

**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**

**Item No 3**

**23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Deputation</b>
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 8.1 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor McVey (Council Owned Care Homes – EIJB)</b>	a) Edinburgh Trade Union Council b) Unison
<b>3.2 In relation to Items 8.7 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Duggart (Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Bed Based Review)</b>	Edinburgh Trade Union Council
<b>3.3 In relation to Items 8.2 and 8.4 in the agenda – Motions by Councillors Macinnes (Health and Inequalities in relation to Active Travel Provision in Edinburgh) and Miller (Edinburgh Doctors for Active Travel)</b>	a) Lothian Deprivation Interest Group (Video Presentation) b) Keep Edinburgh Moving (written submission attached)

# *Can we chat about Spaces for People?*

**A deputation to City of Edinburgh Council 23 Sept 21**

**Agenda items**

**8.2 By Cllr Macinnes - Health & inequalities in relation to Active Travel  
Provision in Edinburgh**

**8.4 By Cllr Miller Edinburgh Doctors for Active Travel**



**KEEP EDINBURGH MOVING**

**from Keep Edinburgh Moving**

*In September 2021,  
144 medical  
professionals signed a  
letter saying:*

*“We are concerned that suggested steps to reverse active travel measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic would be a retrograde and harmful step for the health of the population of Edinburgh.”*

144 medical & health professionals, Edinburgh Active Travel for Health

*But did they know...*

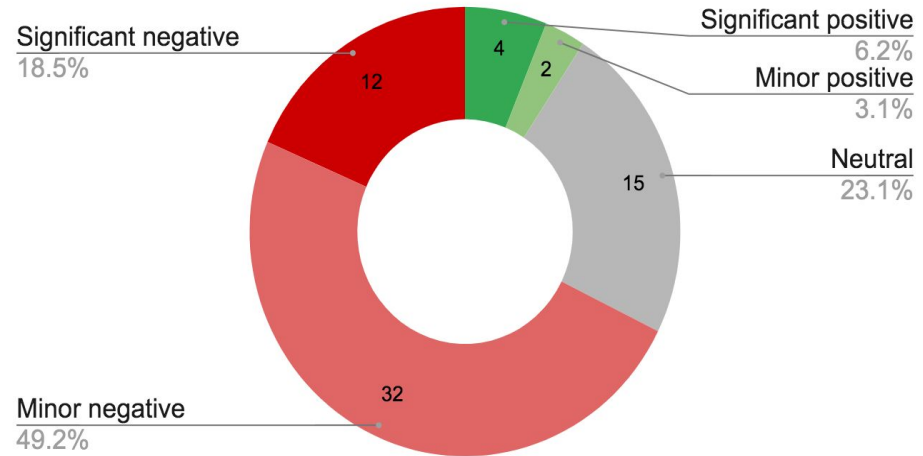
**32% of the Edinburgh population has some form of disability?**

**That's around 168,000 people.**

(Edinburgh Council Equality & Diversity Framework 2021 - 2025)

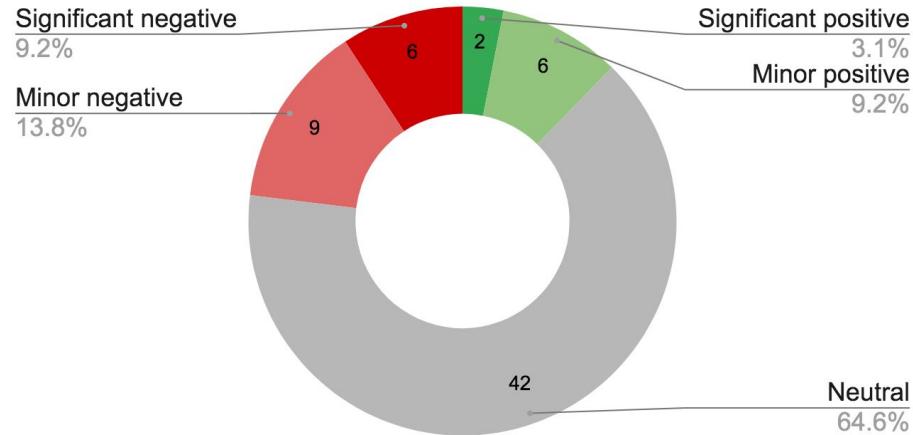
...and nearly 70% of Spaces for People active travel schemes have a negative impact on many disabled people in that group, including 6,500 blue badge holders?

Number of SFP schemes vs. Impacts on disabled people



...and in a double whammy, nearly a quarter have a negative impact for bus users - including disabled people, patients going to appointments and those who care for them?

