

Councillor Gary Peacock  
 City Chambers  
 High Street  
 Edinburgh  
 EH1 1YJ

12 FEB 2010

**David Storrar**  
**Regional Architect, Edinburgh**  
 Room 1.4 Longmore House  
 Salisbury Place  
 Edinburgh  
 EH9 1SH

Direct Line: 0131 668 8672  
 Direct Fax: 0131 668 8899  
 Switchboard: 0131 668 8600  
 david.storrar@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: 11  
 Your ref: GP/MF  
 28 January 2010

Dear Councillor Peacock,

#### **HOLYROOD PARK AND DUDDINGSTON VILLAGE TRAFFIC**

Thank you for your letter of 20 January to Ruth Parsons, Chief Executive of Historic Scotland. I have been asked to reply to you on her behalf as Holyrood Park falls within my area of operational responsibility.

Although Historic Scotland manage Holyrood Park, responsibility for Duddingston / Craighentiny traffic issues lies with City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and enforcement of Park traffic regulations lies with Lothian and Borders Police. Local road network issues are complex and we have been working closely with both organisations for some time now to address concerns raised by Duddingston residents.

You attended some of the meetings arranged last year which were hosted by Councillor Ewan Aitken with representatives from the Duddingston Village Conservation Society, Andy Matheson (CEC Roads Dept), Lothian and Borders Police and Historic Scotland where we discussed local traffic issues at some length. The group agreed that CEC would erect additional more obvious fixed signage and electronic variable message signs on all vehicular routes into the Park to improve driver awareness of the speed limit and restrictions applying to commercial vehicles. CEC also offered to carry out traffic monitoring surveys in Duddingston (Causeway and Old Church Lane) and the Park Low Road to assess vehicle type, volume and speeds. The Police agreed to step up enforcement of traffic regulations within the Park when resources permitted.

Historic Scotland had an update meeting on 3 December 2009 with the Police and Andy Matheson who confirmed that the fixed signs were in place and he hoped the electronic variable message signage would be fully activated by Christmas. He also confirmed that the CEC / Halcrow traffic monitoring survey had just been completed and aggregate speed at the three monitored sites over the check period was: Causeway 16.8 mph, Old Church Lane 19.9 mph and Low Road 34.9. The Council and Police use a formula for road safety assessments i.e. the stated speed limit plus 10% plus 2mph. The speed limit in the village is 20 mph and



30 mph on the Low Road, so all three sites fall within these parameters. The data also indicated a significant reduction in commercial vehicle numbers.

The Police agreed that following installation of all signage, they would implement a two stage operation in the Park to further improve driver awareness:

- **Stage 1: Education** - by carrying out spot checks and advising any commercial drivers they were in breach of Park traffic regulations.
- **Stage 2: Enforcement** - to carry out a period of robust enforcement – stopping and fining any drivers breaching the regulations. Speed checks will also be carried out.

I can assure you that Historic Scotland remains committed to addressing these issues in conjunction with other stakeholders and we can all be encouraged by the progress achieved to date. I have copied this letter to Councillor Ewan Aitken so he is aware of the wider concerns of the Craigentiny / Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership and can perhaps include you in the invitation list for future meetings.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Storrar'.

**DAVID STORRAR**

cc - Ruth Parsons, Councillor Ewan Aitken, Duddingston file.

*Councillor Gary Peacock.  
Councillor for Craigentenny and Duddingston*

Ms Ruth Parsons  
Acting Chief Executive  
Historic Scotland  
Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

**Date** 20 January 2010

**Your ref**

**Our ref** GP/MF

Dear Ms Parsons

I write on behalf of the Craigentenny / Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership following our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009. The Partnership is a body made up of the 3 local Councillors, community representatives, the Police and a representative of NHS Lothian.

At the meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Convener should write to the Chief Executive of Historic Scotland to urge them to enforce speed limits and prohibition of commercial vehicles from using Holyrood Park.

The issue is a long-running one and relates to the concern of residents of Duddingston Village and the surrounding area that the route through Holyrood Park is an attractive one to vehicles wishing to access the city from the east. The Council has recently installed variable message signs on Milton Road West and Duddingston Road West which will let drivers know when the park is closed and has also put up signs which re-enforce the prohibition on commercial vehicles using the Park.

In addition a speed survey has been completed by the East Neighbourhood Area Roads Manager which I had hoped to have before writing to you. However, I have not yet had the results of this. I understand that it will assess speed in both Holyrood Park and Duddingston Village.

My purpose in writing is to ask on behalf of the Neighbourhood Partnership, that you commit to working with the Council and the Police to address positively the issues of speed within the Park and ways in which the ban on commercial vehicles can be enforced. I/

I hope that we can work constructively to improve the situation for local residents and to maintain the Park as the attractive environment for those who enjoy its fantastic setting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Gary Peacock**  
**(Convener of Craigentiny/Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership)**

Cc Mr Jim Hunter  
Neighbourhood Manager