

Re Titanic quarter

Sustrans and Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative are delighted in principle with the proposal to develop Titanic Quarter. However we do have some serious concerns about the proposals at present. These have been sent to Planning Service and we would ask, that in your role as Civic Leaders you support our recommendations to help make Titanic Quarter a success.

We share the vision of Titanic Quarter's vision of helping people to live, work and play in a pleasant environment close to places of work and leisure. We are particularly keen to see a safe and attractive walking and cycling environment for:

1. Residents
2. Visitors including tourists
3. Those travelling through Titanic Quarter between East Belfast and the City Centre

However the current Titanic Quarter road plans are designed around out of date thinking, that cars should be given the maximum space on the roads and cyclists and walkers fitted into what ever room is left. Indeed the Titanic Quarter Development Framework makes the disturbing assumption that it will be '*A development where most people will travel by car*'.

Current government thinking including that of Belfast City Council's strategies on Transport, Active Living and Urban Regeneration promote safe environments where people can choose to walk, cycle or take public transport and use the car when necessary.

Experience in Belfast has shown that the new well-designed riverside paths are experiencing ever higher usage and satisfaction levels (see attachments). Cycling is a modern, healthy and inexpensive way to travel. Titanic Quarter provides a unique opportunity to design the highest quality cycle network for the following reasons:

1. It is level ground.
2. It is possible to build any road design, as it is a new build.
3. It is close to Belfast City Centre.
4. It is close to other existing cycle networks.

Our recommendations are:

1. Cycle routes must be safe and continuous, especially at junctions, and segregated from traffic on busy main roads.
2. Cycle routes should extend through junctions – (please see enclosed the current design for Sydenham Road and Queens Road, which will be a nightmare for cyclists)
3. Routes should extend to the City Centre and to East Belfast including the Comber Greenway starting in Dee Street.
4. All apartments and places of work should have secure cycle parking.
5. Safe Routes to School to attract families to live in Titanic Quarter.

While the vision for Titanic Quarter is reasonably sound, it is unfortunate that these worthy aspirations have not been accomplished by the plans for the road network. With your support there is still time to make a change for the better.

We would be grateful to hear your thoughts and would appreciate a chance to discuss the plans in further detail, with a relevant Council Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Patterson
National Manager
Sustrans

Tom McClelland
Chairman
NICI

Enclosed
Cycle satisfaction chart
Plans for Sydenahm Road junction
Photo of potential design