



TuneTo15

Leith Connections: Delivering Liveable Neighbourhoods in Edinburgh

29.10.2025



Our purpose

We make it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

Because it changes everything. Our health. Our wellbeing. Our world. We're a UK-wide charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle with an impressive history stretching back almost 50 years.

We call it people-powered movement

Walking, wheeling and cycling might sound like small actions. But they add up to something much, much bigger. They ripple out and change everything.



Photo: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust

How we accomplish this



Influencing & Policy

- Funding new active travel infrastructure
- Research and publications
- National and regional presence



Professional support

- Training
- Guidance
- Capacity building



Technical expertise

- Engagement
- Design
- Engineering

City of Edinburgh

Key Facts

- **Population 500,000**
- **Seat of Scottish government**
- **Academic & research hub with 4 universities**
- **Major tourism destination in the UK and Europe - 5 million overnight visitors annually**
(Source: Visit Scotland)



Photo: Laetitia Butler

Strategic Picture

- [Edinburgh City Mobility Plan \(2021\)](#)
- [Edinburgh 20-min neighbourhood strategy \(2023\)](#)
- [Scottish Government Planning Guidance \(2024\)](#)

Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods



April 2024

Scotland's Local Living Framework

- **5 main categories:**
 - Movement
 - Space
 - Resources
 - Civic
 - Stewardship
- **Helps planners and communities to consider all dimensions of a place from the outset of a project**



Fig 1; Local Living Framework diagram

Source: Scottish Government Planning Guidance, 2024

Why Leith?

City Mobility Plan

- Connecting to city centre
- Integrating with new transport investment

Dense residential neighbourhood

- Highest population density in Edinburgh – 26,000 residents in the wider Leith area (*Source: 2021 Census*)
- Amenities: schools, GP, shopping street, tourism landmarks

Quality of Life Needs

- Industrial legacy
- Economic inequalities relative to other areas
- Resident concerns about safety and accessibility



Photo: Visit Scotland

Leith Today

Photos: Laetitia Butler



The Shore



Leith Links



**Tenements
and historical
warehouses**



Royal Yacht Britannia

Project Aims

- Traffic calming: reduce through traffic to support access to schools and commercial corridor
- Design improvements: footway widening and pedestrian crossings
- New active travel infrastructure
- Reduce noise and air pollution





