

Laura O'Brien

From: Matthew Simpson
Sent: 14 May 2026 07:14
To: Laura O'Brien; Paul Devaney
Subject: FW: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

See response from Andrew Law, Outdoor Access, below.

I've said to Andrew that we may want to clarify some details but I think this should be enough for DM Sub.

Regards

Matthew Simpson | Senior Transport Officer | Specialist Team | Planning and Building Standards | Sustainable Development | PLACE Directorate | The City of Edinburgh Council | Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | matthew.simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Please note that I will be retiring from the City of Edinburgh Council on 4th June 2026.

After that date please contact Greg McDougall greg.mcdougall@edinburgh.gov.uk or Kofi Appiah kofi.appiah@edinburgh.gov.uk

From: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 May 2026 13:58
To: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Rurighd McMeddes <Rurighd.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Cc: Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Hi Matthew,

It might be worth bringing in Laura O'Brien, the planning officer dealing with the request, with this?

I'm aware of a stakeholder meeting that took place last week with HES and other parties around their plans during and after the permissions are being discussed.

The feedback generally from HES has been that this planning permission would only be encompassing the new infrastructure which, as you note, is acceptable. Their intent with the current permission was not to subvert and therefore have permission implied for the (illegal) closure of the rest of the route made permanent. However due to it being unclear within the permission form, this is what it may come across as.

From discussions with both planning and other groups, I have recommended conditions to make sure we weren't complicit in giving permission to the permanent closure of the other sections of the Radical Road "by accident", which I believe have at least been considered. These include a legal closure via TRO which would be required to be reviewed every 2 years with evidence given of reasons to maintain the closure or progress on reopening the route which could be scrutinised by CEC. This would maintain the legal properties of the Right of Way without "loss" whilst also maintaining our duty to assert, protect, and keep open Rights of Way. External feedback was for updates on the reopening to be every 5 years which is also an option, though less favourable.

Hopefully this is along the lines of your request?

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

Andrew Law MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk | Mob: [REDACTED]



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From: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 11 May 2026 12:51

To: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Rurigdh McMeddes

<Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Hi All

The planning application is highly likely to be a presentation at the DM Sub Committee on 27th May.

My view is that the planning application for this short-term project is acceptable but that there is clearly a longer-term, and existing, issue with the closure of the route.

I suspect that DM Sub will want to have some answers, or at least an update, on the position regarding the longer-term reopening of the route.

This may just be that there needs to be dialogue etc between the various parties.

In anticipation of questions, it would be very helpful to have an 'official' response up my sleeve ready.

Many thanks

Matthew Simpson | Senior Transport Officer | Specialist Team | Planning and Building Standards | Sustainable Development | PLACE Directorate | The City of Edinburgh Council | Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | matthew.simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Please note that I will be retiring from the City of Edinburgh Council on 4th June 2026.

After that date please contact Greg McDougall greg.mcdougall@edinburgh.gov.uk or Kofi Appiah kofi.appiah@edinburgh.gov.uk

From: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 18 March 2026 09:39

To: Rurigdh McMeddes <Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Outdoor Access

<outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill

<Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Hi Rurigdh

Because the case is still ongoing, I will be updating the TLAF when required. The planning department will likely be taking the case to councillors planning committee rather than making an internal decision once they have carried out their process. This will include liaising with the legal team on the legal questions asked below. I don't have a timescale for that.

In terms of a briefing email, I'm happy for the below to go out as Access's feedback. Feedback from the TLAF was along the same lines, stressing that the possible loss of the radical road due to continued possibly illegal closure would be a massive blow to both access to natural features and maintaining Public Rights of Way.

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

Andrew Law MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk | Mob: [REDACTED]



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From: Rurigdh McMeddes <Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 17 March 2026 16:51

To: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>;

George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill

<Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Thanks Andrew,

Sorry just returning to this now. If this was tabled at TLAF in early March is this requirement to report to TLAF now closed out?

In terms of updating TEC, the next meeting is April for which APM has already taken place and papers will be published next week. I can't see anything about this on the RAL or the Business Bulletin. Do you have any plans to share with TEC? If not we can probably issue a briefing via email.

Cheers,

Rurigdh

From: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 March 2026 16:12

To: Rurigdh McMeddes <Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Outdoor Access

<outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Hi Rurighd,

From an Access perspective on the planning permission, we have this outline to table at the TLAF tomorrow afternoon:

Focus on development legality of initial development, distinction of the planning permission of the initial stopping up, as well as feedback on current planning permission request, with a formal response to go to planning committee from the Transport and Local Access Forum.

o Feedback from the planning department to Cllr Kinross O'Neill's request is as follows: Due to this still being a live planning application, they are not able to give further information than what is available on the planning portal. However, In regards to engagement, from a planning procedural point of view, all the correct notifications and publications have been carried out.

o Initial feedback from an Access perspective has been given. Currently awaiting feedback from our legal team on the discussion around the legality of the initial closure and therefore the legality of the current request.

