

Spaces for People consultation – Rudolph Steiner School

Spokes response, 11.2.21

The Steiner School is located on Spylaw Road, a residential street running SW-NE from Gray's Loan to the centre of Bruntsfield. The school is on the most SW section of the street, close to Gray's Loan. Spylaw Rd is currently a 'rat-run', an alternative to Colinton Rd and/or Polwarth Terrace.

The official proposal is:

Revoke parking bays and extend footway by 1.5m along school frontage.

While this proposal is possible, Spokes does not believe it is anything like sufficient. Vehicles would park along the extension (as well as on the far side of the street), forcing cyclists to move out into the centre of the street and into oncoming traffic. No provision for cyclists is proposed.

We suggest, instead, *closure of Spylaw Rd at its junction with Gray's Loan* - except for cyclists. Vehicular access to the School would be maintained via the next side-street, Gillsland Rd. The advantages of this proposal are as follows:

- * the road in front of the school would no longer be exposed to through traffic, making this area safer for pedestrians (and cyclists)
- * temporary parking for school drop-off is still available, and vehicles can turn round without risk from passing traffic
- * residents still have vehicle access too
- * the junction with Gray's Loan is narrow, busy, and dangerous for all, because of the proximity of the Colinton Rd junction and poor sight-lines; Gray's Loan is a bus route but traffic along it is held up by vehicles turning into Spylaw Rd
- * Spylaw Rd would no longer be used as a rat-run and could become a cycle-friendly route to Bruntsfield
- * the Dutch principle whereby pedestrians and cyclists travel the most direct route, while vehicles are made to take a longer, less-direct route, is maintained
- * this end of Spylaw Rd becomes a cul-de-sac, and could be used by the School for temporary public events - School Fair etc

Peter Hawkins
Spokes Planning Group
St Martin's Ch.,
232 Dalry Rd EH11 2JG