



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

November 2018

The School Travel Plan

On 1 October the 2018 edition of the school Travel Plan was “signed off”. Signatories included: Mark Symonds, Road Safety and Active Travel Liaison Officer, City of Edinburgh Council; Mr Denvir, School Cycle Champion; Mr McCord, Eco Coordinator; Lorna Norman, Active Schools Coordinator; pupil representatives; and Mrs Hargest, Environment Group leader.

The school Travel Plan, produced in October 2013, needed to be updated. A pupil travel survey, designed with pupil input and help from the CEC Road Safety Officer, was carried out during December 2017 – January 2018. There was an excellent response rate, with 331 pupils out of a school role of 1,186 taking part. The Travel Plan is based on the results of the survey and can be used as supporting evidence when requesting changes to improve sustainable or active travel.



Here is a link for the revised Travel Plan: <http://firrhillhigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Travel-Plan-Firrhill-High-School-Sept-2018.pdf>

Firrhill High School

Travel Plan



September 2018

We have recorded the need for: higher priority in gritting the roads and pavements near the school in winter weather; larger litter bins; better timing of the No 400 bus; and live bus tracker information. Barriers to cycling included the need for quiet routes, secure cycle sheds and lockers for cyclists. The Travel Plan includes information about safer cycling routes to school, how to plan a bus route and where to buy a good second-hand bike! Most importantly, it includes a number of action points which the school and the City of Edinburgh Council are committed to address.

Already – as a result of following up action points – the road to the rear entrance of the school has been resurfaced, an additional grit box has been added, new cycle signage and a dropped kerb leading to the old City Hospital grounds are planned, and the bike sheds are being repaired with metal mesh to replace broken Perspex. New signage and integral door locks will be added.



Pupils met Mark Symonds, Road Safety Officer, several times to design the Travel Survey, analyse the results and make decisions about the Action Plan.

It is great that the school has dedicated time and effort to revise the Travel Plan. Thanks to the Environment Group for their role in organising the surveys, meetings and writing the Travel Plan! The Travel Plan will help the school as we complete our Eco School's Green Flag interim application, with transport as one of our chosen topics, and as we work towards becoming a Cycle Friendly Secondary School.

Cycle Friendly Secondary School



sustrans
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Report any problems such as, litter, graffiti, fly tipping and dog fouling to the City of Edinburgh Council via its “Report it” site: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/report>

Development funding of £1,000 has been granted from Cycling Scotland for 32 lockers for cyclists. The bike club has been granted £180 of “sponsored walk money”, and Parent Council funding will be requested for a “Dr Bike” session and a Rural and Urban Training Scheme bike mechanics course or a velodrome trip.



On 10 September the school bike sheds were measured for repairs, which will be funded by Sustrans and the City of Edinburgh Council.

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



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Cycle Routes

The new Travel Plan includes suggested routes from Firrhill's feeder primaries, which may be used for P7 rides to Firrhill.



The Longstone route (above & left) starts at Redhall Grove, turning into Redhall Drive along Kilncroft Side. The summer route crosses the Lanark Road by footbridge, and continues through the Dell, up Katesmill Road, Paties Road, Elliot Road and Elliot Park, joining the mixed-use path at Colinton Road. *The other Longstone route follows the canal to Allen Park, taking Craiglockhart Road North and over Craiglockhart Avenue to Craiglockhart Road and Elliot Park.*

Parents are welcome to bring their children and try out the routes in a led ride with Stella Thomson and Carolyn Hargest. Please contact carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com to book a suitable time.



The Bonaly summer route (above & left) goes through Dreghorn Woods, has a short section on Dreghorn Road, to Redford Walk, to the Adam's Well estate. Via Dreghorn Bank, it takes the mixed-use path by Colinton Primary, crosses Colinton Mains Drive and continues along the Braid Burn to Oxgangs Road North. *The alternative Bonaly route goes via Dreghorn Loan, Redford Drive, Thorburn Road and Redford Avenue.*

The Pentland route (see below & below left) follows Cockmylane, crosses Oxgangs Avenue via the Braid Burn, past Oxgangs Community Centre to Firrhill Drive and Firrhill Crescent.

All these routes are great bike rides! Why not try them out and explore your local area?



These routes are in the school Travel Plan: <http://firrhillhigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Travel-Plan-Firrhill-High-School-Sept-2018.pdf>



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The Bike Station (250 Causewayside, Edinburgh 0131 668 1996)

The Bike Station sells refurbished bikes and parts at a fraction of the cost of a new bike. The Bike Station also runs bike maintenance classes and supervised fix-your-own bike sessions (with use of tools £6 per hour, the last entry being one hour before closing). When buying a bike, a good fit is really important – getting the right size frame, adjusting the saddle to a comfortable height, and ensuring the handlebars are not too far for a comfortable “reach” (for this reason, girls may prefer ladies’ bikes).



“I recently visited the Bike Station with my eldest daughter, Alice, who wanted a bike for her daily commute at university. She bought a refurbished Revolution Courier Nexus – its eight-speed Nexus hub gears are very easy to use and it has puncture-resistant Kevlar tyres! There are lots of great bargains, e.g. bike bags, mud guards and bells – it is an Aladdin’s cave of cycling treasures, all at very modest prices, with profits going back into the charity. It is superb – well worth a visit!”
C. Hargest, Environment Group leader



The Bike Station accepts donated bikes and accessories to refurbish and sell.



Tues – Fri 8.00 am – 7.00 pm
Sat 10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Wed 8.00 am – 8.00 pm
Closed Sun & Mon

