

6.1 - Business Bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 6 December 2018

Council Chamber, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Transport and Environment Committee

| Convener: | Members: | Contact: |
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| <p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes</p>  <p>Councillor Karen Doran (Vice-Convenor)</p>  | <p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Chas Booth Councillor Graeme Bruce Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Scott Douglas Councillor Gillian Gloyer Councillor David Key</p> | <p>Alison Coburn Senior Executive Assistant 0131 529 3149</p> <p>Veronica MacMillan Committee Services 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Rachel Gentleman Committee Services 0131 529 4085</p> |

Recent news

20mph for Edinburgh

At its meetings on 13 January 2015 and 17 March 2015 Committee approved the citywide 20mph network and its implementation plan. The intention at this time was that an initial report on the monitoring outcomes of the scheme would be submitted to Committee approximately one year after the completion of the roll out. The final phase of the scheme became effective on 5 March 2018, suggesting that a report should be submitted in spring 2019.

Monitoring includes:

- Traffic speeds
- Road casualties
- Public opinion – behaviours and attitudes
- Pedestrian, cycling and vehicle levels
- Vehicle journey times
- Emissions, including Air Quality Management Areas

In 2017, a major independent research project was instigated by the Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy (SCPHRP), part of Edinburgh University, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to examine the public health impacts of the introduction of 20mph zones based on a comparative study of Edinburgh and Belfast, reporting in 2020. Whilst the project is fully independent of the Council, data recorded for the 20mph project is being shared with the University to inform its research. Although the emphasis of the study will focus on the public health outputs, in the process of reaching conclusions, analysis of the majority of the areas of interest to the Council will also be undertaken.

SCPHRP has offered to provide an independent report on the Edinburgh experience, based on the scope of its project, to the Council. However, for the report to be as comprehensive as possible, it would need to take account of the final data sets including those which will not be available to the Council until approximately April 2019 (final traffic and public perception data). Consequently, it is likely that their final report would be expected in the summer of 2019, some 3-4 months after the currently publicised reporting programme.

Background

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It is considered that there is significant value in deferring reporting to Committee until this independent report is received.

The Council has also been recording comments on individual roads which will be relayed in the report to Committee along with any appropriate recommendations. These include public requests for additions to the 20mph network.

We are currently reviewing a small number of roads where issues have been identified to determine the case to bring forward Traffic Regulation Orders to reduce the speed limit where evidence suggests that this would be appropriate. This will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee on 28 February 2019.

PARKS QUALITY ASSESSMENTS & GREEN FLAG AWARD

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme is a national benchmark that recognises parks of high quality. Administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the scheme is judged on an annual basis and each park submitted for a Green Flag Award undergoes thorough scrutiny by independent assessors. Because of its exceptionally high number of Green Flag awards, the City of Edinburgh Council is part of the Green Flag Group Award Scheme. This means that existing Green Flag Award winning sites are automatically awarded a Green Flag if the standard is maintained following self-assessment and a peer-review process.

This review takes place every two years and involves trained Green Flag judges from participating UK local authorities assessing the risk of the managing authority of failing to maintain its current Green Flag Award parks to the required standard. Edinburgh was successfully judged as 'low risk' when assessed in May 2018.

In 2018, the Council added two more parks (Fairmilehead Park and Lauriston Castle Gardens) to its existing 30 award winning parks meaning Edinburgh achieved 32 Green Flag Awards out of a total of 71 across Scotland. Corstorphine Walled Garden have achieved a Green Flag Community Award annually since 2009.

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2018 Parks Quality Assessment Results

Using Green Flag Award methodology we assess the quality of all our public parks each summer. In 2018, Saughton Park was removed from the assessment list due to ongoing refurbishment, resulting in 138 parks being assessed in total.

Gradual improvements in parks have been made since the bandwidth system of scoring was introduced in 2009, to the point that by 2017, 97% of the city's parks met the Edinburgh Minimum Standard (EMS), i.e. only four parks did not meet the EMS. It was therefore felt that to remain relevant the bandwidth system of scoring needed to be reviewed.

In 2018, a simplified version (see table below) was agreed, making it easier to understand and the Edinburgh Minimum Standard was set at Grade C, i.e. a Parks Quality Score (PQS) of 60% for **all** park types.

| | All Parks and Cemeteries |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grade A | 100 – 80% |
| Grade B | 79 – 70% |
| Grade C | 69 – 60% |
| Edinburgh Minimum Standard | 60% |
| Grade D | 59 – 50% |
| Grade E | 49 – 0% |

Retrospectively applying the new Edinburgh Minimum Standard to the 2017 scores shows an increase of eleven parks now meeting the mark meaning 116 of the 138 (84%) parks assessed city-wide in 2018 now meets the standard.

The average PQS score also continues to increase year on year with the average score of an Edinburgh park now sitting at 66%.

The average Park Quality Score increased across three localities with only North East remaining static. Parks in South East Edinburgh continue to have the highest average score (71%) with those in the North East having the lowest average score (64%).

The Pentland Hills Regional Park was once again judged to be the highest scoring park in Edinburgh.

The city's "top 5" parks in 2018 were:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 st | Pentland Hills Regional Park |
|-----------------|------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 2 nd | Starbank Park |
| 3 rd | Seven Acre Park |
| 4 th | Easter Craiglockhart Hill |
| 5 th | Hermitage of Braid |

Notably, all have an active Park Friends Group.

The quality of a small number of parks has worsened since 2017. Those requiring attention over the coming year are Silverknowes Park, Ratho Station Flyover Park and Muirhouse Millennium Linear Park.

A copy of the Park Quality Assessments for 2018 can be found at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/11262/parks_quality_report_2018

Forthcoming activities:
