

Project Newsletter



October 2023

Welcome

Thank you for expressing interest in the Leith Connections project. We are creating safer and more comfortable conditions for walking, wheeling and cycling and a more attractive street environment where residents can spend time in their local streets and outdoor spaces. Below is an update on the project and you can find out more on our [website](#).



Progress update

Over the spring and summer we have made a number of changes to the streets and community spaces around the area. Improvements include:

- Creation of 3 areas of community inspired artwork
- Installation of 15 new benches
- 6 areas of new planting with pollinator and native species
- New pavement buildout areas around Leith Links to aid pedestrians crossing to the park
- New or improved dropped crossings and tactile paving at 17 locations
- Decluttering of pavements with the removal various unused signage and poles



Alongside these works we have implemented measures on Coburg Street, Sandport Place, Shore, Burgess Street, Wellington Place and John's Place to change traffic operations and reduce non-residential through traffic in the area.

We have also introduced contraflow cycling where two cycling is permitted on some one way streets where it is considered safe to do so. This is already possible on a number of one way streets in the city. It is very common in other cities and countries and more are likely to be introduced throughout Edinburgh.



Upcoming traffic operations changes – week commencing 16th October

We are now ready to complete the final changes to traffic operations set out in plans presented to the community in previous community engagements and approved by the Transport and Environment Committee.

These works will be undertaken on the week commencing 16th October. Please keep a look out for updates on street signage.

Works at Tolbooth Wynd and Links Place are a trial and we would welcome your feedback, please see below.

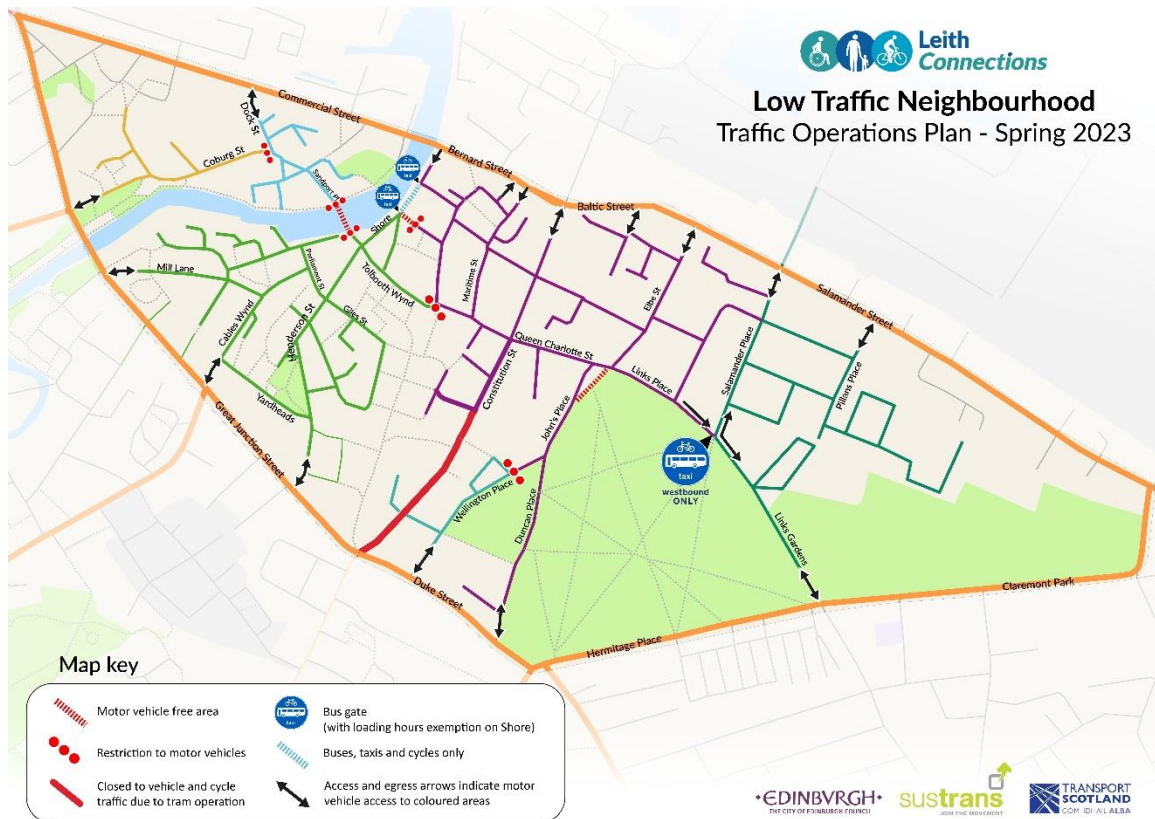
Tolbooth Wynd

Tolbooth Wynd will be closed to through motor traffic and both entry and exit for motor vehicle will be from Henderson Street. Tolbooth Wynd will become two way for all traffic. Vehicles will be able to turn at the eastern end of the street so residential, visitor and access for deliveries will still be possible.

