



Elected Members and Community Councils Briefing Note – October 2023

Measures to reduce through traffic, provide improved pedestrian street crossings, works on new community spaces and artwork has been ongoing in the area since 10th April 2023.

Upcoming traffic operation changes to implement approved trial layout:

- **From 18th October 2023**
 - Links Place/ Links Gardens westbound bus gate/ bus lane operational
 - Tolbooth Wynd motor prohibition at eastern end and Tolbooth Wynd becomes two way

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/leithconnections

Project Overview

We are aiming to create a safer and more comfortable street environment for residents walking, wheeling, cycling and spending time in the local streets, at businesses and in outdoor spaces of Leith. This will support travel by all modes of transport to and through the area including the Trams to Newhaven route.

Stakeholder/ Community Engagement

Over the past 2 years, there have been three periods of focused community engagement with ongoing stakeholder engagement. These have been publicised via leaflet drops, lamppost wraps, online co-design workshops, press articles, 2 public drop in sessions, meetings with the Community Reference Group and meetings with Community Councils.

Communication of changes

A full programme of communication activity has been ongoing to publicise these changes:

- updates to project website with project implementation dates
- project email newsletter to 950+ mailing list with project implementation dates
- press releases
- updates in Trams to Newhaven email newsletter
- installation of lamppost wraps
- installation of A3 lamppost posters
- installation of traffic management advance warning signs – now updated around the area with date of 18 Oct for Tolbooth Wynd and Links Place
- letter drop to full area
- contractor notification letters to properties adjacent to worksites
- social media updates
- Edinburgh Travel updates
- Localised Tolbooth Wynd/ Links View House leaflet drop prior to changes of 18th October
- placard/ noticeboard at each location to explain what is happening and how people can find out more information and comment on the experimental measures

Stakeholder updates include:

- Lothian Buses, council traffic management teams, school crossing guards, utilities and various other relevant stakeholders all briefed through City Wide Traffic Management Group
- updates to full stakeholder list
- drop-ins to businesses
- Emergency Services briefings
- attendance at Community Council meetings

Spring 2023 Layout

Following approval to proceed with motor prohibitions at the March 2023 Transport & Environment Committee and approval of measures to be implemented as an Experimental TRO at Committee in August 2021 we have been implementing these as the Spring 2023 works. This allows us to proceed with implementation of measures to reduce through traffic alongside the complementary measures.

See Spring 23 layout map, Traffic Operations Plan and photos included at the end of this document.

Works includes:

| | |
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| • new footway buildouts to improve pedestrian crossings on John's Place and East Hermitage Place | Complete |
| • improvements for pedestrians crossing at Links Place/ Links Garden junction | Complete |
| • installation or repair of tactiles and dropped crossing at 17 No. locations | Complete |
| • new planting and seating at Coburg Street, John's Place, Sandport Place Bridge, Burgess Street | Complete |
| • new planting at Wellington Place and Tolbooth Wynd | Complete |
| • new areas of on street cycle parking at Burgess Street and John's Place | Complete |
| • community inspired artwork at John's Place and the two primary schools | Complete |
| • decluttering of footways | Scope for these works complete |

The following changes to traffic operations are being implemented:

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| • John's Place at Queen Charlotte Street – all traffic now moves on the western side of the central island with a priority give-go system installed | Implemented 18/04 |
| • closure of Sandport Place Bridge to motor traffic | Implemented 22/05 |
| • modal filters for motor vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Burgess Street at the Shore ○ Coburg Street at Dock Street ○ meeting of Wellington Place/ Johns Place ○ Tolbooth Wynd at Water Street | Implemented 10/05 Implemented 24/05 Implemented 21/04 Planned for 18/10 |
| • Tolbooth Wynd will become two way for vehicles | Planned for 18/10 |
| • southbound bus gate on southern section of Shore (so bus traffic only outside morning loading hours) complementing the current northbound bus lane | Implemented 12/06 |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • westbound bus gate on Links Place at Links Gardens | Planned for 18/10 |
| • introduction of cycle contraflows on 6 No. one way streets | Implemented through Jun/ Jul |

All residential and business properties will still be fully accessible by motor vehicle.