No. of Spaces for People schemes vs. Impacts on public transport

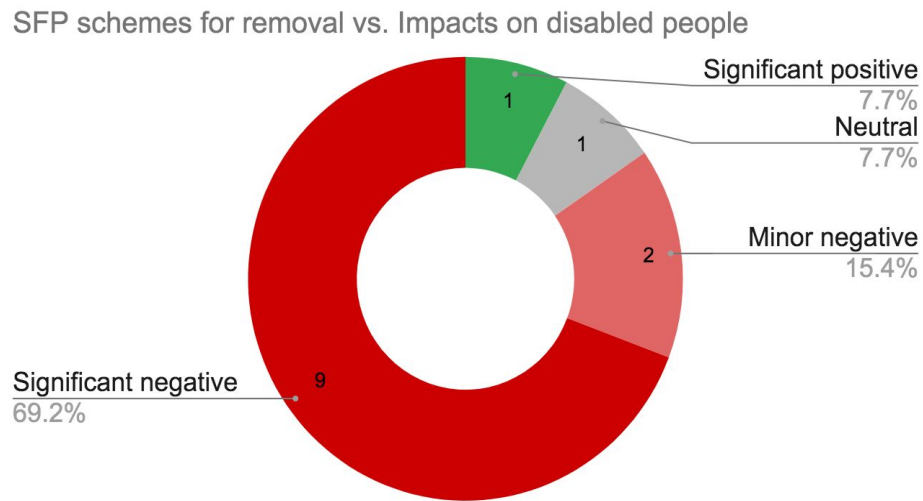




**These gradings are based on the council's own criteria and scoring - more lenient than that recommended by disability organisations.**

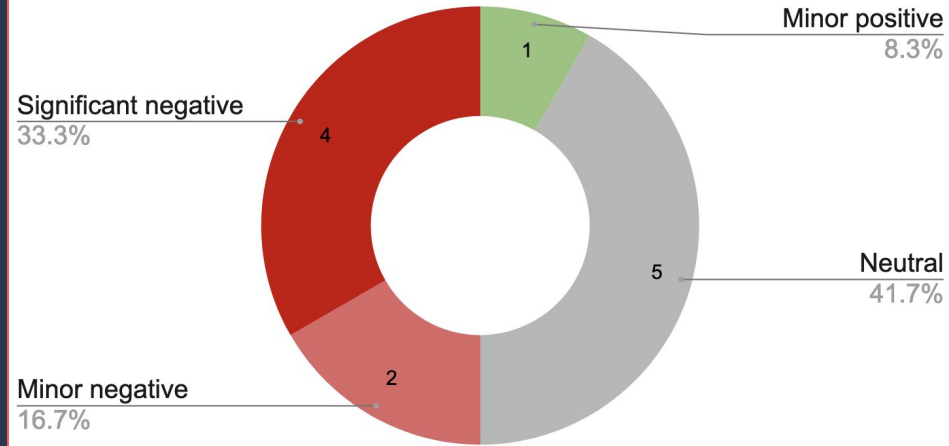
**The council is only removing  
13 out of the 65 schemes.**

**Fortunately, 11 with a negative impact on disabled people are being removed, such as George IV Bridge and Stockbridge...**



...and 6 of those  
being removed have  
a negative impact on  
bus users, including  
Dalry Road and  
St John's Road.

SFP Schemes for removal vs. Impacts on public transport



*So, Edinburgh residents  
are asking:*

Why have 144 doctors & their colleagues written to councillors, asking them to retain schemes with a negative impact for disabled people and carers?

**The negative impacts are real.**

# Delay

*"I now spend 3 hrs daily travelling. What took me about 1hr 20mins pre covid is now up to 30 mins extra in evening rush hour. Buses are constantly queued due to Spaces for People measures or have to weave in and out of what used to be bus lanes. Two stops have been removed at Cameron Toll. I've had to get a new job to reduce my commute."*

**Nurse, Edinburgh**



# Restriction

*"My medical condition means I need to park on the street as our narrow driveway is on a steep hill. People I need to help me now can't park outside my home - this has been confiscated by the Spaces for People team without any consultation."*

**Rheumatology patient, Edinburgh**

# Isolation

*"I have a blue badge as does my husband... these restrictions have a direct impact on our quality of life when we can't park safely and easily in other areas when we manage to go out.*

*No one group deserves more accessibility than another, but none deserve to be restricted either."*

**Blue badge holder, Edinburgh**

# Injury

*“Last week I picked up an elderly lady from the bike lane (Comiston Road). She used the bike lane because it looked better for her footing, but ended up twisting her ankle on the block things with bollards.”*

**Carer, Edinburgh**

# Distress

*"I felt like I was on a roundabout I couldn't get off. Anyhoo the distress of my client...there was planters and new white lines all over the place. So my client was so distressed by the time we got near (two streets away)... by the time we had got her almost to the front door she had lost all control of bladder and bowel content. She refused to leave today."*

**Carer, Edinburgh**

# These concerns have been raised




Edinburgh News 

Health

## 'It's essential that promoting cycling does not have an unacceptable impact on disabled people' - fears over Edinburgh Spaces for People scheme

Disabled Edinburgh residents have expressed 'serious concerns' over the council's controversial Spaces for People scheme - particularly over 'floating' bus stops and a lack of blue badge parking provision.

