

Date 21 January 2021

Your ref

Our ref SfP/LR/21

Dear Resident / Business,

Covid-19 - Emergency Response Measures - Lanark Road, Longstone Road and Inglis Green Road

We are contacting you to let you know of changes which will soon be made to the road network in your area.

Many of you are likely already aware of the plans for safety improvements on the Lanark, Longstone and Inglis Green route, developed as part of the Council's Spaces for People programme. We have received numerous emails and correspondence from residents and local businesses about these changes and have made some revisions based on feedback you offered. You can find out more about this on our dedicated project website.

In response to Covid-19, the Council is introducing temporary measures to make streets safe for walking, cycling and wheeling while observing physical distancing guidance. We also want to enable essential journeys and access to open spaces, while supporting businesses and public transport services as the phased lifting of lockdown continues. We are following the notification and engagement process which was approved by Councillors at the Policy and Sustainability Committee in May 2020.

Starting at Gillespie Crossroads, we expect the work of line marking and cycle lane defender installation to take six weeks starting on the 26 January 2021. However, our ability to deliver within this timescale is subject to weather conditions. For example, we can't put down road markings in the rain or snow. Should we need more time to install the measures, we will provide updates via the Spaces for People website, social media and emails to our stakeholder group.

Alleviating congestion on the Union Canal tow path

The Lanark, Longstone and Inglis Green route will introduce protected cycleways on both sides of the road, where people cycling are physically separated from vehicles. Parking areas will be retained where possible, though restrictions will be required in some areas.

Alongside new and proposed measures on Slateford Road and Dundee Street/Fountainbridge, the route has been designed as part of an alternative cycling route to the Water of Leith and the Union Canal tow path. This will relieve congestion and conflict on these shared-use paths – especially the narrower parts of the canal towpath.

While some cyclists may continue to use and prefer the Water of Leith and towpath routes, the ultimate benefit of this scheme is its potential to provide alternative routes for

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safe travel and thus to reduce conflict on parallel routes. This will enable better physical distancing for people walking, wheeling and cycling to ensure everyone can use our outdoor spaces equally.

Reducing speed: safer, quieter, more attractive streets for everyone

The reduction of speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on Lanark Road and from 30mph to 20mph on Longstone and Inglis Green roads will make the route safer and more pleasant for all. Feedback from Sustrans' Bike Life Edinburgh research gives a clear message that the greatest barrier to more people cycling relates to safety on the roads, due to the volume and speed of vehicles. You can find out more about this research on the project's web pages.

Examples from other cities around the world demonstrate that once these types of measures are in place, residents prefer safer, quieter streets that allow them to walk and cycle at ease. Cities with great infrastructure benefit from increased levels of active travel. As more people choose to walk or cycle, our residents stand to benefit from improvements in air quality and better health, as a result.

New parking proposals in the vicinity of the proposed route

We are working to ensure the availability of parking on the route is maximised as far as safely can be provided. Following on from feedback, we have now completed a review of potential additional locations. The designs have been revised to include additional parking at the following locations:

- Cranley Nursery
- Lanark Road Nursery
- Kingsknowe Golf Course
- Dovecot Park
- Redhall Area
- Inglis Green Road

Most residential properties along this route have driveways, where access and egress will be maintained. For those who currently park on street, we will aim to ensure that parking is provided within a reasonable distance.

Blue Badge holders can park wherever loading is permitted including on double yellow lines.

Loading bays on the route are not affected by these measures as they are retained.

Ongoing monitoring

In developing the Spaces for People programme, we have established a monitoring plan to assess its impact. We are keen to continue to learn and adapt as we apply the proposed measures, ensuring the project delivers on its aims of providing safe, spacious and pleasant connections for everyone. We will routinely review implemented measures to determine if further changes are required. Comments from the public are considered as part of this process.

View the plans and find out more at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/lanarktolongstone

For information and updates on city-wide Spaces for People projects, visit our website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spacesforpeople.

Regards

Spaces for People Team