The Experimental Traffic Order will be advertised on 09 October 2023 meaning that the Links Place westbound bus gate and Tolbooth Wynd measures can be introduced. As above these will be implemented from 18 October 2023. On street warning signage will be in place prior to measures being introduced.

Camera enforcement will be introduced for the bus lane at Links Place. Changes to the camera enforcement at Shore bus lane/ bus gate will also be made. We had been told that the southbound lane would be enforceable by existing camera however this has not proven to be the case and replacement camera is to be used. These should both be implemented for 18 October but the project is reliant on the parking team and their contractor to implement these.

Further details are available on the [bus lane notice section of the council website](#).

However, please note even without camera enforcement it is obviously a motoring offence to drive through the bus lane/ bus gates at the times of operation.

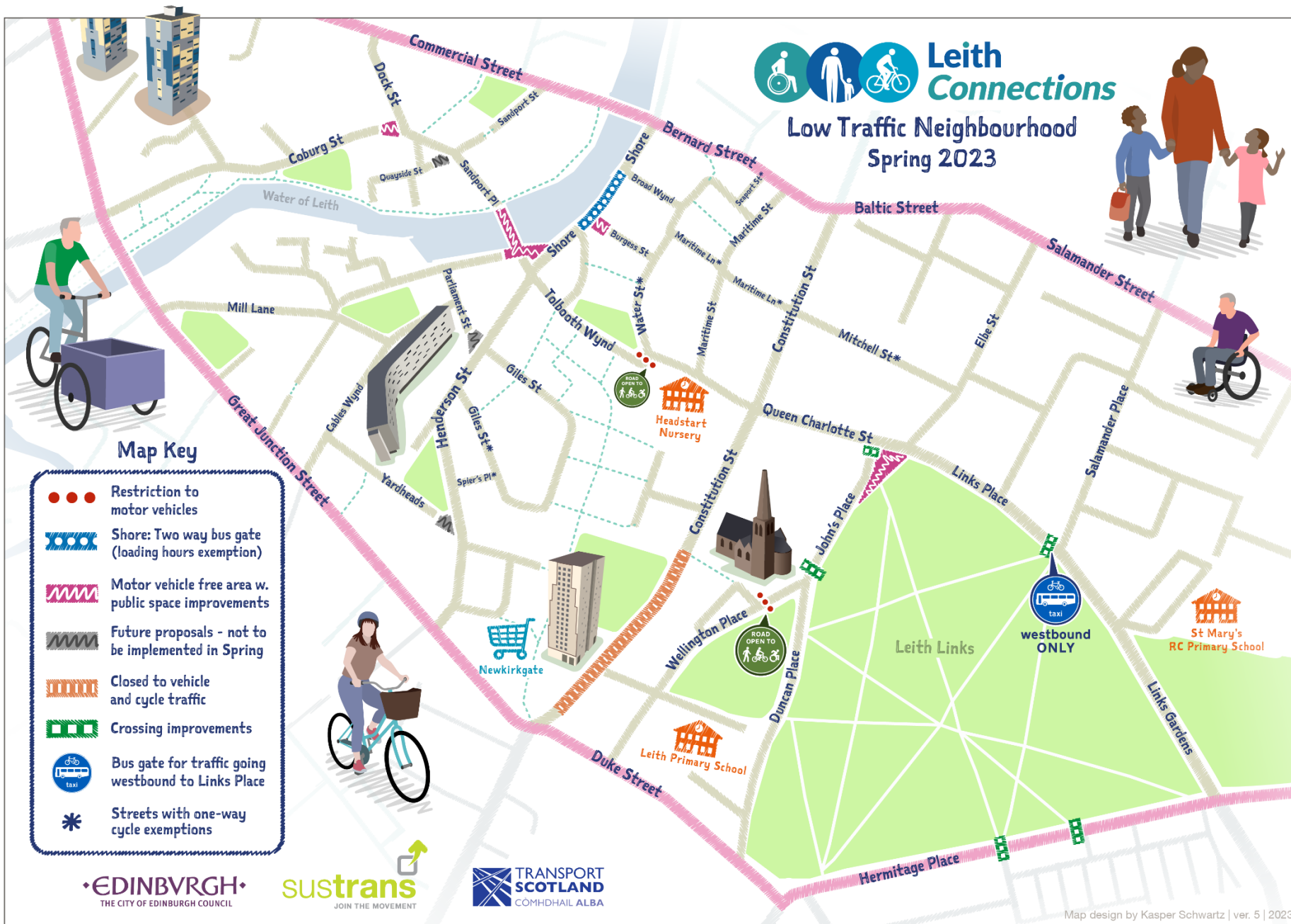
Lindsay Road Bridge update

You will be aware that the Lindsay Road Bridge linking North Fort Street and Newhaven is at the end of its lifespan and was closed in 2021 due to concerns around health and safety. We have made a successful application for Transport Scotland funding through Sustrans' Places for Everyone programme for the design of a replacement bridge deck to enable a walking, wheeling and cycling link across the Hawthornvale path. A designer will now be appointed to progress the design, to be developed in consultation with stakeholders and the community. These works will be led by our structures team colleagues but will be part of the Leith Connections overall project delivery given the proximity to Hawthornvale path and link to Lindsay Road.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and a baseline data report will shortly be published on the [project website](#). Market research and focus group summaries have recently been published there.

Information gathered as part of this monitoring will feed into future recommendation and decisions on the trial parts of the project. Details have also been updated on the website and will be provided in future public communications as to how members of the public can comment on the Experimental TRO measures.











Low Traffic Neighbourhood Traffic Operations Plan - Spring 2023



Map key

-  Motor vehicle free area
-  Restriction to motor vehicles
