

RHSC is (eventually) being relocated to the RIE site, but there is currently a PAN to put its car park there first. The RHSC will be located on the site of the existing car park, which is being moved to a more peripheral site, and another 350 spaces added to cope with RHSC demand (which apparently will not be available for use until RHSC opens).

The point for us is that, as this is transport related, we can seek as a condition, the upgrading of the path over the hill to Craigmillar, which at present is interrupted on the RIE side by a series of steps, and surface quality is poor.

The Agents, Montagu Evans, held a series of public info events for this pre-application stage:

I attended a drop-in session yesterday at the Western General and spoke with reps from Montagu Evans.

I wrote a response there and then on one of their forms.

This is still a PAN, so there will be a chance for anyone else to make comments once it comes up as a Planning Application, or indeed now, since responses are still being taken.

I got the impression they are keen to get as many as possible to travel to these hospitals sustainably, so we got a sympathetic hearing, and one of the reps cycles there herself.

The essence of my response, on behalf of CTC Lothians, was:

1. Cycle parking - very pleased that adequate parking is to be provided, but please ensure it is safe and under cover for staff, and close to the main entrance and well-overlooked for visitors.
2. Access from Craigmillar - problems with current set-up - steps, surface quality, steep gradient. They were aware of the steps and the poor surfacing from previous correspondence re the car park application, but I asked about the possibility of re-alignment of the route since the gradient is steeper than allowed under CEC standards.
3. Access from Old Dalkeith Rd - this is a major route to the hospital and developers should work with CEC to make it more cycle friendly. 4 Signage to the cycle parking within the hospital grounds, and signage to and from the hospital, are very important to encourage cycling.

Comments can still be made by email to newchildrenshospital@nhs.net deadline 17 May.

Peter