredun Park Gardens so that people on foot and bike can use it safely and easily.

The crossing and cycleway will connect Pillars Path to the path which runs along the boundary of the Morrison's supermarket.

We would like your views on this initial design proposal and any other recommendations you have.

There is an accompanying overview map of this section of QuietRoute 61 and detailed proposal drawings of the scheme.

# Proposal: a new pedestrian and cycling signalised crossing and cycleway on Gilmerton Road. Permission to cycle on Pillars Path

## Advantages:

- Pedestrians and cyclists have greater priority, safety and reduced waiting times over motor vehicles
- Cyclists will be protected from busy traffic on Gilmerton Road
- Residents with driveways along the cycleway will still have full access
- Pedestrians and cyclists will be physically separated to increase safety

## Disadvantages:

- On road parking either side of the crossing on Gilmerton Road will be restricted
- One parking space would be lost in the parking bay on Moredun Park Gardens next to the Pillars Path ramp. This is to permit widening of the ramp so it is safe for cyclists and pedestrians to use together.

