



**May 2023**

## Welcome

We have now started work on the [Leith Connections project](#) which will create safer and more comfortable conditions for walking, wheeling and cycling and make a more attractive street environment where residents can spend time in their local streets and outdoor spaces.

Please see below our project progress update. Dates are provided from when some routes will only be accessible to people walking, wheeling and cycling. From these dates through motor vehicle traffic will not be able to use these routes. Every residential and business address will remain accessible by motor vehicle but the route that you need to take may change.

This [video](#) shares some views of local school children and a local business about the project.



## Progress update

We have started works on improvements for pedestrians crossing the street at John's Place and on East Hermitage Place/ Hermitage Place by building out the pavement to reduce crossing distances. This has included new drainage connections and the resurfacing of these buildouts will be completed over the next few weeks.

The eastern side of John's Place at Queen Charlotte Street has been closed to traffic with all north and southbound traffic now able to pass through a new priority system on the west side of the carriageway. New planting, seating and artwork will be installed on the eastern side.



At Links Place we are installing new tactiles and also a new central pedestrian island, please see below for further details on the westbound bus gate that will be implemented here.

To reduce the danger from vehicles passing at speed on the western side of Leith Primary School, motor vehicle traffic cannot now pass between Wellington Place and John's Place on the western side of Leith Links. To access Duke Street in a motor vehicle from John's Place, or vice versa, please use Duncan Place.

The new planters installed will be fully planted up in the next few weeks with native species and pollinating plants.

This week (week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> May) we have begun improvements for pedestrians crossing Mitchell Street at Elbe Street and around the Tolbooth Wynd/ Water Street junction with new dropped crossing and tactiles.

### **Upcoming traffic operations changes**

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Please note the following dates for changes to traffic operations for motor vehicles. There will be changes to through routes for motor vehicles in the area but all residential and business addresses can still be accessed.

All areas are still fully passable by people walking, wheeling and cycling.

- **from 10<sup>th</sup> May - Burgess Street** closed to through motor traffic and accessible by motor vehicle from Water Street
- **from 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sandport Place Bridge** closed to through motor traffic
- **from 24<sup>th</sup> May – Coburg Street** closed to through motor traffic and accessible for motor vehicle from North Junction Street
- **from 12<sup>th</sup> June – Tolbooth Wynd** closed to through motor traffic and accessible for motor vehicle from Henderson Street only. Tolbooth Wynd becomes two way.

New bus gates will soon be operational on the Shore and westbound at the junction of Links Gardens and Links Place. This will mean that only buses, taxis and cycles can travel southbound on the Shore, except during morning loading hours. The existing northbound bus gate on Shore is unaffected.

Vehicles travelling eastbound from Links Place to Links Gardens will be unaffected. General traffic on Links Gardens will need to use Salamander Place. Taxis will still be able to travel westbound to Links Place.

- **from 12<sup>th</sup> June – Shore** southbound bus gate operational (buses, taxis, cycles only outside morning loading hours)
- **from 12<sup>th</sup> June – Links Place** westbound bus gate operational (buses, taxis, cycles only)

After the dates above it will take a few further weeks to finish installing new street furniture, planting and installing new signage around the area.

### **Connecting with your bus service**

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The 35 service returned to the area last year and Lothian Buses recently announced they will continue to route via Links Gardens and Salamander Place. The westbound bus gate being installed by the project will allow taxis and any future bus service to travel westbound from Links Gardens to Links Place. General motor traffic must use Salamander Place when heading west.

This is a trial measure and will be subject to future consideration, including consultation with Lothian Buses and taking on board public feedback, prior to any final decision being made.

### **Monitoring & evaluation**

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Various baseline monitoring work has been ongoing over the last few months including:

- air and noise monitoring
- traffic/ pedestrian/ cycle counts
- business surveys
- on street market research
- focus groups.

Full details of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and the baseline report will be available soon on the project website.

### **Artistic commission**

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An artist has been work with the schools and community groups to create street art works at the northern end of John's Place and near to St Mary's (Leith) and Leith Primary Schools. Look out for further details in future newsletters...and on the street near you soon!

### **Comment on the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order**

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Some of the measures being installed in the area are permanent changes to traffic operations associated with the route from [Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal](#). Other changes are part of a trial being undertaken under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).

Once the construction works across the area are complete the statutory process for this experimental order will begin. We will monitor the effects of the changes throughout the trial period. As part of the ETRO process, we must make a decision within 18 months on whether to make the changes permanent. You will be able to [make comments](#) on the ETRO and there will be further communications to confirm how you can do this.

### **Secure Cycle Parking**

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Over the next few months we will be continuing rollout of on street cycle hangars around the city including with the Leith Connections project area. Please see information on secure residential cycle parking on the [council website](#) on how to sign up for a hangar or request a future hangar installation near you.

### **Enterprise Car Club**

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Enterprise Car Club cars and vans are available from eight locations around the project area. See their [website](#) for further details and an offer\* when joining using the code EDILTN to celebrate the launch of the Leith Connections project.

*\* FREE standard plan membership for new members included (usually £20/yr in Scotland & Northern Ireland). For Edinburgh's Low Traffic Neighbourhood members only. Offer valid until 31/03/2024.*

### **Get in touch**

Email [leithconnections@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:leithconnections@edinburgh.gov.uk)

You are being sent this email as you signed up for updates on Leith Connections. If you don't want further updates, please respond to this email asking to be removed from the mailing list.

Find out more about the Leith Connections project on our website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/leithconnections](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/leithconnections)