

Legal and Civic Services Department

Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGRDfIR170423

Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 17th April, 2023

Des McFarlane
Divisional Roads Manager
Department for Infrastructure
Eastern Division
Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

DfI Roads Response to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Thank you for your response dated 10th February in relation to the issues raised by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, following your Presentation of the Eastern Division Autumn 2022 Report at the meeting in November.

Your response was issued for the Committee to consider at its meeting in March. During discussion, the Committee expressed its disappointment in the lack of detail and up to date information in the response and highlighted that they had found it difficult to contact DfI Roads to obtain updates on their individual issues. The Committee noted it would be keen to receive current status updates of the delivery of works.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to write to you, in response to your reply, to request a further update and more in-depth detail regarding all of the issues which had been raised by the Committee at its meeting in November.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick'.

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer

Belfast City Council, Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast

**DFI Roads
Eastern Division**

Ms Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Office
Belfast City Council

Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ
Telephone: 0300 200 7899
Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: EMcGGRDfIR170423
Our reference:

Date: 13 June 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick

DFI ROADS RESPONSE TO THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Thank you for your letter of 17 April which was sent in response to my letter of 10 February 2023. You advise that the Committee were disappointed at the lack of detail in the response and that the members have expressed that they have experienced difficulties in trying to obtain updates on the individual issues raised.

Firstly I am sorry hear that the Committee members were disappointed with the previous response and I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Committee members with an update on each of the matters raised in turn: -

- **The need for residents parking schemes along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.**
 - Previous response
The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.
 - Update
I can advise that there is no change in this position, we are awaiting Ministerial decision following the review report and this will determine the way in which further resident's parking schemes will be taken forward.
- **The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.**
 - Previous response
The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

- Update
As before there is no change in this position, awaiting Ministerial direction.
- **Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.**
 - Previously provided links to contact details for the DfI Roads Team remain unchanged and can be found on the Department's website:-
[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/infrastructure-eastern-division-divisional-manager)
 - Link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-
[Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/annual-report-to-belfast-city-council-2022)
 - Link to NIDirect Public Information Portal
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>
- **Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.**
 - Previous response
The Department has reviewed the pop-up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop-up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.
 - Update
Network Traffic have consulted with Active Travel Branch (ATB) to see if they would be prepared to remove the pop-up cycle lane installed during Covid restrictions. ATB have asked the Division to determine current usage by means of a traffic count. This work is currently being programmed.
- **Counillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.**
 - Previous response
Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.
 - Update
Development work has been temporarily halted on this scheme due to other higher priority work commitments. A design check is to be undertaken before a decision can be made whether the plan provided at the formal consultation is still valid.
- **Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.**

- Previous response
The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.
- Update
The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3-year priority resurfacing programme. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.
- **Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.**
 - Previous response
Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.
 - Update
Active Travel funded signal Upgrade A55 Knock Road / Cregagh Road on Connswater Greenway (£245k)
- **Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process**
 - Previous response
Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop-up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.
 - Update
No change in position, The Department is working towards commencing the formal consultation period.
- **Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.**
 - Previous response
A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

- Update
A £385,000 footway and carriageway resurfacing scheme in Lagmore Meadows, Belfast commenced on Monday 13 March 2023. The improvement works extend for approximately 1300 metres from Lagmore Drive to the end of Lagmore Meadows and will deliver significant benefits for residents and road users. The works are expected to be completed before the July holidays.

- **Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?**
 - Previous response
The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.
 - While the pedestrianisation of Hill Street remains part of our longer-term agenda, we are unable to begin the consultation process due to on-going issues with staff resources and exceptionally high workloads. We regret the delay and disappointment that this has caused to public representatives and our customers but, unfortunately at this stage, we are unable to confirm when our resources will be available to allow us to progress this important piece of work.

- **Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.**
 - Previous response
I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.
 - Update
I can advise that three 'Orders' for accessible/disabled parking bays have recently been made and another is about to be made. This will enable these bays to be marked on the ground.

Going forward I would advise that any future correspondence from the Committee members be sent to EasternSecretariat@Infrastrucutre-ni.gov.uk where it will be handled in accordance with the Departments Enquiry response targets, or if indicated as urgent it will be considered in a more timely manner.

I hope this response is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des McFarlane', enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

DES MCFARLANE
Divisional Roads Manager