

Update from Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Lib Dem councillor for Forth – February 2024

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Victoria Park Bowling Club Consultation Event: Monday 26 February 6-8pm

Residents are invited to come along to an in-person workshop on Monday 26 February to discuss the redevelopment of the Victoria Park bowling greens.

This will take place at the Pollock Pavilion, The Boys' Brigade, located at 227 Ferry Road, EH6 4SP. You can drop in any time you like between 6-8pm, though if possible the team would appreciate an email to thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk if you would like to come along, so they have an idea of numbers attending.

This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss initial proposals, share ideas and actively contribute to the future of Victoria Park.

<https://www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/news/article/21/victoria-park-bowling-green-consultation>

EDINBURGH'S thriving green spaces

Bowling Greens at Victoria Park

Come along to this drop in session to chat about what you would like to see in future developments of Victoria Park's bowling greens.

Details of Events
February 26th, drop in from 6pm-8pm, Pollock Pavilion, The Boys' Brigade, Edinburgh, 227 Ferry Road, EH6 4SP
Refreshments will be provided

For any further questions, please email thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk

Learn more at www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot

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Trinity Academy - Planning Permission Granted

On 8 February, the Trinity Academy Redevelopment Phase 2 plans were granted planning permission. This means that work will now begin on getting the car park ready for the temporary accommodation that will house pupils during the period of works. The temporary classrooms are expected to arrive in May. The old swimming pool will be demolished over 6 weeks from 20 March onwards; there will be some noisy work during the first two weeks in April.

You can still view the proposals on the Council's Planning Portal:

[23/06118/FUL | Extension to Victorian building to provide new school accommodation; internal and external works, partial demolition of post-war blocks, associated landscaping and temporary decant facilities to support works. | Trinity Academy 1 Craighall Avenue Trinity Edinburgh EH6 4RT](#)

[23/06119/CON | Demolition of unlisted buildings and structures inc. music department and science block to create new school campus. | Trinity Academy 1 Craighall Avenue Trinity Edinburgh EH6 4RT](#)

[23/06120/LBC | Partial demolition, extension and internal and external works to retained Victorian school building to create new campus. | Trinity Academy 1 Craighall Avenue Trinity Edinburgh EH6 4RT](#)

Pavement Parking Ban – Local Mitigations

On 29 January, the Council started enforcing the national pavement parking ban. While it has made pavements more accessible to pedestrians, people using wheelchairs or pushing buggies, it is causing some issues in a small number of streets where residents previously parked on pavements. I have met and corresponded with residents in four different streets to discuss possible mitigations to retain access for emergency vehicles and bin lorries; this will involve double yellow lines in most cases, though depending on the specifics of the street other measures may be proposed. I have brought the issues in the Bangholms and also in Rosebank Grove to the attention of the senior

officer in charge of parking, as well as the Transport Convener, and have offered to meet with Council officers in the Bangholms to discuss what mitigation options may be possible. It is not currently possible to grant exemptions.

The Council is in the process of buying smaller waste collection lorries which will be used in streets where access is an issue. I'm told that a small 'litter crusher' vehicle is currently servicing bins on Saturdays that have not been emptied as a result of access issues.

Bin Hubs – Early Collections

Mindful of concerns about the impact of frequent early collections for some residents (e.g. in Darnell Road), at last Thursday's Full Council meeting I passed an amendment which recognised the loss of amenity for some residents as a result of bin hubs and asked that *"Officers should investigate whether routing demands can allow for emptying of bin hubs to start later in the morning, and/or whether routes can be amended, rotated or reversed so that the same residents' bins are not always collected first and the early collections are distributed more equitably."* I will report back!

Transport Committee Update - Future Streets Proposals

The most recent Transport Committee was asked to consider a set of proposals that are designed to improve the pedestrian experience (both in residential areas and on some streets in the city centre) and to make public transport to the city centre a more attractive option by improving bus journey times compared to journeys by private car. I am supportive of these aims, and in favour of some of the measures proposed (which include widening of some pavements, bus priority measures, trial closures to through traffic of Cowgate and Canongate). However, I spoke against approving the closure of North Bridge to car traffic at this point, because of the potential impact on other roads including Lothian Road, as well as uncertainty about Historic Environment Scotland's plans for traffic in Holyrood Park. Unfortunately, other parties disagreed with me on this point, though some additional work will now be done on assessing the impact of a North Bridge closure to through traffic. Officers will now draw up more detailed plans on how implementation of the proposed changes will work. We are told that it will still be possible to have access by car and/or taxi to all areas, and that it is the traffic *through* rather than *to* the city centre that will be most affected. Accessibility, both for visitors and for residents who live in the city centre, will be a key consideration that we will look at very carefully when the proposals return to the Transport committee.

Tram Extension Consultation – Spring 2024

The Transport committee also approved a consultation on a potential extension to the tram, with a potential north-south route running from Granton to the Royal Infirmary and the BioQuarter. Much of the public attention has focused on the potential use of the Telford/Roseburn path for the northern part of the route. Though we welcome the opportunity for residents to have their say, **the Lib Dem group has already made it clear that we will not support the extension of the tram on the path.** We are extremely concerned about the loss of an important green space and nature corridor, and – even if it proved possible to have some form of cycling alongside a tramline – the inevitably compromised experience for cyclists and pedestrians compared to the status quo. I believe that the paths network is one of the best things about living in this area. It is a completely traffic-free connection from Leith and Newhaven to Haymarket and will soon connect to the canal. As with any network, to lose even just a section of it is to diminish all of it.

The Council will now run a consultation in the spring when residents can give their views on the proposed options. Each of the northern route options will list the arguments for and against. Please do take part when that consultation opens on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#). I will let people know via this report and on my [Facebook page](#) as soon as it opens too.