"Kissing Gates I see that SDCC have installed a new kissing gate on the L1011 (see attached - Kissing Gate 1 - new white gate). It is a replacement for a kissing gate that was already at that location. It is definitely a far more attractive kissing gate, but unfortunately still a kissing gate. Griffeen Valley Park is surrounded by kissing gates. On a quick count, I found 20 kissing gates leading into Griffeen Valley Park (see attached maps - Griffeen Valley Park North and South). To my knowledge there has never been an issue with scramblers in this park for instance, which is often cited as a reason to keep these type of gates. The canal which also has kissing gates is made more dangerous by their inclusion as gangs can congregate at the gates and intimidate or stop safe passage through them. It leaves people trapped with no easy way through. The effect of the gates is to make access to the park more difficult for those using mobility aids or non-standard bicycles. We should be aiming to make our parks more, not less accessible. It is a big deterrent for parents with children to cycle through the park when they have to queue up to go through several of these gates to bring their children safely to school and it is impossible if you have a cargo bike. The car parks are the only way (with the exception of one other entrance) to access the park with a cargo bike and the gates for the car parks do not open early enough to facilitate the school drop-offs. I appreciate the craftsmanship of the gate installed and perhaps there is a design that can include railings but without the installation of the gate, that could be pursued. The entrances to Willsbrook Park for instance are attractive (stone), yet they allow access. Perhaps a similar type of design could be completed using the iron work. L1011 The L1011 is a critical link between the Adamstown area and the Griffeen area. Griffeen has a large park, soon to have a swimming pool and it has many schools around the park. In order for someone to safety cycle or walk with small kids this is the journey they have to do to traverse a 450m stretch (see attached images of the journey): • Firstly cross the Newcastle Road junction - not pleasant, no provision for cycling • Kids cycle on footpath because there is no cycletrack • Then they have to leave the footpath because it discontinues half way down the road and enter the park through the first of three kissing gates • Enter park at kissing gate (if you have a standard bicycle), go 150m • Then go through the second kissing gate • Then emerge at a roundabout with no pedestrian priority at all • Attempt to cross the road at the mercy of cars and buses (busy C spine route) • Attempt to cross the road for a second time at the mercy of cars and buses (busy C spine route) • Go through the third kissing gate to enter the main section of Griffen Valley Park It would be beneficial if Councillors could: - Request the removal of kissing gates in at least some key locations around Griffeen Valley Park to facilitate access to all to the park; - Request that the car parks are open early enough to facilitate school drop-offs; and - Request that the L1011 upgrade to include a footpath on the northern side as well as associated pedestrian crossings on the roundabout and ideally a cycle track is a priority for delivery for SDCC in order to safely connect the Adamstown and Griffeen areas.