**By Joseph Anderson**  
Wednesday, 31st March 2021, 9:03 am  
Updated: Wednesday, 31st March 2021, 9:26 am



Edinburgh News 

Health > Coronavirus

## 'Crazy' disabled parking bay on busy Edinburgh road is 'accident waiting to happen'

Disabled force to park 'in middle of road'

**By Ian Swanson**  
Friday, 11th September 2020, 7:30 am





Edinburgh News 

News > Politics > Council

## Disability charities demand rethink on Edinburgh's Spaces for People scheme

Two of Scotland's leading charities today joined disabled campaigners in the Capital in a plea to the city council to review its controversial Spaces for People roads programme.

**By Shona Elliott**  
Thursday, 17th June 2021, 4:55 am



*If the medics didn't  
realise this,  
then why not?*

# Maybe they'd read the many council statements saying they'd "consulted" organisations in the disability sector?

*(Forgetting to mention that disability organisations said 40km of this design of cycle lanes created 40km of barriers for many disabled people.)*

## Spaces for people - taking your views on board

- 1 [Spaces for people - taking your views on board](#)
- 2 **People with disabilities and emergency access**
- 3 [Supporting business](#)

### People with disabilities and emergency access

We are co-ordinating this work with emergency services.

We will also make sure there is always access for residents with mobility needs.

We'll review temporary measures regularly to make sure that they continue to keep people safe.

#### Needs of people with disabilities

We have a duty to make sure anything we do to roads, pavements and pathways takes the needs of people with disabilities into consideration. This is a key part of how we'll assess each temporary measure.



We are also liaising with Edinburgh Access Panel and RNIB about our proposed temporary measures.

We'll also make sure that people who use Blue Badges for access and parking can still do so. We will not reduce disabled bay parking spaces.

Maybe they'd seen the council's £11,000 worth of adverts blatantly implying disabled and elderly people were at the heart of Spaces for People?

*(One commenter on a council Facebook post asked, "Is this a sick joke?")*





# Maybe they'd been convinced by claims Spaces for People was meant for wheelchairs?


← Tweet

 The City of Edinburgh Council @Edinburgh\_CC

We've introduced lots of Spaces for People measures to help people walk, cycle or wheel around the city over the last 10 months, and we want to know what you think of them. Tell us, and whether you think any of them should be kept longer term, here: [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/retainingsp...](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/retainingsp...)







The graphic features the text 'Spaces for people' in large green letters. Below it are five blue icons: a person walking a dog, a person in a wheelchair, a bicycle, a person running, and a person walking with a cane. At the bottom, it says 'Let's keep moving forward' in green.


Edinburgh News 

## How Spaces for People scheme is helping us all - Lesley Macinnes

It's now more than a year since we began introducing Spaces for People measures to help people to make journeys by foot, bike and wheelchair safely while physically distancing.

By The Newsroom  
Wednesday, 2nd June 2021, 7:00 am



A photograph of Lesley Macinnes, a woman with reddish-brown hair and a blue scarf, standing in front of a busy street with cars. A notification bell icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

**Maybe they are unaware that bollard cycle lanes cannot accommodate requests for blue badge spaces?**

*"Please advise me how or if I can apply for a disabled parking bay outside my home - or what you believe our design solution is for situations like mine. I know I am not alone in this concern."*

**Resident request, Edinburgh**

*"Unfortunately, due to the proposed road layout I don't think it would be possible to consider the introduction of a disabled bay for a local resident, and less so for a visiting family member."*

**Senior council officer response**

**Or that  
segregated cycle  
lanes mean that  
accessible  
parking is  
removed entirely,  
even for  
blue-badge  
holders?**

*"I have a family member who is a blue badge holder and a driver. They have very limited mobility. Can you please clarify for me if they can park on the double yellow lines?"*

**Resident request, Edinburgh**

*"Blue Badge Holders should not park on cycleways. Drop-off and pick up would be fine, before the car itself is parked elsewhere. Given your family member is also the driver I appreciate this may not be especially helpful."*