Hawthornvale Path/Lindsay Road

Ocean Terminal

Commercial Street

Lindsay Road Junction

Bernard Street

Salamander Street

Leith Links

Seafield Connection

Foot of the Walk

Liveable neighbourhood improvements

Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal

Hawthornvale to Seafield

Project Timeline



2020

Road closures and pavement widening introduced during pandemic



2021

Edinburgh Mobility Plan adopted; Engagement begins on Leith Connections



2022

Design Proposals and amendments

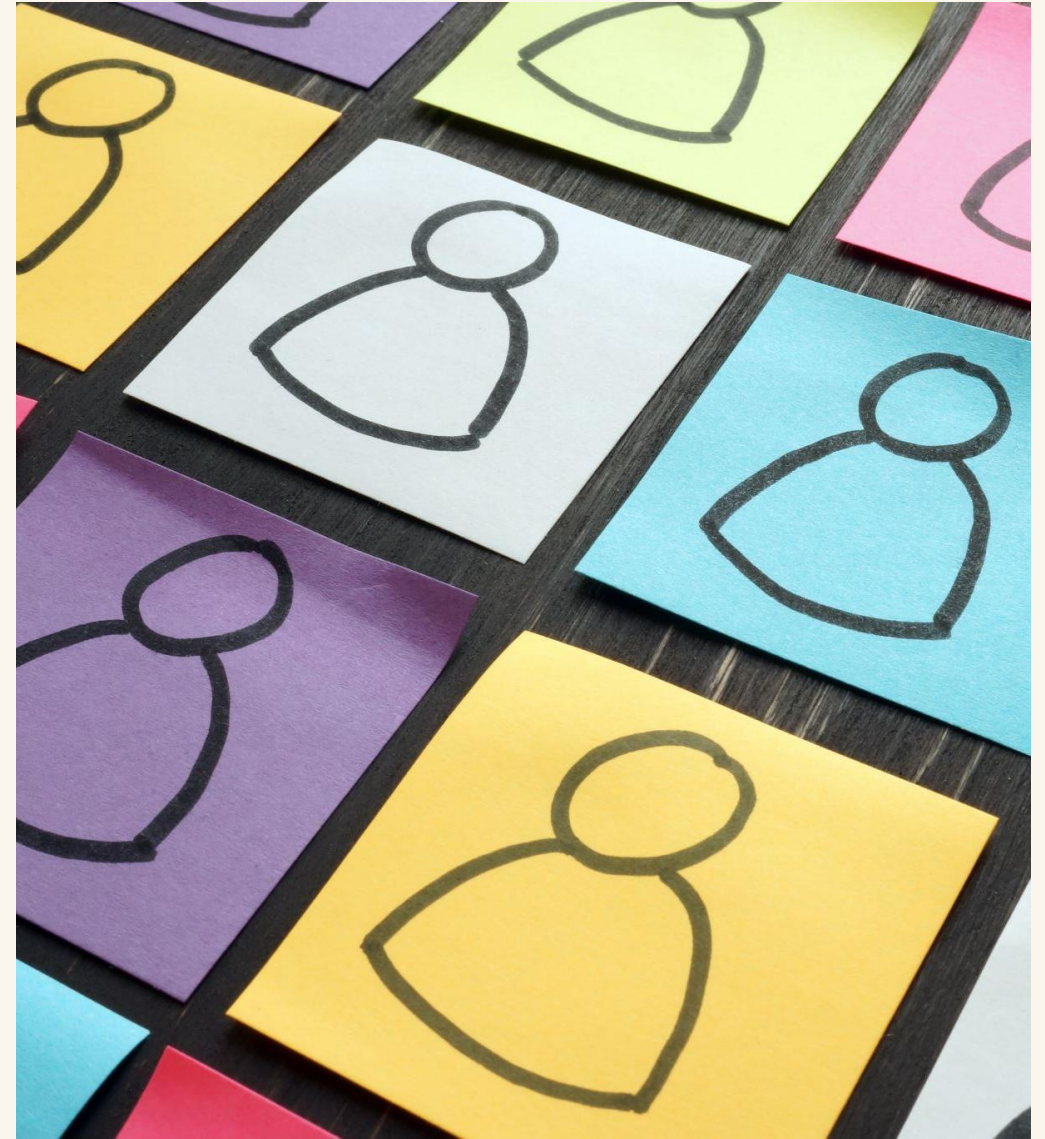


2023-2024

Trial measures implemented in 18 month Pilot Phase

How it happened

- **6,000 leaflets distributed**
- **In-person engagement activities**
- **Dedicated meetings for key stakeholders**
- **801 survey responses; key themes:**
 - Desire for improved connectivity and less traffic
 - Safer streets for children
 - Importance of engagement to consider impacts on all members of the community



Emphasis on children's safety

- **Most survey respondents agreed safety for children could be improved**
- **Leith Primary School Parent Council identified as key stakeholder group**

