

Riverside Community Council response

to plans and documentation regarding the Spaces for People proposals for Riverside

13th April 2021

We have carefully studied the plans and documentation regarding the Spaces for People proposals for Riverside which were sent to us by Cllr Thomson on 7th April.

The following are the points we wish to make.

1 Consultation

a We regret that we did not respond to the earlier consultation, but it appears to us that any mention of plans for Riverside were embedded in text about the city centre and we did not receive plans until very recently.

b Proactive support from the Community Engagement Team would have ensured that the CC did not miss an opportunity to comment on the plan.

2 The proposals do not appear to meet the criteria for the grant funding.

‘The fund is aimed at making journeys safer for cycling, walking and wheeling during and in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in our public spaces such as town centres through the delivery of temporary infrastructure improvements to support active travel. Stirling Council will use this funding to protect public health in core retail areas where footfall is particularly high. This will aid Stirling’s economic recovery in the retail and tourism sectors whilst helping minimise the risk for community transmission.’

Consultation Report (October 2020)

a We do not feel any of the proposals will making journeys safer for cycling, walking and wheeling during and in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

i No thought seems to have been given to whether physical distancing will actually change. Groups of parents will surely simply group as before.

ii In addition, social distancing will most likely be relaxed by the time the alterations are in place.

b The roads in question are not in core retail areas where footfall is particularly high.

3 The proposals do not meet the current design guidance as stated by Sustrans

a No thought appears to have been given to the matters of road safety quite clearly set out in the Sustrans guidance, e.g: the risk of slips, trips and falls caused by the existing kerb upstands, the barrier system's feet, thermoplastic paint, etc.

b No thought appears to have been given to the consequences of complicating 'bus manoeuvres, particularly outside a school, at a junction and on a sub-standard bend.

c The consequences of a combination of the above do not appear to have been considered during a risk assessment or safety audit, as suggested in the Sustrans guidance..

4 Active Travel Project

Di Alderdice has been leading an Active Travel Project which is producing exciting results including findings from a travel survey. We would be happy to discuss the outcomes from this research with the Council.

5 Future collaboration

Finally, in 2019, just after the current Riverside Community Council was formed, we had positive consultation with the Council including a raft of suggestions about improving the parking situation in Riverside. We would very much like to resume this and look forward to future collaboration.

Riverside Community Council 13th April 2021