**Council officer response**

**Maybe they've seen  
council Equality Impact  
Assessments  
highlighting benefits for  
disabled people, where  
in reality there are  
overwhelmingly  
negative impacts?**

Lanark Road  
Integrated Impact Assessment

Section 7

In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights - Positive

*Street will have more space so will be easier to navigate.*

*Affected populations: All, particularly relevant for people with disabilities and mobility challenges, older people, partially sighted or blind people and people with pushchairs*

*Meanwhile, with all  
the focus on  
Spaces for People...*

**...the same council team neglected gritting - further isolating & putting at risk people with disabilities, and creating new mobility problems for others.**



Edinburgh News 

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Health > Coronavirus

## Icy weather sees pedestrians and cyclists fall on Edinburgh road closed for their safety

A woman suffered a suspected broken wrist after falling on ice on a road which is closed to traffic to make it "safe" for pedestrians and cyclists.

By Ian Swanson

Thursday, 31st December 2020, 12:30 pm

Updated Thursday, 31st December 2020, 12:36 pm



# **This caused immense pressure on the health service.**

*“We are getting people slipping and falling all over the place. We had more than 50 people waiting to go to theatre and there are similar problems all over....There are more people coming in from the weather than from a major bus crash.”*

**Edinburgh orthopaedic surgeon**

# **Hospital admissions from falls increased the risk of catching Covid.**

*“The risk of catching Covid just by being in hospital waiting is significant. If you are elderly and require surgery, your mortality is significantly increased.”*

**Vice-president, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine in Scotland**



# Medics needed the council to focus on the basics.

*“It is down to the councils to make absolutely certain that the roads are gritted and the pavements are gritted.”*

**The president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh**

*How has this happened?*

**Maintaining existing infrastructure (*vital for everyone's safety*) has been underfunded and forgotten. Instead, budgets and funding criteria have diverted £millions to new, poor quality infrastructure, creating an even greater, unsustainable, maintenance burden.**

**Pre COP26, it seems that installing 40km of cycle lanes (*no matter how poorly*) is politically better than 20km done properly and made accessible, while looking after the infrastructure we already have.**

*Who welcomed the  
medics' open letter?*

# Medics back active travel measures

Ian Swanson  
ian.swanson@edinburghnews.com

More than 140 leading doctors and health professionals in Edinburgh have written an open letter to the city council in support of active travel measures in the Capital.

The medics say changes to the city's travel infrastructure to promote walking and cycling are potentially life-saving, with the twin benefits of improving public health and mitigating the climate emergency.

The council has recently decided to continue many of the measures brought in during the early stages of the pandemic under the Spaces for People programme.

And the medics say reversing the changes would be "a retrograde and harmful step for the health of the population of Edinburgh".

Dr Laura McWhirter, consultant neuropsychiatrist at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and clinical research fellow at Edinburgh University, who prepared the letter, said: "As health professionals, we have a responsibility to protect and promote the health of the population. We have a responsibility to address inequalities and to advocate for the needs of the

most deprived and disadvantaged members of the population we serve.

"We are concerned about the impact of the climate crisis on health, globally and locally. We support the retention, and further development and integration of infrastructures designed to support active travel and clean air for the whole population of Edinburgh, to mitigate inequalities in health, local mobility, and air quality."

The open letter was welcomed by the walking and cycling charity Sustrans and by the recently formed group Better Edinburgh for Sustainable Travel (BEST).

Sustrans deputy CEO John Lauder said: "All the evidence shows more cycling and walking is good for public health and has proven environmental benefits in tackling the climate emergency."

"It is clear that the way we travel, work, spend time with each other and enjoy our urban spaces have been changed by the pandemic. It is increasingly clear that there is no 'old normal' to go back to."

And Stella Thomson, of BEST, a collective of community groups across Edinburgh promoting active travel, said: "The case for the rapid development of a safe active travel network across Edinburgh,

and a significant reduction in vehicular traffic, is unequivocal.

"Everyone, especially children, should have the opportunity to walk, wheel or cycle if they are able, to breathe clean air, and to feel safe on our city's streets."

Administration councillors welcomed the medics backing.

Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport and Environment Committee Convenor, said: "The collective voice of this wide range of medical and health professionals is incredibly welcome. We've been vocal about our commitment to encourage travel by foot, wheel or bike, and the benefits this brings, but to have the support of the medical profession demonstrates just how crucial investment in safe, protected routes is."

"Over the last year and a half we've introduced changes which have helped many people to feel newly confident about walking, cycling and wheeling safely. There are, of course, tens of thousands of people in Edinburgh who don't have access to a car."

"We now have the opportunity to extend the lifespan of many of these measures and to improve upon them so that they work for as many people as possible."

