

THE DUDDINGSTON VILLAGE TRAFFIC PROBLEM: THE REAL ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

I welcome the consideration that some other members of the Duddingston Village community are giving to the traffic issues affecting the Village. But we need a whole Village resolution. What has been proposed is a very partial solution which attempts to solve the problem in one part and exacerbates what is already a much more serious and quite intolerable problem in another part. I offer alternative solutions which will safeguard the whole Village environment for all of us residents. Please read on and support these ideas rather than ticking the yes box in the recently circulated questionnaire.

The proposals circulated in early November under the signature of 4 residents do not address the fundamental problem of traffic volumes and the effect that this has on personal safety of residents and the quality of the living environment. As the traffic volumes are clearly beyond the carrying capacity of a designated Conservation Area, the solutions proposed will just make an intolerable situation in the Village even worse. The position can only be resolved by measures beyond the Village by all of the authorities acting in a coordinated manner: specifically The City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian and Borders Police, and Historic Scotland.

The proposals circulated will not solve the overall issue because:

1. the overall volumes of traffic are ignored and no means of reducing traffic volumes in the Village are suggested
2. they ignore the problems of traffic speed, congestion and road rage
3. they ignore the facts of traffic volumes and flows: the vast majority of traffic uses Old Church Lane, virtually all of the morning rush hour traffic uses Old Church Lane, only a small proportion of the evening rush hour traffic uses The Causeway with the substantial majority continuing to use Old Church Lane, and most of the high volume of traffic on Saturdays uses Old Church Lane
4. they fail to recognise that there are young children and elderly people living in Old Church Lane
5. they fail to realise that there have already been incidents of residents in Old Church Lane being injured by cyclists using the pavements
6. they fail to recognise that the speed bumps throughout the village are ineffective and there are insufficient of them
7. they fail to address the problems of those who ignore the 'no commercial vehicles' in the Park rules
8. the strategic permanent parking bays proposed for Old Church Lane, without any prior consultation with its residents, will merely have the effect of increasing traffic speeds and encouraging through traffic along Old Church Lane

Partial solutions that fail to address the critical problems cannot be the appropriate way forward hence, as a Duddingston Village resident, I cannot support them.

The Duddingston Village Conservation Area in its entirety is a special place and is recognised as such by the City Council. The wider environs are recognised for the

quality of their natural and cultural heritage by national and international bodies. But the traffic problem seriously undermines these values. It is for the Council, the Police and Historic Scotland to act in concert to deal with this problem. They have failed to undertake any worthwhile measures so far despite years of complaints from the Duddingston Village Conservation Society and the matter being raised with the Council following AGMs over the last decade. Most of the measures in place are totally ineffective as they do not reduce volumes of traffic using the Village and do not reduce the speed of traffic in the Village.

The Solutions required

Two levels of measures are needed: measures beyond Duddingston Village and measures within the Village. It should be obvious from what I have indicated above that measures to reduce traffic volumes from entering the Village are the most crucial.

(1) Substantially Reducing traffic entering Duddingston Village

I propose the following measures for implementation by the 3 key authorities:

1. Strict prohibition of all commercial vehicles from entering Duddingston Village and Holyrood Park, except for access to premises in the Village for legitimate business. Action: City Council, Police and Historic Scotland. Erection of traffic cameras at the entrances to the Park and the Village to check for compliance with the commercial vehicles ban and heavy fines for those who fail to comply. Action: Police.
2. Increase the carrying capacity of Niddrie Mains Road by reducing the width of the overly wide pavement on the north side and placement of lay bys at bus stops. Action: City Council.
3. Use the Innocent Railway as a one way relief road operating on weekdays only: into the city in the morning and out of the city on the evening. Action: City Council.
4. Make Holyrood Park roads less attractive to through traffic by:
 - i. placing chicanes at frequent intervals, i.e. every 200m
 - ii. introduce a dedicated cycle track by reducing the width of the road from Duddingston Village to the Pollock Halls entrance
 - iii. Make the road between Duddingston Village and Pollock Halls roundabout one way: eastwards in the morning and westwards in the evening (i.e. to complement the opposite flow direction on the Innocent Railway)
 - iv. Close the Park to through traffic at weekends from dawn to dusk. Action: Historic Scotland and the City Council.
5. Close the Village to through traffic all day Saturday and Sunday. Action: City Council, Police and Historic Scotland

Reducing speeds of traffic through Duddingston Village

I propose the following measures for immediate implementation in the Village:

1. Rigorously police speeds through the Village by placing hidden cameras at key points and fine everyone who fails to comply with the 20 mph speed limit.
2. Triple the number of speed bumps in Old Church Lane and The Causeway.
3. Place two chicanes in each of Old Church Lane and The Causeway.
4. Place bollards to discourage cyclists from using the pavements at each end of Old Church Lane and The Causeway.

A Plea to all Duddingston Village Residents

As a resident of over twelve years, I am very concerned that the Village community is being torn apart by well meaning people who do not seem to recognise the value of the whole Village community. They are seeking quite deliberately to sacrifice Old Church Lane without having any understanding of the all issues. They ignore the fact that many of us personally place such a high store on the community spirit and contribute a great deal to its continuation and development, for example through the Community Land and other activities. It is for these reasons that I hope the progenitors of the circulated paper will withdraw it to allow more balanced and holistic solutions to be agreed.

Traffic issues have been raised at every Duddingston Village Conservation Society AGM for many years as those who can be bothered to attend will know. We, as a community, have elected our community representatives to deal with these issues and they have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to get these matters recognised. Please remember that all of the authorities would prefer this issue to go away. The more we have polarity in the Village the easier it is for them to ignore the situation and do nothing. The more we come up with overall solutions the more difficult it will be for them to ignore us.

So please all residents of Duddingston Village let us act together in the best interests of the whole all Duddingston Village community.

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