



Mr Geoff Pearson  
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Via email –  
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15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Mr Pearson

### **HOLYROOD PARK – ROAD SAFETY & CYCLING CONCERNS**

Thank you for your email of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 making us aware of the Community Councils observations and concerns regarding various aspects of the infrastructure within the Park.

Having had the opportunity to review these observations and concerns with relevant Park management colleagues I shall aim to address each in turn.

#### Speed and overtaking on the Low Road to Duddingston -

The Park management team are aware of concerns that have been raised by some cyclists using the Duddingston Low Road. It is disappointing for us to hear that our responses to the concerns raised are perceived to have been a 'nothing can be done' approach. Our team regularly review feedback from visitor and users which influences our Park management decisions.

Following discussion amongst the Park management team over the concerns raised we have agreed that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) will seek the advice of a traffic management specialist to review our road markings on this stretch of Park road. Given the challenges identified and, if deemed necessary, this organisation will provide us with proportionate alternative options to consider.

Last year the Ranger Service worked closely with Police Scotland on 'Operation Close Pass' which sees drivers who pass an unmarked police cyclist too closely pulled over. These drivers are given advice using a specially designed mat which illustrates how much space a person on a bicycle needs when someone is overtaking them.

I am aware that the Operation is to be re-run in the near future and shall liaise with the relevant Police team to see if there is an opportunity for them to include the Park roads and pay particular attention the Duddingston Low Road area.

HES carry out a rolling programme of survey and maintenance over our Park road network. I shall ensure that your observations with regards to the reflectiveness of the cat eyes on the stretch of the Low Road are brought to the assessment team. A number of sections of cats



eyes on this route were replaced over the last year as resurfacing work was being carried out.

#### Cycle Routes -

Our Park team were not specifically aware of the Meadowbank proposal to create a cycleway on Clockmill Lane. Having said that, such a proposal would be a logical progression of the current draft routes being proposed by CEC/Sustrans/HES within the Park. One of these proposals would see an upgraded multi user path from the Broad Pavement Car Park following the Back Walk parallel to Holyrood Palace with an opportunity to exit at Croft An Rìgh before passing in front of the Holyrood Park Education Centre and on to Spring Gardens Gate.

Accompanying our collaboration with Police Scotland with the 'Operation Close Pass' project we are in full support of the City of Edinburgh Council focus on the Innocent Railway as a priority route for improving cycling links to and within Holyrood Park and the wider city cycling network.

#### Regulations –

I hope that the copy of the Regulations that I provided in my initial response on 26<sup>th</sup> February to your email was sufficient for your needs? Should you require any further information on the Regulations I would be delighted to help where I can.

The above responses have been considered by members of our Park management team and I trust they provide some assurance to you of the proactive approach HES takes in striving to manage Holyrood Park for the benefit of all. Should you have any further concerns or observations please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

*Martin A. A. Gray*

***Ranger & Visitor Services Manager***