## SNP

SNP Cllr and Transport & Environment Committee Convenor, Lesley Macinnes is responsible for all these schemes as well as gritting and road repairs.

Her response to your letter was:

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Sustrans has approved funding of all these schemes using taxpayer money. Sustrans is an English HQ charity which lobbied the Scottish Government for these schemes and is now paid £millions to manage the funding.

Sustrans designed the Longstone and Lanark Road schemes in only 10 days, from London, without a site visit. Their design removed ample kerbside access for people with mobility issues for the entire 4.4 miles of carriageway.

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"Everyone, especially children, should have the opportunity to walk, wheel or cycle if they are able, to breathe clean air, and to feel safe on our city's streets."

Achieving these goals will be welcomed by the medics backing.

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## BEST

Better Edinburgh for Sustainable Travel (BEST), is a new collective, including cycle pressure group, Spokes.

In 2020-21, four councillors out of 11 (36%) on the Transport & Environment committee were Spokes members, showing the disproportionate influence of a tiny lobby group.

BEST recently organised a protest on Lanark Road to campaign to keep the lanes. Of the 165 attending, only around 20 used the cycle lanes to get to and from the protest.

This "rent-a-mob" group cycled past the homes of residents who had been refused safe kerbside Blue Badge or accessible spaces.



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## Agenda

### City of Edinburgh Council Thursday, 23rd September, 2021 10.00 am

#### 8.4

##### **By Councillor Miller - Edinburgh Doctors for Active Travel**

By Councillor Miller – Edinburgh Doctors for Active Travel

"This Council;

1. Welcomes the open letter to the Council signed by over 140 Edinburgh doctors, surgeons, professors of medicine and other medical professionals in support of measures to support active travel in Edinburgh;
3. Requests that the Council Leader and the Transport Convenor responds to the letter on behalf of the Council and
4. Welcomes the considered professional opinion of the signatories and requests that council officers and Transport and Environment Committee takes account of these opinions when making any future relevant decisions about active travel measures."



Green Cllr and Transport & Environment Committee member, and Spokes member, Claire Miller:  
*"Welcomes the considered professional opinion of the signatories".*

She is asking the council to vote to "take account of these opinions when making any future relevant decisions about active travel measures."

*Why is the council  
forcing us to choose?*

**Schemes to support cycling are vital.**

**But they must also be fully accessible and avoid negative impacts on pedestrians and people who rely on public transport - particularly those with disabilities and their carers.**

**We believe most cyclists want proper schemes that don't discriminate against people with disabilities.**

*It doesn't make sense*

**The health benefits of active travel are not in dispute. The climate benefits of active travel are clear.**

**If schemes are evidence-led at a local level, implemented properly, and don't discriminate, they will attract the community support they need to be sustainable.**

**But the risk is that flawed vanity projects will take us further away from achieving goals around inclusion and the environment.**



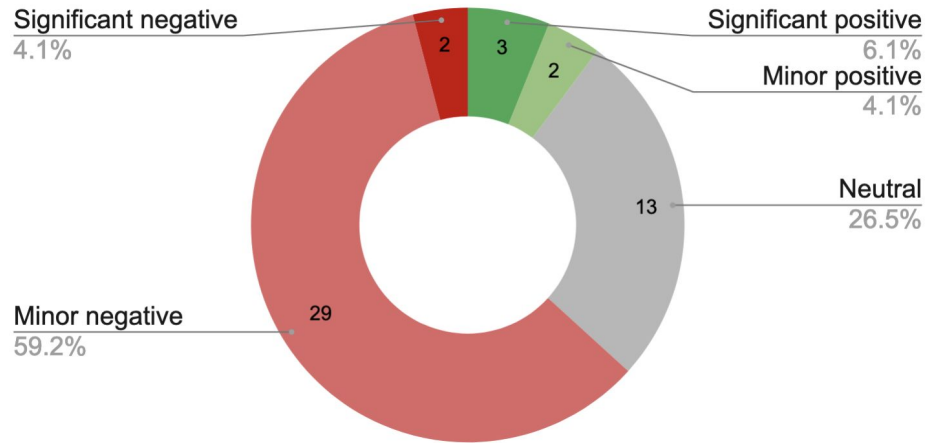
**You said:** *We support the retention, and further development and integration of infrastructures designed to support active travel and clean air for the whole population of Edinburgh, to mitigate inequalities in health, local mobility, and air quality.”*

144 medical & health professionals, Edinburgh Active Travel for Health

*Please, when responding  
to the medics, can the  
council inform them...*

...that of the schemes they support the council retaining, 31 still negatively impact disabled people

Retained & new SFP schemes vs Impacts for disabled people



...and negative schemes for bus users outnumber the positive, so there's no benefit to people with mobility issues who rely on buses.