-  Closed to vehicle and cycle traffic due to tram operation
-  Bus gate (with loading hours exemption on Shore)
-  Buses, taxis and cycles only
-  Access and egress arrows indicate motor vehicle access to coloured areas

Leith Connections – community feedback

History of high speeds and resident concerns over road noise and danger. 60% of respondents to our survey supported removing through traffic from Coburg St.

Feedback during engagement suggested residents would prefer the street closed to motor traffic at the eastern end.

Public transport teams highlighted issues with pedestrianisation of Shore which has been a request of both residents and businesses. The bridge at the southern end of the shore will be closed to motor traffic to link the area safely with the Water of Leith path.

Shore to become a two way bus/ taxis/ cycles/ area except for morning hours for loading.

Lack of dropped crossings and tactile pavements has been raised by community and accessibility groups.

We will install new dropped kerbs and tactile paving to assist walking and wheeling

Leith Links Community Council asked for improvements to crossing conditions for pedestrians at John's Place.

Residents have also asked for improvements to crossing conditions at Links Place.

We will remove general westbound traffic and improve the crossing point to make the crossing safer for accessing Leith Links.

Improvements to crossings on East Hermitage Place were requested during public meetings, we will be providing two new informal crossing buildouts

Art work is proposed near the primary schools and at John's Place

Concerns over traffic speed and volume around Leith Links Primary School. Only a third of respondents to our survey believed that conditions were good or very good for those walking and cycling to the schools in the area. Crossing guards in this area have also expressed concerns.

Through traffic will be removed from Academy Street and Wellington Place to improve safety.

Quietroute 10 safety improvements by removing through traffic on Tolbooth Wynd and Water Street

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust are making improvements in Coalie Park. Changes work together on Coburg Street and Sandport Place

Improvements to streets with planting and seating have been requested during feedback. We are providing new planters and seating as part of the Spring 23 implementation of the LTN.

Permanent planting will be included in future phases.



