

37076 Spaces for People Planters

I wish to have questions answered with regards to Spaces for People planters blocking roads in Edinburgh, namely Colliedene Crescent and various other roads.

Was an Environmental Impact Assessment carried out as required by law?

These were part of a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhoods' (LTN) project rather than Spaces For People.

There is no requirement under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or Scottish Traffic Regulations to undertake an environmental assessment as part of making an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). However, I attach a copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) that was undertaken during the design phase of this project which considered environmental matters amongst other aspects.

Regarding Spaces For People projects, please find [Integrated Impact Assessment \(IIA\)](#) -

(<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/28404/creating-safe-spaces-for-walking-and-cycling>)

for the Spaces for People programme which includes Environmental Impacts. There is a further [IIA](#) (<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s34888/7.1 - Potential Retention of SfP measures.pdf>) in Appendix 4 in the report '*Potential retention of Spaces for People measures*' which was submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee on the 17 June 2021.

Who approved the planning?

The Brunstane Road and Coillesdene area ETRO was approved by the Council's Transport and Environment Committee in December 2021. The report and minutes can be viewed on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=6266&Ver=4>

Regarding Spaces For People, the initial report was approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the 14 May 2020 titled [Creating Safe Spaces for Walking and Cycling](#) (<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s24012/Item 6.8 - Creating Safe Spaces for Walking and Cycling.pdf>) with subsequent approvals provided by the Transport and Environment Committee.

What is the purpose of blocking access on these roads when there is so much congestion currently in Edinburgh?

The traffic calming measures/changes to priorities in the Coillesdene area have been put in place to mitigate the effects of displaced traffic due to the through route for vehicular traffic on Brunstane Road being removed.

Regarding Spaces For People, in response to Covid-19, the Council introduced temporary measures to make streets safe for walking, cycling and wheeling while observing physical distancing guidance. These changes were delivered as part of the Council's Spaces for People (SfP) programme which was funded by the Scottish Government.

How long are these measures in place?

The trial at Brunstane Road is for 18 months and the ETRO will expire in July 2023.

Regarding Spaces For People, to help the Council better understand people's views on the installed measures and to help us make decisions on which schemes could be kept post-Covid, a six-week consultation was carried out to allow people's views to be heard. A report on the [Potential retention of Spaces for People measures](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s35088/Item%207.13%20-%20Potential%20Retention%20of%20Spaces%20for%20People%20Measures%20-%20referral%20from%20the%20Transport%20and%20Env.pdf) (<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s35088/Item 7.13 - Potential Retention of Spaces for People Measures - referral from the Transport and Env.pdf>) was submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee on the 17 June and referred to full Council on the 24 June. The decision to retain or remove measures was based on the consultation results, independent market research, a review by technical officers and consideration of how well such changes fit with the Council's long-term transport policy objectives. Further information on the decisions taken can be found in the aforementioned report to Council.

Are you aware of the implications this has had on emergency vehicles response times?

Since the implementation of the changes at Brunstane Road and in the Coillesdene area (15 February 2022) the emergency services have not raised any concerns regarding instances where their desired response times have not been met due to introduction of these measures.

Regarding Spaces For People, the emergency services were notified of all the Spaces for People (SfP) measures prior to implementation. Any comments submitted prior or post implementation were considered with changes made if required.

Were the emergency services informed of these changes to the roads, as it doesn't seem like it from what I have witnessed these past few weeks when ambulances had to go on foot with stretchers and emergency equipment.

The emergency services were consulted on the measures prior to the implementation of the ETRO and no objections were received when the ETRO was advertised. The emergency services were also informed of these changes when they were implemented and EdinTravel (Council's travel information team) has made this information widely available to all stakeholders via various social media outlets and through the Weekly Road Report, which is available on the Council's website.

Regarding Spaces For People, please refer to previous response above.