Links Place/ Links Gardens

A new bus gate will be introduced westbound at the junction of Links Gardens and Links Place. Private vehicles travelling eastbound from Links Place to Links Gardens will be unaffected but general traffic coming up Links Gardens will need to use Salamander Place.

There are no current bus services using Links Place, however this allows for taxis to use this route and allows for any future changes to bus services.



Comment on the trial measures

Some of the changes to traffic operations are part of a trial being undertaken under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).

We will monitor the effects of the changes throughout the trial period (see Monitoring and evaluation section below). 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 trial measures contained within the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Monitoring and evaluation

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

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

Please send any additional comments on the scheme or suggestions you have to our [project email inbox](#).

Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal route update

We will commence work next year on improved public realm at Sandport Place and Henderson Street and cycle segregation and improved walking conditions between Foot of the Walk and Ocean Terminal. This will include high quality paving and changes at the bridge to widen the northern side footway.

We have been working with the Council's flood prevention team and Scottish Water to include sustainable drainage features along Henderson Street and Sandport Place. Rain gardens, porous paving and underground storage will be used to treat and manage rainfall events in a way that does not overwhelm the drainage system.

On street artworks

New artworks have been installed at three locations around the area. The colourful on-street paintings and signs have been designed in collaboration with the community and local school children by Scottish art firms Bigg Design and Fun Makes Good. You can find out more about the artworks and the artists in [this video](#).



Artwork at the northern end of John's Place has a 'sea-to-shore' theme and draws on some of Leith's fascinating maritime history and industrial past. Schools pupils have helped design nature and sea life elements at the two primary schools to make arrival at school more enjoyable and safer.

Pupils from St Mary's (Leith) RC Primary School also appeared on STV evening news to show off the posters they have designed to discourage antisocial parking outside the school.



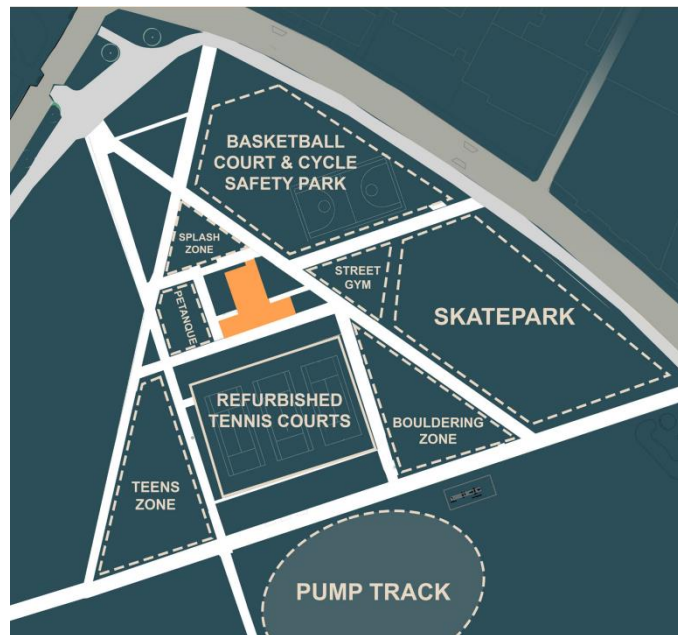
Leith Links Activity Hub

Proposals for the development of an activity hub on the disused bowling greens have been progressing over the last few months. Work is being led by members of the community and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council's Thriving Green Spaces team.

Please check out the consultation on our [Consultation and Engagement Hub](#).

The proposals in the consultation are built around the results of the [Leith Links Masterplan consultation](#). Suggestions currently include ping pong, a skate plaza, more seating and biodiversity elements. There are also plans for the building which we will be consulting on - these include providing permanent toilets.

Please let the team know your thoughts on what you would like to see by 21st October.



Enterprise Car Club

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

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