

**DFI Roads  
Eastern Division**

Mr John Walsh  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council

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Your reference:  
Our reference:

Date 10 February 2023

Dear John

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION AUTUMN 2022 REPORT**

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Council on 9 November 2022, I agreed to consider a number of matters. Firstly I would apologise for the delay in responding.

My responses to the outstanding matters received on the evening are as follows:-

**The need for residents parking scheme's along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.**

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.

**The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.**

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.

**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.**

Contact details for the DFI Roads Team can be found on the Department's website, please follow this link:-

[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

In addition, I have included a 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.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets)

It should also be noted that 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>

**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.**

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.

**Councillor 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.**

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.

**Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.**

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.

**Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.**

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.

**Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process**

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.

**Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.**

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.

**Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?**

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.

**Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.**

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.

I hope this information is helpful



**DES MCFARLANE**  
**Divisional Roads Manager**