

IN AND AROUND THE TERRACES

INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR RESIDENTS

WINTER 2016

Welcome to the Winter issue of the newsletter! We hope you enjoy this edition packed full of local news and opinion. As always we would be delighted to hear from you, our fellow residents, on what you think should be shared across our Terrace community - **drop us a note at rrcta@live.co.uk**.



IS 40 THE NEW 20? |||||

20mph speed limits are nothing new; indeed over 40 of the largest urban areas of the UK have adopted the new limit over recent years. Whilst the push for lower city vehicle speeds seems to have been driven by the UK Government (reinforced in DfT circular 01/2013) the real push for implementation comes from further afield, allegedly part of a global initiative.

Research around the effectiveness of a 20mph limit suggests that with a sign-only approach (the most cost effective solution adopted by Edinburgh) a reduction of 1 mph is possible (as reported by Brake, the road safety charity in Sept 2015). However, a reduction in average speed is only likely to be effective if drivers buy-in to the need (e.g. near schools) or if there is effective deterrent.

Having had informal chats with Police Scotland their buy-in to the new 20 mph limit seems half-hearted at best, with no desire (or resources) available to control speeding traffic along our Royal Terrace. Why is this? For the stretch of cobbled road along Royal Terrace it has much to do with road width, length and lack of obstructions. Following the soft launch in July this year I have not witnessed a noticeable reduction in traffic speed (hardly surprising based on research findings). Was there an increased police presence in Edinburgh during the launch? We didn't see any evidence along the Terraces. How many vehicles have received tickets along the Terraces since the launch? I am still trying to find out!

With Edinburgh Council imposing a limit that the police are unable or unwilling to monitor or control, the result is inevitable - those in the minority who obey the limit are often intimidated by the majority who simply do not believe the 20 mph limit applies to them.

What options do we as residents have?

- Keep to the 20mph limit setting a law abiding standard
- Stare aghast at those exceeding 40 and shake our fists.
- Dial 101 and raise a complaint with Police Scotland

I chose to officially raise a complaint through Police Scotland by dialling 101 and creating a formal complaint. The Operative was less than keen to provide me with a complaint reference, asking questions such as "how do you know the cars are going more than 20?" to which I responded I couldn't catch them on my bicycle with a following wind and jet turbine. I was also asked to take a note of registration numbers, to which I responded that the culprits were travelling too fast.

Whilst our Council sits back and hopes drivers obey the new limit we suspect, at least along Royal Terrace, that no reduction is likely. Our best hope is perhaps to complain to the Reluctant Operative at Police Scotland on 101 and take a note of registration numbers of the worst offenders. Apparently Police Scotland would be required to write to the legal owner of the offending vehicle. Worth a shot?

Your thoughts on this are most welcome. Please email us at rrcta@live.co.uk.

TRAFFIC & PLANNING

Stop Press: Since 19/11, Police Scotland have been on Royal Terrace three times with a SPEED CAMERA! Hopefully this means that complaints from residents, and emails to Lesley Hinds, Transport Convener, have been heeded. It remains to be seen if we note any difference in speed.

Planning: A renewed planning proposal for the Old Royal High School by the hotel developer has begun. On 3/11 DHP/Urbanist Group held a public exhibition of the new plans, which several residents visited. These outline drawings showed very little real change in the design.

The two planned wings are just a little smaller, and shrink-wrapped. We understand there is a strong likelihood that a formal planning application will be made in January.

Once again we will be asking and imploring residents to help RRCTMA deliver a strong objection to these new plans. We'll keep you posted.

Traffic: We have no update on proposals for the Picardy Place/London Road section, but will be in touch as details become available, which is likely to be in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! CAROLS IN THE GARDEN, 7 DECEMBER

Kick-off the festive season by joining us for our gloriously traditional event of 'Carols in the Gardens'. With mulled wine, mince pies and song sheets we hope to raise the roof of the new marquee at 6pm, on Wednesday 7 December on the Libenthal Lawn. All very welcome. Big, small, old, young and everyone in between. Just bring your voice!