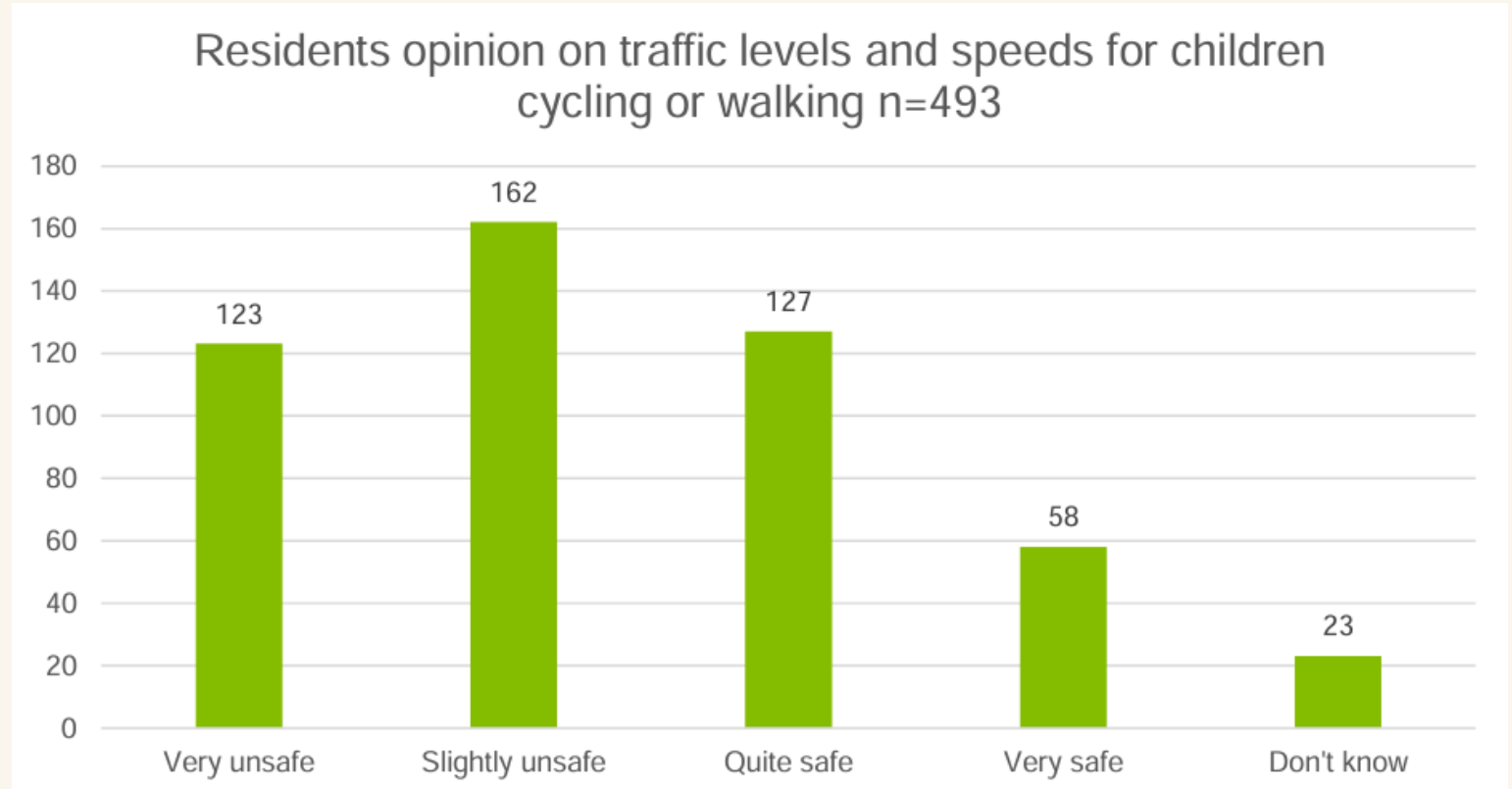


Image: Leith Connections Engagement Report 2021, AECOM, p.58

Pilot Phase



Pilot Phase



Feb 2025: Leith Connections Made Permanent

Pilot phase showed support for the scheme, with data to evidence uptake in walking and cycling

- Across eight monitoring locations, pedestrian numbers increased by 20%, cyclist numbers by 70%
- Cycling mode share to Leith Primary increased from 3.4% to 6.7%

Leith Connections was made permanent in February 2025 following a majority vote in City of Edinburgh Council

- [Access full monitoring report](#) (AECOM)
- [Attitudinal survey](#) (Progressive)
- [City of Edinburgh Council Sub-Committee Notes](#)