Retained & new SFP schemes v Impacts on public transport

Significant negative

4.1%

Minor negative

12.2%

Significant positive

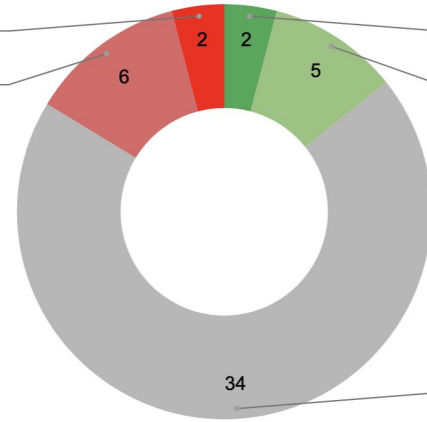
4.1%

Minor positive

10.2%

Neutral

69.4%



**The council said they'd consider *"amendments in loading restrictions... to facilitate access for blue badge holders."***

**However already, in the first local engagement for Lanark Road, your new amendments increase the negative impact.**

**The medics said:** *“As health professionals we have a responsibility to protect and promote the health of the population...”*

144 medical & health professionals, Edinburgh Active Travel for Health

*...We have a responsibility to address inequalities and to advocate for the needs of the most deprived and disadvantaged members of the population we serve”*

144 medical & health professionals, Edinburgh Active Travel for Health

Has confusion caused by  
the council, led them to  
write to the council  
asking for the opposite?

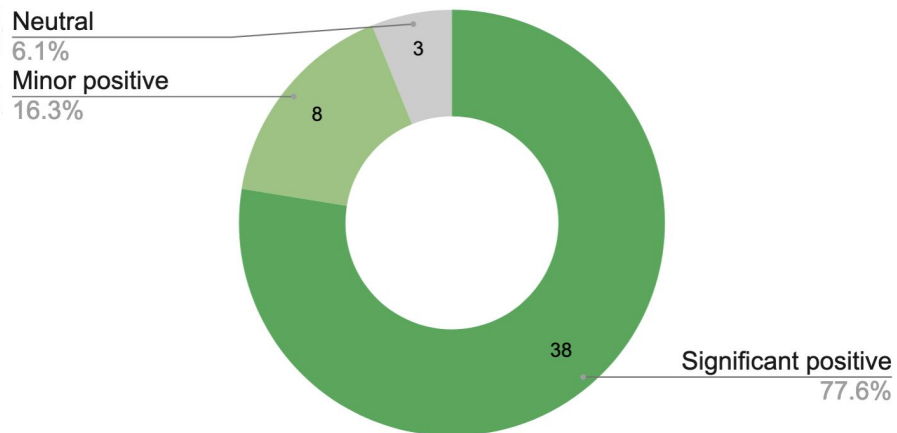


*Would they still sign  
that letter?*

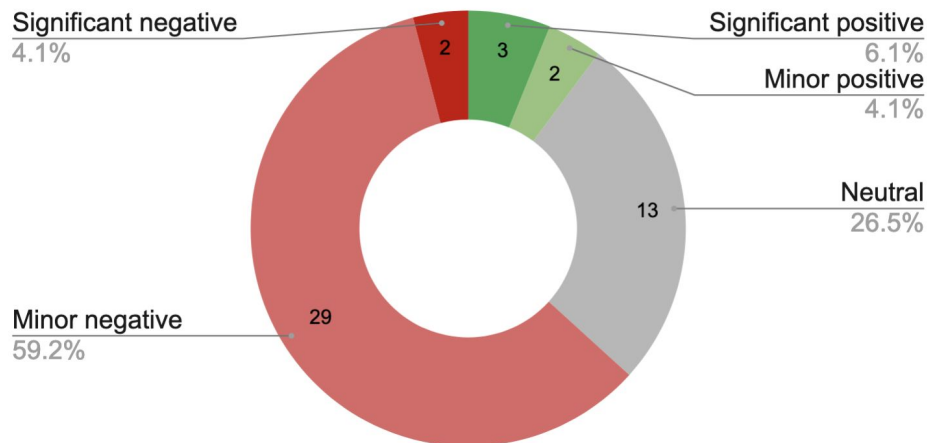
# We need to change this...

