



Transport and Environment Committee  
City of Edinburgh Council

11 January 2016

## Brighton Place Resurfacing

Dear Councillor,

I understand that Brighton Place resurfacing is included in a report to be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee Meeting meeting on Tuesday, 12 January and I write to request that you ensure that full and proper consideration is given to the community's views on this matter.

Since our election by public vote in October 2013, Portobello Community Council has set out to consult the community before making any response on a matter of public interest. We have deployed a range of online and offline methods in running these consultations and have always sought to offer an objective question and give the public a free choice on any given community matter.

Consequently, when Sean Gilchrist of the Roads Renewal Team attended our meeting in November 2014 and asked for community feedback on the resurfacing options for Brighton Place, we were only too happy to run a community-wide consultation.

Considerable effort went into preparing the consultation materials using the information provided by the roads team, taking in the various re-surfacing options, the associated timescales, costs, the estimates of longevity and so on. You can see the consultation materials here:-

[http://www.portobelloc.org/Consultations/brighton/index\\_open.php](http://www.portobelloc.org/Consultations/brighton/index_open.php)

The consultation was open for 21 days with a mixture of online and offline means deployed to raise awareness, engage the community and gather responses. We published and distributed posters, made paper forms and materials available in Portobello Library, and sent out alerts to our 1,000+ member email mailing list and 500+ Twitter followers.

The consultation generated a great deal of interest, with a number of lively debates on local Facebook pages and more than 1,300 hits on the consultation materials on the PCC website. The consultation closed on Friday, February 20, 2015 with more than 400 responses received during the period.

Since a typical Scotland-wide opinion poll usually draws from a sample of 1,000 views, you can appreciate our confidence that 400 responses from a community of 11,000 represents a very strong indicator of community opinion.



## Portobello Community Council

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The results were as follows:-

- A majority of respondents (57%) favoured Option 2, full asphalt reconstruction.
- Whilst there was support for Option 1, full sett reconstruction (48%), there was also a considerable number of respondents who were against Option 1 (42%).
- A majority of respondents (81%) were against Option 3, asphalt overlay.

The respondents to this consultation did not feel the heritage / conservation arguments were sufficient to justify the cost, length of disruption and potential impact on the High Street of the full sett reconstruction option.

Taking all the responses and comments into account, the preferred road surface for a busy city street like Brighton Place is asphalt and full asphalt reconstruction is the preferred option from this consultation.

We published the full results, including anonymised comments, on our website and circulated them to the community, local councillors and council officials.

You can see them here:-

<http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn/2015/02/25/brighton-place-resurfacing-consultation/>

What is important, ultimately, is that the community views represented by our consultation are given proper consideration by the Council in making the decision on this matter and that the decision is communicated back to the community along with the reasoning behind it.

Consequently, would you please ensure that :

- The decision on the Brighton Place resurfacing is taken by the full Transport and Environment Committee
- The decision and the reasoning behind it is communicated clearly back to the community

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Lynn

Chair

Portobello Community Council