

# Parents say roads backlog will take 25 years to clear

Parent councils from 53 primary and secondary schools in Edinburgh have sent an open letter to MSPs and Councillors demanding more funding to clear a reported 25 year backlog of road safety measures.

The parents say that increased spending is needed to keep children safe and accelerate safety on the city streets..

The backlog of 25 years has been calculate from statistics gathered from a Freedom of Information request. This was made after 11-year-old cyclist, Thomas Wong, died after a collision with the driver of a bin lorry on Whitehouse Road last March.

In the FoI response, parent council's discovered that, as of June 2024, there are 96 red flag sites on The City of Edinburgh Council's speed reduction list.

Despite this, only 19 roads have been improved in the last five years. Parents estimate that it would take 25 years to act on all the Edinburgh roads currently on the list.

The Parent Councils have now written to Edinburgh and Lothian MSPs and City of Edinburgh councillors demanding that budget makers prioritise road safety around schools.

Kim Pratt, vice chair of the Davidson's Mains Primary School Parent Council, said: "A 25 year backlog in speed reduction measures

is condemning every child in Edinburgh to navigating unsafe roads for the rest of their school days.

“No child should be risking their life when traveling to school and it’s

unacceptable that safety recommendations are being ignored.

“We do understand that the council is under financial pressure but getting

children to school safely must be a priority.

“The call from parent councils from across Edinburgh shows that this is a

systemic problem. Politicians in Edinburgh have the power to protect our

children by increasing road safety funding and by making road safety

around schools a priority in all future road developments.”

Lynsey Houston, chair of Craiglockhart Parent & Carer Council said:

“I know that since Craiglockhart parents first raised concerns about road

safety, some of the children have now graduated high school!

“A potential timescale of 25 years is ridiculous but highlights the desperate

need for more resources. After all, when we ask for improvements, we are

asking for our council and government to prevent a tragic outcome.”

Cllr Stephen Jenkinson, Transport and Environment Convenor said: “Safety for all roads users remains a key priority for us. The Road Safety team manages the School Travel Plan programme for 140 schools in Edinburgh, with a focus on road safety education and interventions for our school communities.

“We are currently progressing infrastructure measures at a number of schools this year. We have a significant programme of improvement works scheduled to be undertaken over this and

future years. The programme includes the installation of physical infrastructure such as pedestrian crossings and footway widening, as well as implementation of parking restrictions and car free School Streets at appropriate locations near schools.”

## The letter reads:

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

To all Edinburgh and Lothian MSPs and City of Edinburgh Councillors,

### **INCREASE THE CITY'S ROAD SAFETY BUDGET TO KEEP EDINBURGH CHILDREN SAFE**

We represent parents of children who attend schools across Edinburgh and we are calling on you, as our political representatives with control over the City of Edinburgh Council's budget, to increase funding for road safety.

Our children are being harmed on their way to and from school. Last year, a child was killed on their way to school in Edinburgh and we believe, in the current situation, it is only a matter of time before this happens again.

A [response](#) to a Freedom Of Information request has shown that, as of June 2024, there are 96 sites on the Council's speed reduction list and only 19 roads have been improved in the last five years. At this rate, it will take 25 years to act on all the roads currently on the list.

This is unacceptable to many parents, whose children will grow up and leave school before changes are acted on. Our children are navigating unsafe roads now.

Whilst we understand that the Council is under huge pressure around funding, we believe that road safety, particularly around schools, should be more of a priority than it currently

is. Another FOI [response](#) showed that, in 2023/24, the road safety budget was £1.5m which was just 1% of the total road and transport budget for that year.

You must increase Edinburgh Council's road safety funding to reduce the backlog in speed reduction improvements and make future changes in a reasonable and responsible time period. We believe that, once a site is identified for speed reduction measures, improvements should be completed within a year and the Council should be funded appropriately. All road budget spending should consider how safety around a school can be built into improvements.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Kim Pratt, Davidsons Mains Parent Council

On behalf of the following Parent Councils of Edinburgh:

1. Davidson's Mains Primary School Parent Council
2. Gilmerton Primary School Parent Council
3. Craigour Park Primary School Parent Teacher Council
4. Craiglockhart Parents & Carers Council
5. Canaan Lane Primary School Parent Council
6. Flora Stevenson Parent Council
7. Cramond Primary School Parent Council
8. James Gillespies Primary School Parent Council
9. Nether Currie Primary School Parent Council
10. James Gillespie's High School Parent Council
11. Royal High School Parent Council
12. Preston Street Primary School
13. Clermiston Primary Parent Council
14. Trinity Primary Parent Council
15. Duddingston Primary Parent Council
16. Dalry Primary Parents and Carers Council
17. Chomhairle Phàrant Bhun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

18. Bruntsfield Primary School Parent Council
19. Longstone Primary School Parent Council
20. Blackhall Primary School
21. Forthview Primary School Parent Council
22. Stockbridge Primary School Parent Council
23. Pentland Primary School Parent Council
24. Leith Walk Primary School Parent Council
25. Granton Primary School Parent Council
26. Castleview Primary School Council
27. East Craigs Primary Parent School
28. Craigentiny Primary School
29. St Andrew's Fox Covert RC Primary School
30. Fox Covert Primary School
31. Gylemuir Primary School Parent Council
32. St Peter's RC Primary School Parent Council
33. Oxfgangs Primary School Parent Council
34. Roseburn Primary School Parent Partnership
35. St Thomas of Aquins Parent Council
36. Frogston Primary School Parent Council
37. Royal High Primary School
38. Bonaly Primary School
39. Holyrood RC High School
40. South Morningside Primary School Parent Council
41. St. Catherine's RC primary school
42. Kirkliston Primary School Association
43. Currie Community High School Parents in Partnership
44. Sciennes Primary School Parent Council
45. Wardie Family Forum for Wardie Primary School
46. St Mary's Primary School Parent Forum Council
47. Broughton Primary School Parent Council
48. Abbeyhill Primary School Parent Council
49. Corstorphine Primary School
50. Gilmerton Parents Council
51. Portobello High School Parent Council
52. Ferryhill Primary School Parent Council
53. St Ninian's Primary School Parents Council



Floral tributes for 11-year-old Thomas Wong who was killed on Whitehouse Road on 1 March 2024 while riding his bike. PHOTO Alan Simpson