Schemes with **positive** impacts for **cyclists** which have **negative** impacts for **disabled people**

Retained & new SFP schemes v Impact on Cycle Network



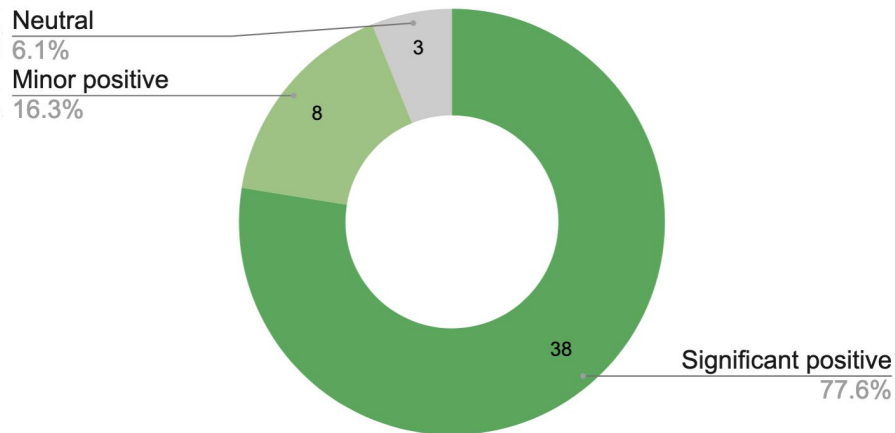
Retained & new SFP schemes vs Impacts for disabled people



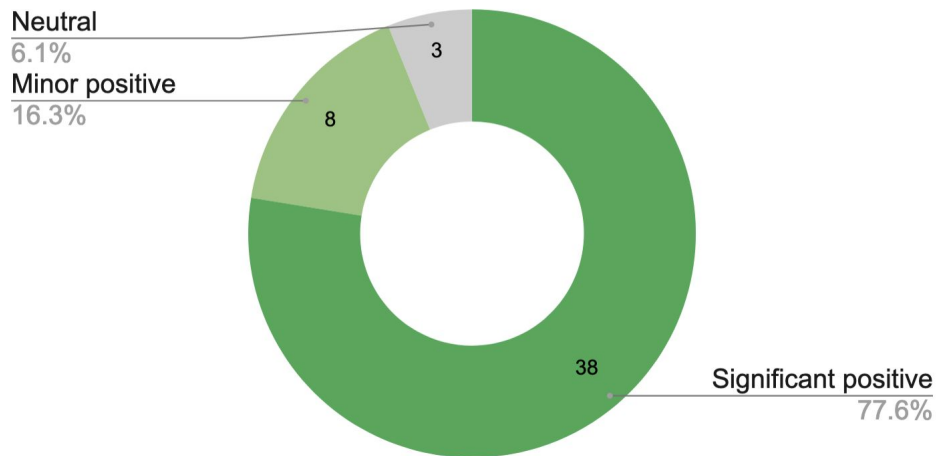
# to be more like this...

Schemes with **positive** impacts for **cyclists** which also have **positive** impacts for **disabled people**

Retained & new SFP schemes v Impact on Cycle Network



Retained & new SFP schemes v Impacts for disabled people



**Please champion high quality  
schemes which are inclusive and  
properly planned**

and guard against the growth of  
eco-ableism:

*“a failure by non-disabled environmental  
activists to recognise that many of the climate  
actions they’re promoting make life difficult for  
disabled people”.*

**It cannot be acceptable to launch 18 months of “experimental” schemes, knowing, at the outset, they already have negative impacts on disabled people.**

**We all deserve better,  
much better, from our  
City of Edinburgh Council.**

*Thank you.*



**KEEP EDINBURGH MOVING**



# About Keep Edinburgh Moving

# About: Keep Edinburgh Moving



## *Why we formed*

**We're a collective of local community groups that formed during the pandemic, in response to Spaces for People schemes being installed without consultation, with many having questionable scope for reducing COVID transmission.**

The significant negative impacts brought real hardship to many at a time we, our families, friends and neighbours, were struggling with isolation, illness and bereavement, or fighting for a business to survive.

Our committee members have embedded active travel in our lives for years and are very concerned with the council's flawed approach.

**Web:** <https://tinyurl.com/keepedinburghmoving>

**Email:** [keepedinburghmoving@gmail.com](mailto:keepedinburghmoving@gmail.com)



## *Our work*

We've made deputations to the council challenging, among other things, the tick box approach to safety, the unethical approach to disability, the lack of consideration for businesses, the impact on our heritage city and most recently, consultations and research which don't meet basic quality standards. Meanwhile, the same council department is failing to deliver previously approved infrastructure or complete effective maintenance of existing infrastructure. This increases risk of injury and flooding with lack of gritting, road and pavement repairs and drain unblocking and has led to hospital admissions.

Our petition raising these critical issues has over 17,000 signatures, and was misrepresented in a council report as being "a petition against safety measures".

