



25 February 2019

For the Attention of Go Bike and Spaces for People Byres Road

Dear John, Euan and Iain

The University would like to thank you for attending the meeting on 14 February and the recent correspondence sharing with us your thoughts about cycling infrastructure and University Avenue.

As this concerns the safety of people using our campus, we treat it with the highest importance and we are always looking to engage with all our stakeholders, particularly when it comes to matters of this nature.

During our meeting we answered many of your questions and we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the priorities that the University must consider and deliver as part of its investment in the City:

Our primary concern is safety of everyone using University Avenue, as the vast majority of users are pedestrians there is a particular focus on safe use of the street by this group. Pedestrian safety is the main imperative for the improvements to University Avenue and, particularly given the recent tragedy, is something we cannot lose sight of.

Our infrastructure plans will also support the major new buildings being delivered as part of the campus development. The University wants the campus and surrounding area to be welcoming, easy and most importantly safe for pedestrians to move around.

To achieve this we will increase the width of the footways to accommodate projected increasing footfall over coming years and also integrate connections to the new western campus, which will itself be largely pedestrianised.

In planning, we did consider options including whether it would be possible to accommodate cycle lanes, along with increasing the space for pedestrians, however unfortunately there is limited and varied space available the full length of the street and with the addition of localised pinch points this prevented a satisfactory design solution incorporating all aspects.

I wanted to provide you with background on the consultation process which has supported our campus development initiative. In developing our Campus Development Framework, which set the overall place-making vision, we carried out extensive public consultation at three key stages as the framework was being prepared. We received well over 5000 consultation responses across the various stages. The consultation sought people's views on the campus and our facilities and this included the idea of improving University Avenue. The initial feedback that was gathered was used to inform the thinking and we took time to further test the ideas and check that proposals were successfully and positively addressing the main issues.

The initial consultation allowed us to gather evidence of the key issues which needed to be considered as part of the campus development. People were asked for their thoughts of how improvements could be made on University Avenue and what the priorities should be. The consultation generated significant levels of interest with over 1800 individuals taking part at stage 2 and over 3500 people participating and contributing to the consultation at stage 3. The consultation responses came from a broad range of staff, students, local residents, businesses, local groups, community councils and visitors to the University.

An overwhelming majority of the consultation responses at stages two and three strongly supported the idea of improving University Avenue. There was strong support for the University to remodel University Avenue through better traffic management, provision of wider pavements, and provision of better pedestrian crossing points, improved landscaping and use of high quality paving materials.

Most recently we undertook further public consultation as part of the masterplan planning process, available to the general public, which directly followed on from the Campus Development Framework. This included more detailed discussion with all relevant teams in Glasgow City Council and other key stakeholders on the final detailed proposals. Various statutory approvals have since been applied for and obtained after extensive pre-application discussions.

We continue to regularly engage with our local communities and now we are in the construction phase of the development we ensure that our delivery partner also joins us in these discussions. We will continue to engage with the local community and listen to all the views of the community as we progress this major development which will bring significant economic, social and cultural benefits for the City of Glasgow.

We believe we are progressing with a design that offers the best balance of interests and that it will ensure University Avenue is safer for all. We are happy to review the information you have taken time to provide.

We must be clear however that the University is focused on ensuring that the work on University Avenue is constructed and completed in time to support the James McCune Smith Learning Hub opening on University Avenue. We will have approximately 3000 students moving in and out of this building when classes change therefore we want to ensure a safe environment is in place for staff, students and visitors who will use this key facility.

I hope this is of assistance.

Peter Haggarty
Director of Project Management & Construction