

# Gorgie Dalry Community Council



November 8th 2020

Dear Spaces for People Team,

As the local Community Council for Gorgie Dalry, we asked residents to send us their feedback in October 2020 after the temporary wands for the Gorgie Dalry Town Centre Spaces for People scheme were replaced by more durable concrete structures, and the layouts of the scheme were changed in some locations. We note that the review conducted by the City of Edinburgh Council officers, published in the [papers for the CEC Transport and Environment Committee](#), Thursday, 12th November, 2020, states that for the Gorgie Dalry Town Centre SfP scheme: 'Review complete – recommendation to continue with no changes'.

However, in this letter, we outline the main themes of local opinion, based on the 47 comments and emails we received from people who live, work, or travel to our area, and from discussions at GDCC public meetings on the Gorgie Dalry Spaces for People Scheme, and make some suggestions for changes based on the following feedback from residents:

- Public opinion in Gorgie Dalry is currently split between those who appreciate and use the extra pedestrian space to socially distance, and those who think that the scheme is unnecessary and harms local businesses by removing loading and parking bays (particularly in Dalry, where loading bays have been limited, unlike in Gorgie where loading bays remain unaffected).
- Local business owners in Dalry have reported to us that they find it harder to receive deliveries, due to reduced loading bay capacity.
- Residents have asked why the extra pedestrian space under the railway bridge at Robertson Avenue has been removed, and dispute the response sent to us via @edinhelp, that this was observed by the Spaces for People team as not being used. Residents maintain that they were using this space, and would like it to be reinstated on one of the narrowest and busiest sections of the pavement in our area.
- There is a perception among residents that the scheme has been implemented in parts of the neighbourhood where it is easier due to the width of the road, but not necessarily where it is most needed. For example, there is nothing under Robertson Avenue bridge, or along the southside of Dalry Road from Murieston Crescent to Henderson Terrace

(the existing Space for People cuts out between the bus stop and the traffic lights). This adds to scepticism among some residents about the efficacy and quality of the scheme.

- Residents also raised the potential trip hazard of grey concrete blocks on grey tarmac, as some find it difficult to see the new infrastructure.

With this feedback in mind, we make the following suggestions:

- The City of Edinburgh Council should review the loading bay capacity in Dalry. If bays have been reduced, is it possible instead to relocate some of the former loading bays to neighbouring side streets (we stress only if there is capacity within the area, which we appreciate that there might not be). If this is not possible, please could we be sent a clear explanation as to why not, so that we can communicate this to local business owners.
- The City of Edinburgh Council should reinstate the extended pedestrian space under the railway bridge at Robertson Avenue, with the new, more durable concrete infrastructure.
- The City of Edinburgh Council should mark the new concrete infrastructure bases with hazard markers to make them more visible and ensure that they are not a trip hazard for local residents.

We also note that we (GDCC) were not approached for our comment and neither were residents approached for feedback by the Spaces for People Team during this review, which seems to contradict comments made by the Transport Convenor Cllr Lesley Macinnes at the GDCC August public meeting, namely that community input and feedback to the schemes is valued. Once again we had to proactively request the updated layout plans, in order to inform residents, and to help us collate their feedback against accurate information.

It is disappointing that months after we raised our dissatisfaction with the limited public consultation for this scheme, that we are still having to chase the City of Edinburgh Council for details of a scheme that affects the daily lives of residents in our area, and that we are not being proactively consulted as representatives of Gorgie Dalry. Going forward, how might we improve connecting and communicating about Spaces for People matters in our area more efficiently?

We look forward to your response.

Best wishes,  
Laura Wise, Communications Officer  
on behalf of Gorgie Dalry Community Council