



**ROEBUCK**  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council,  
County Hall,  
Marine Road,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin

28th August 2020

## **Re. Active School Travel Initiative**

To Whom It May Concern,

We are an active Residents' Association of approximately 380 households in Goatstown. We have been approached by the local primary school, Our Lady's Grove P.S., Goatstown Road, to support their submission regarding the Active School Travel Initiative. We agree with all the issues they have raised, and we are happy to lend our support to their submission.

Members of our Association have also raised further issues regarding improving routes for school-going pedestrians and cyclists in our area. It was suggested that we submit a separate document outlining the extra issues that were raised.

These points are:

### **1. Reduce Access Road to OLG campus from 3 to 2 Lanes**

It would be far safer for pedestrians if the access road into the OLG campus, from Goatstown Road, was narrowed at the junction. It should be reduced to two lanes. Three lanes is excessive here; the volume of traffic doesn't (and won't, even in the future,) justify it.

### **2. New Pedestrian Crossing in Wrong Location**

The new pedestrian crossing on Goatstown Road is in the wrong place. It should be located on the northern side of the entrance to the campus. Where it was originally located, but closer to the access road to the campus.

Currently children approaching the school along the east side of Goatstown Road, coming from the north, (Clonskeagh/Roebuck Road direction), have to go beyond the school to access the pedestrian crossing. Meaning there is huge temptation to not use it, and to cross the road at a more convenient, but unsafe, point.

Children coming from the south (from The Goat direction), along the east side of Goatstown Road, can use the pedestrian crossing a few metres south of this one, at the Trimbleston/Larchfield Road/Goatstown Road junction. The new crossing is redundant for children coming from this direction.

The placing of the new pedestrian crossing in this location was a legacy issue from an old planning application dating from 2007. When the concept of this crossing was revived, through a planning condition in one of the more recent planning applications on the site, the original position was not reviewed, despite various variables having changed substantially in the preceding time. This was unfortunate, as it would have been markedly safer for pedestrians if it had been located on the northern side of the access road to the campus. Ideally it should be reviewed and relocated.

### **3. Bike Traffic on Footpaths and Conflict with Pedestrians**

There is a large amount of commuter vehicle traffic on Larchfield road in the morning and afternoon (weekdays). Which in turn forces kids and parents on bikes onto the footpaths. (As there is no cycle lane.) This gives rise to conflict with pedestrians.

### **4. Speed Bumps on Larchfield Road**

For those cyclists who do stay on the road, speed bumps are not cycle-friendly. They make a negligible impact to an SUV's journey (designed to take uneven terrain easily), but they are a lot more noticeable to a young child on a bike or bike seat. One solution would be to narrow the speed bumps, so there are gaps at the sides for bikes.

### **5. Illegal Parking**

Illegal parking is a problem in the area, in particular on Larchfield Road, the bottom of Farmhill Road and around Rosemount. Parking on verges, footpaths and opposite junctions is commonplace - causing obstructions for pedestrians and cyclists. Traffic warden/Garda enforcement on an intermittent basis would resolve this issue.

### **6. Footpath Surface – Farmhill Road**

The surface of the footpath on the eastern side of Farmhill Road is very poor, causing trip hazards for pedestrians and small kids on scooters. As well as some broken areas, there are channels in the concrete for water running across the path at frequent intervals. Ideally it should be resurfaced.

### **7. New Footpaths**

There is no footpath along the southern side of Larchfield Road, (beside the green in front of the shops, and beside the car park of the shops). Nor is there one along the western end of

Farmhill Road (again, beside the green in front of the shops, and beside the car park of the shops). These would be used as walking routes for school children if the footpaths existed.

### **8. Large Amount of Potential Pedestrians and Cyclists**

All of these issues are not only relevant to Our Lady's Grove P.S., they are also relevant to Our Lady's Grove Secondary School, The Grove After School pre-school children, and the future students and staff of the nearby Goatstown Educate Together Primary and Secondary Schools, soon to be located in the old IGB site on Goatstown Road. That will be an approximate total of 2,500 children and staff arriving and leaving this small part of Goatstown each school day. This is a sizeable amount of potential pedestrians and cyclists, and every effort should be made to accommodate safer non-vehicular travel to and from school in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Úna O'Shea  
*on behalf of*  
*Roebuck Residents' Association*