

Project Newsletter



September 2023

Welcome

We are updating all residents on progress with the trial Corstorphine Connections project. Our aim is to create safer and more comfortable conditions for walking, wheeling and cycling, as well as more attractive streets and outdoor spaces where residents can enjoy spending time. This was in response to concerns raised by residents over a number of years about levels of traffic. Independent market research carried out also showed that 67% of people living in the area thought vehicle traffic was a problem, you can read the market research on our [website](#).

Phase 2 construction August – November 2023

We are now widening and improving pavements, particularly along Corstorphine High Street and at the Saughton Road North shops. This will significantly improve access for people walking and wheeling. We won't be changing any traffic access as part of this phase, though there will be temporary disruption during the works.

The majority of the High Street widening has been completed and the team is now focusing on improvements on streets around Corstorphine Primary School making them safer and more accessible. To reduce disruption the majority of the work closest to the school is planned for the school half-term break. To enable resident access during this work, the Manse Road bus gate will be suspended from 18 Sept to 19 Oct 2023.

[You can read more information about phase 2 on our website.](#)



Try out electric cargo bikes or adaptive bikes for free

Through working with the Thistle Foundation and Cargo Bike Movement we are offering the opportunity for residents to try out using an electric cargo bike and/or an adaptive bike for free. Electric cargo bikes are a great alternative option for people wanting to get around to do shopping or take their children to school/events. Adaptive bikes are specially designed for use by people who might find riding a typical bicycle challenging.

- If you are interested in e- cargo bikes contact: jamie@cargobikemovement.org
- If you interested in adaptive bikes contact: thistleoutdoors@thistle.org.uk

New artwork at the school gates

We have been working with children from Carrick Knowe and Corstorphine Primary Schools to improve the school entrances. They came up with wonderful ideas which our artist then transformed into beautiful new gates. Keep an eye out on Lampacre Road and Corstorphine High Street.



Community feedback

The first six months of the project is a trial which gives you the opportunity to share your views on the changes. We have already had lots of useful comments and you can continue to comment up to 23 November 2023. Go to our website to find out more about how to comment. Here are some key emerging themes and how we are responding to them.

Feedback	How we are responding
The changes have displaced traffic onto other local streets, particularly Station Road, Corstorphine High Street, St John's Road, Ladywell Road and Featherhall Avenue.	We are monitoring traffic levels across the area. The trial is still at a very early stage, and if we see persistent problems with traffic levels and displacement onto neighbouring local streets, we will consider changes to address these.
The traffic restrictions around Corstorphine Primary school have reduced traffic in this area making the streets quieter and safer, particularly for parents and children going to school.	We are glad that this aspect of the project is having its intended affect and we will continue to assess this through our monitoring plan.
There has been insufficient consultation with the community and the Council has not listened to the concerns raised.	We have carried out multiple stages of community engagement and these are detailed on our website . As part of the trial there is currently a six month open public consultation where you can share your views. We would like to hear from everyone in the community. Share your views by emailing Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk Or writing to us at: Traffic Orders, 3.3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG
Why has a bus gate been introduced on Manse Road?	The bus gate was introduced because community engagement in 2021 highlighted concerns with levels of traffic in the area, particularly around the school on Manse Road. This corresponded to historic traffic issues

<p>The new layout at the northern end of Manse Road is confusing.</p>	<p>that have been reported to the community council for many years on these streets. The 68 bus service uses Manse Road, so a bus gate was the preferred design approach to reduce the non-residential through traffic.</p> <p>We have added more signs and markings to make the new road layout clearer. We are monitoring the site to assess the layout and whether further changes are required.</p>
<p>Why wasn't the funding spent on repairing the roads and pavements.</p>	<p>The project has attracted additional funding from the Scottish Government and has not diverted funds from other Council budgets. This funding is not to be used for road renewals like fixing potholes. However, the Council does have a dedicated budget for roads renewals which has recently increased and, for example, was used to resurface Ladywell Avenue.</p>

Monitoring traffic levels

We have recently completed the first round of traffic monitoring in June, one month after the trial began. This is only an initial indication of how new traffic patterns are establishing. Typically, these changes take many more months before traffic patterns really begin to settle and people start consistently using different ways of travelling.

We are looking at the data cautiously for now and not drawing any firm conclusions at this stage. [A summary of the data is available on our website.](#)

Key theme from 1 month survey	How we are responding
<p>Overall reduced traffic levels around Corstorphine Primary school.</p>	<p>Overall, this is an expected positive result from the scheme changes. The increased traffic levels on Featherhall Avenue are likely to be mainly the result of re-routed traffic from Manse Road, in particular from school drop offs. Despite this increase, Featherhall Avenue is within the criteria of a 'Low Trafficked Street'*. We will continue to monitor this and work on further encouraging school drop off by walking, wheeling and cycling.</p>
<p>An increase in traffic on Station Road.</p>	<p>The proportion of vehicles has increased. However, the numbers are still relatively low and the street is still within the criteria of a 'Low Trafficked Street'*. We will continue to monitor this alongside resident feedback.</p>
<p>A decrease in traffic on St John's Rd.</p>	<p>Whilst this is very good news as the street suffers from poor air quality, we are cautious about drawing firm conclusions about whether this relates directly to the project or to other changes in the city. We will continue to monitor this.</p>
<p>An increase in traffic on Broomhouse Drive and Balgreen Road.</p>	<p>We are cautious about drawing firm conclusions about whether this relates directly to the project or to other changes in the city causing traffic to divert. We will continue to monitor this.</p>
<p>Changes in total volumes of traffic</p>	<p>Overall volumes of traffic across the area have seen a slight increase. As with all this data, we are cautious</p>

	about drawing any firm conclusions at this very early stage of the trial.
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*Criteria for low trafficked streets is set out in the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance

Planting and other improvements

We have installed new planters, seating and hanging baskets around the area. We are aware that in some cases the planters have not been maintained well enough. We have made changes and the planters will be kept in good condition going forward.



Further Questions

Further details on Corstorphine Connections are available on the [project webpage](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/corstorphineconnections) :

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/corstorphineconnections

Get in touch

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