

Meadows-Canal consultation, May 2019

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/meadows-to-canal-cycling-and-walking-improvements/>

to: bryan.mackie@edinburgh.gov.uk

date: 11 May 2019, 13:47

subject: MEADOWS TO CANAL; CONSULTATION ON CYCLING AND WALKING IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Bryan

I am replying on behalf of SPOKES to the current consultation on this proposed route.

We strongly support the proposals set out in the recent consultation for a link between the Canal and the Meadows. After the lengthy delay since the first version of the proposals were publicised some years ago, we consider that top priority now must be to implement this scheme as soon as possible.

The scheme will provide an easy link for cyclists between the well-used canal towpath and the North Meadows cycleway. In particular, it should provide a safe crossing of Home St, a busy road with many cars and buses. It will also provide improved conditions and a safe crossing of Brougham Place.

We would like to commend the Council for a number of improvements in the latest proposals including:

- The proposal to allow 2 way cycling along Valleyfield St which will help cyclists wishing to travel to and from the Meadows to Bruntsfield;
- The proposal to create separate paths for cyclists and pedestrians between Leven Ter and the crossing to the Meadows which should help to avoid conflict between these 2 user groups;
- Moving the 2-way cycle lane from the east to the west of Home St and the crossing of Home St from Lochrin Pl to just north of Gilmore Place. This is a simpler solution which also should prevent cyclists from being blocked from crossing Home St by buses backing up across the Lochrin Place junction;
- Continuing the southbound cycle lane on Brougham Place through the toucan crossing.

The width of the 2-way cycleway on Home St is still 2.5m. We think this is unsatisfactory notwithstanding the volume of motor traffic on this road. As the volume of road traffic reduces in line in future with broader Council plans and strategies, the width of the cycle way should be increased.

The current plans do not address the needs of cyclists travelling in a north south direction along the main radial route of Bruntsfield Place and Lothian Road. We understand that the proposals focus on a west - east route but we look forward to more ambitious and comprehensive plans for segregated cycleways along this corridor in due course,

The plans ignore Lower Gilmore Place which is an essential part of the link between the Canal and the Meadows. We understand that there is likely to be development of the buildings in this street and that traffic volumes are limited at present, but we would like to see a rationalisation of car parking with car parking moved out of Leamington Rd. This would allow for contra flow cycling on Leamington Rd which would be a significant improvement for cyclists wishing to go directly from the Canal to Bruntsfield.

Best wishes

Richard Grant

(On behalf of SPOKES Planning Group)