

COVID-19 Walking and Cycling Emergency Response Measures: Proposed Measures at Sciennes Primary Schools to aid safe travel to school

Response from Spokes – the Lothian Cycle Campaign, August 2020

This response considers the proposals shared by the Spaces for People Team on 25th August 2020

General comments

We greatly welcome the revised Spaces for People scheme to create a safe environment for pupils and teachers outside Sciennes Primary School by introducing a barrier (modal filter) prohibiting general motor traffic. Sciennes school and its parents have for years campaigned for a full road closure here, and Spokes has been pleased to support them over that period.

There should be consultation with parents and staff on the precise form this barrier should take, but it needs to be effective in preventing access by general motor traffic whilst at the same time allowing access for emergency vehicles. We are not persuaded of the need for an exception for waste vehicles.

We very much welcome the decision to introduce this in temporary form as part of Spaces for People, and urge that it is made permanent in due course if found to be successful.

We are pleased by the proposals put forward, and we urge the council to review our detailed comments carefully.

Detailed comments

The Council proposals are;

- *Sciennes Road - Revoke parking to maintain HGV turning point into the Royal Hospital for Sick Children*
- *Sciennes Road – close road to all traffic, except waste vehicles and emergency services, whilst maintaining access for cyclists through barrier.*

Spokes supports the removal of parking to allow for HGV turning into the hospital. This is a logical step and we would comment the type of device used to allow for this proposed function needs to be considered to ensure these can't be tampered with.

Spokes supports the installation of a temporary modal filter outside Sciennes PS. In addition to its 24/7 safety benefits, this scheme will avoid the need for voluntary parent manned road closures to protect pupils. The barrier should be constructed of robust materials and designed appropriately whilst still allowing access to those permitted to use it.

Additional comments

Design, Signage & Materials:

The modal filter proposed to Sciennes Road will need to be considered to ensure it can't be adjusted by those not intended to use it.

This location is also an opportunity to build in a creative proposal that reflects the location next to the primary school encouraging pupils to walk, wheel and cycle to school.

Spokes would encourage the use of clearer signage on any modal filters. For example simple "ROAD CLOSED" can be discouraging for walkers, wheelers & cyclists. Whereas "ROAD OPEN TO TO..." is better.



Source: <https://twitter.com/citycyclists/status/1288749040994267136?s=20>