

Mike Leeman  
Secretary  
Portobello Community Council  
[secretary@portobelloc.org](mailto:secretary@portobelloc.org)

**Date** 15 December 2020

Dear Mr Leeman

## **KING'S ROAD JUNCTION**

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2020, on behalf of Portobello Community Council, regarding the recent tragic incident at King's Road Junction. We apologise for not responding as quickly as we would have liked. This is purely down to an administrative error and doesn't reflect the importance of this subject, nor the professional standard to which we hold ourselves. As you know Cllr Macinnes put forward the motion expressing a strong desire for action to be taken in protecting vulnerable road users, and as a commuting cyclist she fully understands the urgency in this matter.

I hope the discussions at our subsequent meeting on 16 November, attended by local elected members, Council officers and representatives of the Community Council and Spokes Porty, reassured you that the Council is taking this matter extremely seriously. As discussed, we are working to develop a programme of improvements that can be implemented quickly at the junction and in the surrounding area, as well as considering more substantive changes that would take longer to deliver.

You will also now be aware that the Council's Transport & Environment Committee on 12 November approved an Emergency Motion that included the following:

*"Requests that senior officers urgently consider how we can achieve significantly improved safety for vulnerable road users at the city's major junctions and which focuses on reducing the risk and likelihood of dangerous, sometimes lethal, conflict between vehicle drivers and other road users.*

*Requests immediate feedback at the January Transport & Environment Committee, in the form of either a short report or a Business Bulletin, outlining key considerations and fast next steps to achieving a safer environment for those most at risk on our roads."*

With regard to the two specific questions in your letter:

1. Officers from the Road Safety team attended a site meeting with Police Scotland on 15 May 2019 to discuss the circumstances of this incident and

consider whether changes to the road infrastructure at this location should be considered in response.

It was agreed that a design should be prepared to remove the kerbside advisory cycle lane on the Portobello High Street approach to the junction and to reconfigure the traffic lane layout in this area. Work on this design commenced shortly thereafter and is now well advanced. A plan showing the proposed new layout was discussed at our recent meeting. Subject to a successful, Road Safety Audit, it is hoped to implement the new layout early in 2021.

Discussions at meetings of this type with Police Scotland are confidential, as they often include information that cannot be released into the public domain, and records of the discussions are not therefore made publicly available.

2. Officers from the Road Safety team attended a site meeting with Police Scotland on 3 November 2020 to discuss the circumstances of the recent incident. We are continuing to liaise with colleagues in Police Scotland as their investigations into the circumstances progress.

I hope that this information will provide the Community Council with some reassurance on this matter. I would be happy to facilitate another meeting should you believe it would be useful perhaps after Transport and Environment Committee on 28 January 2020 where there will be full debate and scrutiny on next steps in protecting vulnerable road users.

Yours sincerely



**Lesley Macinnes**  
**Transport and Environment Convener**

Cc [callum.laidlaw@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:callum.laidlaw@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
[kate.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:kate.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
[mary.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:mary.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
[maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
[tommy.sheppard.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tommy.sheppard.mp@parliament.uk)  
[ash.denham.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:ash.denham.msp@parliament.scot)