Image: Edinburgh News



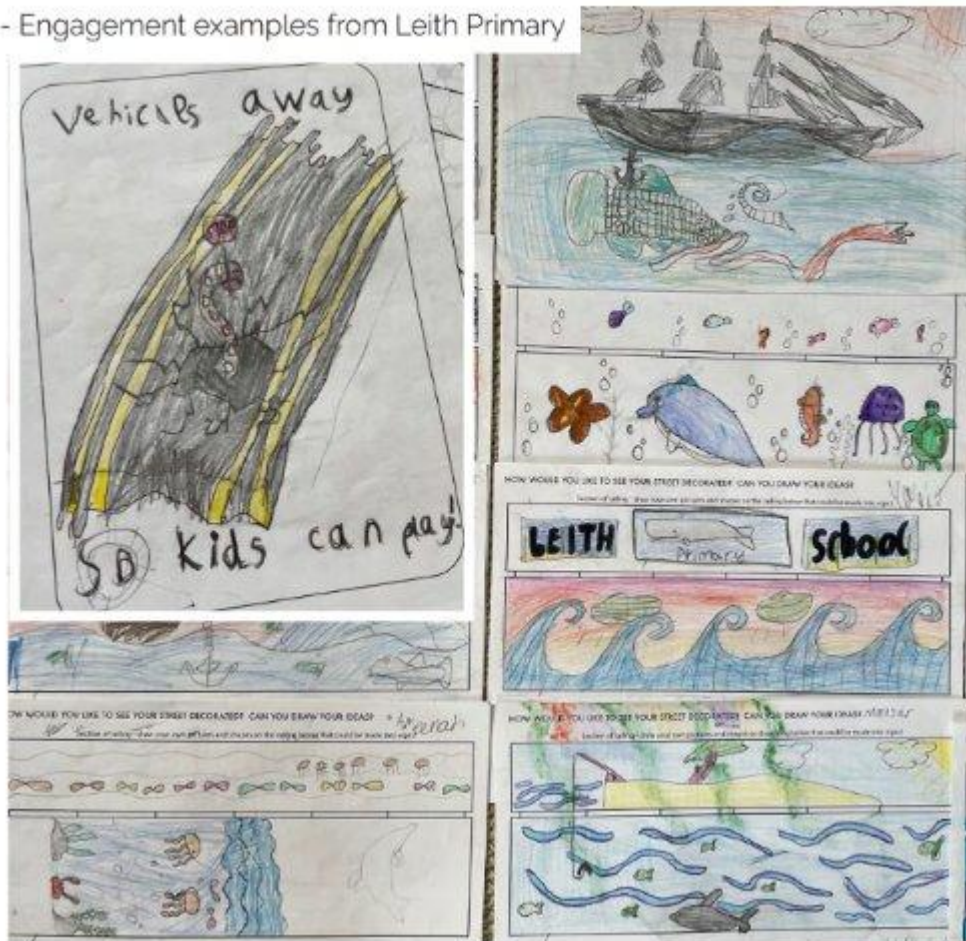




Photos: Bigg Design

Leith Connections Artworks

- Engagement examples from Leith Primary



Leith Connections Artworks

- Completed Works - Leith Primary



[See more engagement examples from Bigg Design](#)

Photos: Bigg Design



Photos: Laetitia Butler



Photos: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust



Photo: Laetitia Butler

Under construction now



Visualisation of
Sandport Bridge

[Estimated
completion end
of 2025](#)

What's Next for Liveable Neighbourhoods in Edinburgh?

- **New active travel routes under construction in Leith**
- **Applying learnings to future projects**
 - Engagement
 - Evidence
 - Communication
- **Inspiring other cities in Scotland to achieve mobility and climate goals**



Image: City of Edinburgh Council

Thank you!





Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is the charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

We work directly with communities to make change happen. Then we evidence the impact to influence policies that push those changes further.

Because people powered movement changes everything. Our health. Our wellbeing. Our world.

Find out more at
www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered charity no. 326550 (England and Cymru), SC039263 (Scotland) and 20206824 (Republic of Ireland)

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