<https://tinyurl.com/keepedinburghmovingpetition>

# References

- **Open letter from Edinburgh Active Travel for Health**  
<https://edinburghactivetravelforhealth.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/active-travel-letter-060921-3.pdf>
- **Evening News article - covering open letter from 144 medical and health professionals to councillors**  
<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/transport/edinburgh-medics-sign-open-letter-backing-spaces-for-people-measures-as-potentialy-life-saving-3375386>
- **City of Edinburgh Council Equality & Diversity Framework 2021 - 2025, p5 - Number of disabled people in Edinburgh**  
<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s33238/Item%207.6%20-%20Equality%20and%20Diversity%20Framework%202021-2025.pdf>
- **Evening News article - injuries caused on Spaces for People scheme due to lack of gritting**  
<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/icy-weather-sees-pedestrians-and-cyclists-fall-edinburgh-road-closed-their-safety-3082509>
- **Evening News article - gritting roads to reduce risk of covid infections in hospitals**  
<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/health/grit-roads-reduce-covid-19-infections-scottish-hospitals-say-surgeons-3083175>
- **Times article - falls in ice overloading wards**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-in-scotland-falls-on-icy-pavements-are-overloading-wards-7jpcltf0g>
- **Lanark Road Integrated Impact Assessment**  
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/28710/lanark-road-integrated-impact-assessment>



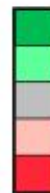
## Council report “Potential Retention of Spaces for People measures – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee” Thurs 24 June 2021

The scores and the decision to retain or remove schemes on p 44 - 48. Scoring criteria on p53 (public transport) and p59 (disabled street users). Sections from the grids on p 44 - 48 of the pdf link here are below and on the following four pages.

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s35088/Item%207.13%20-%20Potential%20Retention%20of%20Spaces%20for%20People%20Measures%20-%20referral%20from%20the%20Transport%20and%20Env.pdf>

SCHEME NAME	LOCALITY	TYPE	IMPACTS ON												FEEDBACK			RECOMMENDATION	
			PEDESTS		CYCLES		Str Env	PubTrans	Traffic -displace	RESIDENTS			BUSINESS	Disabled people					
			Pedestrian movement	Pedestrian crossing	Cycle network	Cycle local	Street Environment	Public Transport service and stops	Traffic + parking -displace	Traffic volume	Speeds	Parking	Servicing	Servicing					Parking
Waverley Bridge	SE	City Centre																	RETAIN
Forest Road	SE	City Centre																	REMOVE
George IV Bridge	SE	City Centre																	REMOVE
The Mound	SE	City Centre																	RETAIN with mods
Princes Street East End	SE	City Centre																	RETAIN with mods
Victoria Street	SE	City Centre																	RETAIN
Cockburn St	SE	City Centre															NA		RETAIN
Queensferry High Street	NW	Shopping Streets																	RETAIN
Stockbridge	NW	Shopping Streets																	REMOVE
Gorgie Road	SW	Shopping Streets															NA	NA	REMOVE

### Key to impacts



- Significant positive
- Minor Positive
- Neutral
- Minor Negative
- Significant negative











SCHEME NAME	LOCALITY	TYPE	IMPACTS ON											FEEDBACK			RECOMMENDATION			
			PEDESTS		CYCLES		Str Env	PubTrans	Traffic -displace	RESIDENTS			BUSINESS	Disabled people						
			Pedestrian movement	Pedestrian crossing	Cycle network	Cycle local	Street Environment	Public Tranport service and stops	Traffic + parking -displace	Traffic volume	Speds	Parking	Servicing	Servicing	Parking	Street space		People with mobility and other disabilities	Market Research	Public Consultation
West Harbour Rd/West Shore Rd	NW	Liesure Connections																	RETAIN	
Braid Road	SE	Quiet/Liesure Connections																	RETAIN (1-way Southbound)	
Braidburn Terrace	SE	Quiet/Liesure Connections																	Permanent Scheme designed	
Meadows to Greenbank Quiet Connection	SE	Quiet Connections																	RETAIN	
Cramond Glebe Road	NW	Liesure Connections															NA	NA	NA	RETAIN

**List of open response recipients  
144 medical & health  
professionals**

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Neil Aitken, Physiotherapist, Neil Aitken Physiotherapy Ltd, Edinburgh

Dr Niall H. Anderson, Senior Lecturer in Medical Statistics, Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh

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Dr Paul Bailey, General Practitioner, NHS Lothian

Miss Emily Baird, Consultant, Children’s Orthopaedics, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People Edinburgh

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Dr Roland Baumann, General Practitioner, Niddrie Medical Practice, Edinburgh

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Dr Monika Beatty, Consultant in Critical Care, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

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