Recommend the following planning conditions as a minimum:

- The partial reopening is explicitly defined as a step towards full reinstatement of the Radical Road, rather than a substitute for it;
- Any permissions granted are time-limited to a period of 2 years, and accompanied by a clear commitment to ongoing monitoring and assessment of options for further reopening, including open communication on both progress or lack thereof and the reasons behind it;
- Conditions attached to any consent do not inadvertently legitimise the long-term closure of remaining sections of this Public Right of Way.

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

Andrew Law MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk | Mob: [REDACTED]



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From: Rurighd McMeddes <Rurighd.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2026 16:57

To: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Thanks Andrew, Steven,

I am free from 3pm onwards on Wednesday so could catch up on a call.

However, I think all that's needed is some text which covers the below request from an Access perspective. George and I can provide text that covers the Movements Strategy element – at least in so far as it relates to transport policy and we can combine the two for the briefing. Are you able to pick that element up?

Request noted below again for ease.

Cheers,

Rurigdh

Requests a briefing to be circulated to the next Local Access Forum – and then to the following Transport and Environment Committee – detailing Council's recent engagement on the proposed Movement Strategy and clarity around the permanence and engagement of 25/06329/FUL

From: Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2026 16:23

To: Rurigdh McMeddes <Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Cc: Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Andrew, Rurigdh,

I'm available Wednesday afternoon if you want a teams call/catchup about the proposal and where we currently are with it?

Kind Regards

Andrew Law

Andrew Law MSc MECC

He/Him

Access Officer | Parks and Open Space | City of Edinburgh Council

Andrew.Law@edinburgh.gov.uk | Mob: [REDACTED]



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From: Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2026 16:14

To: Rurighd McMeddes <Rurighd.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Outdoor Access <outdooraccess@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Rurighd,

Thank you for your email. The issue has been an access one rather than a transport one to date – the TLAF forum is split into two, one covering local access and the other covering transport. It has been discussed at the TLAF (local access).

There has been comments and interest at TEC and ward councillors about the closure and information from HES on their proposals for reopening. We are obviously interested from an outdoor access perspective. I have copied in Andrew Law, our new Access and Partnership Officer, as he has also been looking into this recently. It is also a public right of way.

HES have had meetings with interested parties over last year and provided updates (also see [Radical Road update – July 2025 | Historic Environment Scotland](#)).

Probably worth a discussion with Andrew Law.

Regards,
Steven

Steven Cuthill | Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services Manager | Place | The City of Edinburgh Council | Neighbourhood Environmental Services | Level 1.4 Waverley Court, [4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG](#) | Direct Dial [0131 \[REDACTED\]](#) | steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk | www.edinburgh.gov.uk |

From: Rurighd McMeddes <Rurighd.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2026 15:40

To: Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; George King <George.King@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Parks <Parks@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Steven Cuthill <Steven.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Matthew Simpson <Matthew.Simpson@edinburgh.gov.uk>; Martyn Lings <Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Subject: LAF Briefing: Holyrood Park Movements Strategy and Radical Road - Council Engagement

Thanks Andrew,

Engagement on a planning application to partially reopen Radical Road is probably not something for TS&P to address and more likely something to pass to Parks and Planning. Though it's possible George has had discussions with HES on this, it's not really a transport issue.

Regarding the engagement on the proposed Movements Strategy, yes this will sit with us though it involves both George (and by extension me), and Martyn due to the close interaction with CCIOP.

Martyn and George have regular meetings with HES.

[@George King](#), would you be happy to action the below Briefing where it relates to the Council's engagement on Holyrood Park's Movements Strategy?

@Parks, @Steven Cuthill, @Matthew Simpson are you able to provide any details of Council engagement with HES in relation to the proposed partial reopening of Radical Road?

Cheers,

Rurigdh

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Andrew Easson <Andrew.Easson@edinburgh.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2026 09:55

To: Martyn Lings

Cc: Rurigdh McMeddes

Subject: Accepted: ML - AE 1 to 1

When: 05 March 2026 15:30-16:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi Martyn,

Agenda

Transport and Local Access Forum:

2.2 Requests a briefing to be circulated to the next Local Access Forum – and then to the following Transport and Environment Committee – detailing Council's recent engagement on the proposed Movement Strategy and clarity around the permanence and engagement of 25/06329/FUL

First I've heard of the above and I'm not sure it's for us.

The reference at the end (25/06329/FUL) is a Planning Application reference. From the Planning Portal and Google, this appears to be an application by Historic Environment Scotland relating to the Radical Road in Holyrood Park.

The Movement Strategy referred to in the Action is related to Historic Environment Scotland's new Strategic Plan for the park (see extract below from HES website). George has led on the Council's engagement with HES to date on the Strategic Plan and the LAF action above now presumably belongs with Rurigdh, possibly with input from Planning/Steven Cuthill re the Radical Road?

The Strategic Plan builds upon the recently completed Holyrood Park Landscape Conservation Management Plan, which has been informed by expert analysis of archaeological, ecological, and hydrological factors.

[Read the Landscape Conservation Management Plan on Storymaps](#)



Next steps

The Strategic Plan does not include the final Movement Strategy for the Park, which is still being developed in collaboration with The City of Edinburgh Council and will align to their City Mobility Plan 2030. Additional surveys will inform plans for future traffic movement and active travel, ensuring a sustainable future for the Park.

Regards,

Andrew