

RESTALRIG ROAD SOUTH (SMOKEY BRAE) SFP SCHEME SCRAPPED

A Spokes Party member says...

In case you haven't seen this update on Smokey Brae. As expected the the SFP scheme has been canned in favour of whatever longer term solution comes out of consultations with the Meadowbank Sounding Board. They list four options, only two of which constitute any real improvement to active travel in the area.

There will be new active travel route, as part of the Meadowbank development, along the old Clockmill Lane arriving at this roundabout. I've already heard suggestions from John McLellan that the addition of this route means there's no real need for active travel improvements on Smokey Brae itself. There's also the possibility of the Powderderhall Path linking here.

Subject: Update to the Meadowbank Sounding Board

Date: Mon, 29 Mar 2021 16:25:03 +0000

From: Jen Blacklaw
<Jen.Blacklaw@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Good Afternoon

Thank you for all your feedback over the course of the last few days.

Please see below, the email from Dave Sinclair setting out the Spaces for People team response to recent community feedback.

There has been a decision to put the Covid 19 emergency measures for Restalrig Road South proposals on hold in order that they are included in the options the Meadowbank Project Team are considering for the permanent works.

The project team are finalising the process to procure a transport consultant to progress the permanent works to Smokey Brae and as previously agreed we will engage fully with members of the Meadowbank Sounding Board around these options which we believe are as follows, although there may be other ideas that we have not captured or a combination of them:

Option 1 – Signalised crossing at the Smokey Brae roundabout

Option 2 – Remove the Smokey Brae roundabout and signalise the junction

Option 3 – Make Smokey Brae one-way to provide more space for pedestrians and wheelers

Option 4 – Close Smokey Brae to vehicular traffic

It is intended that the options will be designed, with input from the Project Team, that includes two Sounding Board members: Brenda Devlin and Jodie Adams. Once prepared, the transport consultant will present the options for discussion to the Sounding Board and we will gauge further community input into the identification of the preferred options.

Once we have designs for the options I will arrange a special Sounding Board to talk through each and agree a preference.

Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Kind regards

Jen

From: **John McLellan** <John.McLellan@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2021 at 11:49

Subject: Re: Covid 19 emergency measures - proposed walking and cycling scheme, Restalrig Road South (Smokey Brae)

To: Dave Sinclair <David.Sinclair@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: spacesforpeople <spacesforpeople@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Thanks very much Dave.

That's very helpful and I'm very pleased that this has been cleared up.

As I said in the email, the problem here is that the removal of the railings, while in all probability likely to happen, is a permanent measure so the lines are more blurred in this instance than other SfP schemes. When the background to Meadowbank is considered it's a matter of some sensitivity, especially in Marionville where feelings have run high for some time and where two members of the sounding board live, as I expect Tricia will have pointed out.

I think we are all agreed that a pedestrian-friendly solution is needed for Smokey Brae, and while the southbound one-way proposal is indeed an option it's only one of one several which need to be properly evaluated.

Thanks very much again.

John

John McLellan,

Conservative councillor,

Craigentiny & Duddingston ward.

[0131-529-4395](tel:0131-529-4395)

On 25 Mar 2021, at 11:31, Dave Sinclair <David.Sinclair@edinburgh.gov.uk> wrote:

Morning John,

I note your comments and apologise if the temporary Spaces for People scheme has clashed with discussions and plans for a more permanent solution at this location. Ideally, we would like to have spent time with stakeholders developing the proposal, however, time has been against us.

Firstly, just to confirm this has been designed and considered as a temporary road layout in response to the current public health situation, not a permanent design. I appreciate the timing, which is a function of our challenging delivery programme.

The installation phase of the Spaces for People Programme is expected to end in mid-May 2020, with the expectation that some final schemes may over-run slightly following that date. Personally, I feel a temporary scheme of this nature could provide some additional physical space for pedestrians over the latter part of the pandemic, however, due to really tight timescales in our programme, we will not be able to participate in detailed engagement for temporary measures.

With that in mind, and following a discussion with Tricia Hill, we have decided to stop the installation of our SfP scheme and allow local dialogue to resume regarding more permanent measures. I hope our suggested temporary layout may be of some use for a more permanent design option.

Regards,

Dave

Dave Sinclair | Local Transport and Environment Manager | Spaces for People Team
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<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spacesforpeople>

From: John McLellan <John.McLellan@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 March 2021 18:27

To: spacesforpeople <spacesforpeople@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Covid 19 emergency measures - proposed walking and cycling scheme, Restalrig Road South (Smokey Brae)

Dear Spaces for People,

An emergency meeting of the Craigentenny & Meadowbank community council was held this evening to discuss the Smokey Brae proposals, attended by both myself and Cllr Griffiths, and the members asked us to get in touch.

It's fair to say there is considerable disquiet about the lack of time for a proper community consultation and on that basis alone there was a clear view that the deadline of this Friday was far too soon and should be extended.

It is clear from the drawings that these are not purely temporary measures because they also include the permanent removal of railings. Alterations to Smokey Brae and the junction have already been the subject of much discussion, and the removal of railings may well be part of a permanent solution, but an impression is being created that the outlined one-way system is the scheme favoured by officers before any others have been properly evaluated.

Only a proper consultation with residents can identify what is the most workable scheme, but we already know that the southbound closure of Smokey Brae for recent road work at Jock's Lodge caused considerable problems at Jock's Lodge itself and at the Craigentenny Avenue junction, but it also encouraged rat-running in Marionville and Loganlea

But there is a bigger issue, in that the Smokey Brae junction and access form an important part of the plans for the re-development of the Meadowbank stadium and sports ground site, and the junction has been discussed several times at the Meadowbank Sounding Board. Various options for the road and junction have been raised, and the clear understanding is that consultation on its future was a key part of the sounding board's ongoing engagement with officers.

The sounding board was the council's response to a significant degree of mistrust in the authority following the Save Meadowbank campaign, and was a key commitment to tackle the many community concerns raised during the planning application process. It has been hugely successful in re-establishing faith, not least because of the hard work put in by officers, so anything which might be seen to circumvent the sounding board's discussions therefore risks undermining the positivity of the past two years. I have copied in the sounding board chair, Keir Bloomer, for his information.

I would therefore strongly urge you to both lengthen the consultation process and undertake to engage thoroughly with the Meadowbank sounding board and the wider community before taking any further action.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

John McLellan

Conservative councillor, Craigentenny & Duddingston ward.