

PRESS RELEASE

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Cammo residents criticise Edinburgh planners and fear being marooned

West Edinburgh residents fear gridlock at one of Edinburgh's busiest road intersections if plans to develop green belt land for housing near Cammo are given the go ahead. According to the newly formed Cammo Residents Association (CRA), latest Edinburgh City Council proposals fail to pay adequate attention to the impact that plans to build up to 700 new houses on Cammo agricultural land would have on traffic flows to the Barnton junction. They fear residents' safety will be at risk and access to their homes will be severely restricted.

The Association is also criticising the level of communication from the Planning Department saying public opinion is being ignored and the community believes it is being fobbed off.

Gary Bennett, CRA Chairman said, "Traffic congestion at the Barnton junction is really bad, particularly at rush hour, and is set to get worse if the around 1,400 new houses planned for north of the Maybury junction go ahead. Adding further to the volume of traffic by proposing a further 700 houses at the Barnton end of the Maybury Road is irresponsible. The Council suggests changing the phasing of the traffic lights at the Barnton junction but you only have to look at the tailbacks every morning and afternoon to see that this won't be enough.

"We already have limited ways of accessing our development and, I fear, that if these plans go ahead we will be effectively marooned during the times people need to get to work and school and then come home again. Turning right out of Cammo Gardens onto the Maybury Road or Cammo Road onto the Queensferry Road is already extremely dangerous because of the volume of traffic. This could easily become a real black spot.

We are also concerned for the safety of our children who have to negotiate the, already busy, Barnton junction to get to school.”

Edinburgh residents have until 5pm this Friday (14 June) to submit representations to Edinburgh City Council’s plans.

“We encourage everyone who cares about traffic congestion and safety along this route to submit their views,” said Gary Bennett. Representations must be submitted on the form available online at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan>.

The CRA also describes the performance of Edinburgh’s Planning Department as “disappointing” particularly criticising the standard of communication and responses to community queries from lead officers in the Council. Cammo residents were told that the area was changed from a “reasonable alternative” to a “proposed” site in May leaving people only a few weeks to find out about the plan, think about it and submit their views.

“We’ve lost confidence with the current officials dealing with this,” said Gary Bennett.

“We are really concerned that residents do not have enough time to prepare their representations. In its New Contract with the Capital Coalition Agreement signed on 10 May 2012 Edinburgh City Council promised a fresh start in its relationship with Edinburgh residents, to listen to local people, work together with local communities and value co-operation and fairness. We hope that they will now demonstrate that.”

END

Editor’s note:

For further information go to www.cammoreidentsassociation.org or contact Sally Chalmers, 07796 137794.

Edinburgh City Council’s New Contract with the Capital Coalition Agreement is available at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/7513/coalition_agreement).