

SUBMISSION TO SOUTH EAST LOCALITY COMMITTEE

TRAFFIC ISSUES IN THE VIEWFORTH AND MERCHISTON AREA

This submission seeks the Committee's agreement that, alongside its continuing consideration of traffic management around Viewforth bridge, consideration should be given to planning for a scheme of minor traffic calming measures in Merchiston Avenue.

Following the installation of traffic lights and the narrowing of the carriageway over the bridge the Merchiston Avenue/ Yeaman Place corridor has become the main route crossing this area SE/NW. While this has always been a through route, the changes in Viewforth have resulted in a significant increase in traffic on this corridor.

Historically Yeaman Place and Viewforth had physical traffic calming measures installed in the form of speed cushions, whereas Merchiston Avenue has had no such treatment. Hence the focus of this submission on Merchiston Avenue while recognising the need for a wider review of traffic flows.

A survey by CEC in May 2018 recorded average weekday two-way traffic in Merchiston Avenue of 3496 vehicles, with peak hour flows typically around 300 vehicles. The average speed was approximately 22mph. However, the 85th percentile value was approximately 30mph which indicates that the the 20mph speed limit, without physical measures to reinforce it, has not calmed traffic in this street.

Furthermore, with the substantial provision of student accommodation around Dundee Street, pedestrian movements on this same corridor have dramatically increased to and from the Napier University. School children pedestrian movements are also much in evidence at Granville Terrace and Colinton Road.

With or without further changes to traffic control in Viewforth we respectfully request that the Committee consider the following issues which justify the provision of traffic calming in Merchiston Avenue:

- Merchiston Avenue is defined in the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance over most of its length as a "Local, low density residential street". This allows the place and movement status to be defined. Specifically this is the category expected to carry least traffic.
- Traffic flow in Merchiston Avenue is at the upper limit of the Environmental Capacity for this category of street.
- Traffic speed in Merchiston Avenue regularly exceeds the statutory limit.
- Merchiston Avenue is sub-standard in terms of road width for two-way traffic when compared to the Council's published standards.
- The nomenclature of the Council's directorate emphasises the concept of "Place" rather than roads, transport or movement and National Policy tells us that "*Street design must consider place before movement.*"
- If vehicle movement in Viewforth is stopped or even temporarily restricted, conditions in Merchiston Avenue will deteriorate.