

Michael Josem  
https://michaeljosem.com  
07624 488557  
michael@michaeljosem.com

1 Hillary Wharf  
South Quay  
Douglas IM1 5BL  
Isle of Man

Thursday, 25 February, 2021

Oliver McGowan  
Highway Services Division  
Department of Infrastructure  
Sea Terminal,  
Douglas IM1 2RF

  
Dear Mr McGowan,

### Marine Drive Public Consultation

I write in response to the Isle of Man Government's public consultation document on the potential closure of Marine Drive. I write as a local resident (I live a few hundred metres from the site) and as a local cyclist (I cycle along Marine for fitness and pleasure from time-to-time).

**I strongly oppose the Government's proposal to close Marine Drive to motor vehicles**, for the following reasons:

- As a cyclist, I have never had the least concern about sharing that portion of the road with motor vehicles. This is because the road is already not passable due to existing barriers, and the drivers who do use it are rare and considerate of other users. Because *motor vehicles are already prevented from driving through Marine Drive*, the low number of drivers are almost universally travelling at slow speeds anyway.
- On my cycle journeys along Marine Drive, I have seen the pleasure that the sea views have given less able-bodied members of our community. I have seen elderly people of Mann<sup>1</sup> drive along the road, get out of their cars, and enjoy the views towards the other islands of our archipelago. I have seen our neighbours enjoy the fresh air and views towards England. Prohibiting such use would impose a real cost on such people. They are doing no harm, and are enjoying our island. This should be encouraged, not prohibited!
- The Government's proposal will eliminate motor vehicle access to Port Soderick Brooghs, Little Ness car park – an internationally recognised "Dark Skies Discovery Site". This site, and the 25 others on the Isle of Man, was celebrated by the Isle of Man in the hope that it "inspires people to visit us and experience our incredible surroundings." As you would appreciate, enjoying a dark sky discovery site can sometimes require heavy equipment such as telescopes – equipment which is often best transported by motor vehicle.


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<sup>1</sup> and, in pre-Corona Times, possibly tourists!

- If the Isle of Man Government was seriously concerned about improving the cycling experience along Marine Drive, it would fix the degrading road surface. Currently, it seems that the road (including the part that is currently inaccessible to motor vehicles as it is) is partially unsealed and in a generally unsafe condition for cyclists. Degrading the entire Marine Drive to that standard would likely be harmful to local cyclists such as myself.

Thank you in advance for giving this feedback all due consideration.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL JOSEM