

Proposed improvements for people walking and cycling between Saughton Park and QuietRoute 8



Issue:

QuietRoute 8 is an important part of Edinburgh's network of routes for walking and cycling, connecting Edinburgh Park to the West End of City centre at Haymarket. There is currently no link between QuietRoute 8 and Saughton Park. The high level of traffic at peak times on streets such as Stenhouse Drive and Balgreen Road have been reported to the Council as a barrier to people walking or cycling to get to work, school, or university, for local trips, and for leisure.

Purpose and context:

The scheme will make it easier, safer and quicker for people to travel between QuietRoute 8 and Saughton Park on foot and by bicycle.

This will help people travelling on foot and by bicycle to reach local and key destinations, such as Saughton Park, Gorgie, Balgreen Library and Balgreen Primary School, as well as public transport stops and local amenities.

The Council is developing a network of cycle routes across the city, called the 'QuietRoutes Network'. We know that heavy or fast traffic is the most significant barrier preventing people who want to cycle from doing so. To address this, the QuietRoutes are being designed so that people can cycle without having to be with heavy or fast traffic.

Proposed scheme:

The Council is proposing to make a number of improvements between QuietRoute 8 and Saughton Park, including:

- An extension of the footway / cycleway on Stenhouse Drive;
- Junction improvements on Stenhouse Drive at Stenhouse Avenue West;
- Junction improvements at the Stenhouse Avenue West / Stenhouse Avenue / Whitson Road / Stenhouse Gardens North junction;
- Improvements on Whitson Crescent to allow cyclists to safely use paths connecting to Stevenson Drive;
- Upgraded crossings on Stevenson Drive at Balgreen Road and south of Whitson Crescent;
- Upgraded crossing on Balgreen Road at Whitson Road / Pansy Walk and at Stevenson Drive;
- Surfacing and lighting improvements on Pansy Walk.

We would like your views on the initial design proposals and any other comments you have. On the next page is an overview map of the area.

There are also more detailed drawings of the scheme on the consultation web page accessed from www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk.

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Purpose: to help people travel on foot or by bike, without the need to be with heavy or fast traffic, between QuietRoute 8 with Saughton Park.

Advantages:

- People walking and cycling have greater priority, safety and reduced waiting times over motor vehicles;
- Improved crossing infrastructure at junctions along the length of the route;
- The proposed route would enhance walking and cycle to Balgreen Primary School and Balgreen Library, Saughton Park, Gorgie and QuietRoute 8.

Disadvantages:

- Potential for conflict between people walking and cycling at some crossing locations;
- The new crossing on Balgreen Road at Whitson Road could increase delays for motorists. Modelling of this potential impact has been undertaken and indicated no significant impacts on current traffic movement;
- A small number of parking spaces would be lost on Whitson Crescent and Stenhouse Drive.

