

Juniper Green Primary SfP Proposals

Response from Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign 10.12.20

The SfP proposals are:

- Prohibit vehicles at the junction of Baberton Mains Drive and Baberton Mains Wynd, whilst maintaining access for pedestrians, cyclist, blue badge holder, waste collection and school staff.
- Approach golf club to request the use of their car park at the beginning and end of the school day as a 'park and stride' area.

The Tracy Flockhart petition (abridged):

"There has been a growing issue at Juniper Green Primary School, Edinburgh, for some time, due to several parents ignoring council street restrictions on Baberton Mains Wynd, which were put in place to help children get to and from school safer.

Many parents are blatantly ignoring the official restrictions by parking on lines, doing some crazy manoeuvres to turn their vehicles, putting our children in danger. Particularly for the older children who walk to school on their own. They have also been known to park over driveways of residents of BM Wynd and BM Bank (a side road accessed from BM Wynd).

Many parents are also using the school staff car park to drop off and pick up, despite signage asking them not to, and constant reminders from the JGPS Head Teacher, Anthea Grierson.

There have been sporadic visits from Edinburgh Council traffic wardens and Police Scotland but sadly they do not appear at restricted times or stay long enough to impact. The next school day, the parents return to as close to the school as they can, so the visits and warnings have zero impact.

Current COVID19 advice and guidance asks us to socially distance. Most parents let the children use the pavements and parents only attempting to use the road when children are dropped or going to collect. This is impossible with so many vehicles travelling up and down the Wynd and attempting to turn."

(Petition continued) "We call for:

Firm plans for Edinburgh Council to close off BMW and have an access only for residents during school hours;

Barrier at the school gate similar to one half way up the second hill within the car park;

Parents to be charged for parking illegally;

CCTV cameras installed"

Spokes response:

The Council's SfP proposals are sensible, but in light of the petition clearly not enough. While the issue seems mainly to be one of enforcement, the street apparatus needs to offer parents some drop-off point (or points) where children can be legally dropped off on this north side.

A drop-off point should logically be sited on BM Drive, close to the junction with BM Wynd. The latter can then be closed more firmly to prevent vehicles from entering the Wynd and creating congestion.

Where there is an exemption for waste vehicles or school deliveries etc, the closure needs to be designed such that it will not be abused by cars; possibly CCTV cameras (with ANPR) as suggested in the petition.

The road closure should include the "road open to pedestrians, wheeling, cycling" (symbols) signage now widely used in London and already proposed for some SfP schemes, as well as the standard road closure for motor traffic.

On the school access from the *south* side - there is already a drop-off point and turning loop, but this appears to be inadequate - or maybe inadequately enforced. If the Golf Club are unable to help, the Council might need to introduce an additional drop-off point at the end of Baberton Avenue.

The Council may need to address the enforcement issue at a broader level. The Police seem reluctant to engage with road traffic issues, so maybe these could become the responsibility of parking wardens, or of another Department.