



Cllr Lesley Macinnes, Convener
Transport and Environment Committee
The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers, High Street
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Low Traffic
Corstorphine

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East Craigs Low Traffic Neighbourhood

24th September 2020

Dear members of the Transport and Environment Committee

Low Traffic Corstorphine (LTC) is a group of locals in Corstorphine with an interest in liveable streets and places for people. We write in relation to the upcoming Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 1st October 2020, specifically regarding the trial of a temporary Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) at East Craigs.

LTC and a number of local supporters are hopeful you will support the adjusted East Craigs plans as proposed by council officers and supported by Cllr Macinnes.

There is good [evidence](#) from other places in the UK and Europe that shows it is likely an LTN would bring benefits to East Craigs and west Edinburgh. There will be lessons to learn from the trial but there is huge potential to improve the local area, with benefits including better air quality, improved community health, more social cohesion and safer, more positive redress of space, favouring healthy travel and better access for all kinds of people, not just those who drive.

These outcomes are too important to squander. A real-time trial with on-site consultation can enable proper modification of the design as needs arise. This is by far the most practical way to assess and deliver benefits. West Edinburgh has been asking to improve the area for people (not traffic) for many years; any consultation the council has run in the area confirms this – the 2016 [local placemaking exercise](#), the recent Commonplace consultation and the West Edinburgh Link consultation are just a few that spring to mind.

Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council policy backs a temporary LTN in East Craigs. [The 2030 Vision for Active Travel](#) says that “Scotland’s communities are shaped around people, with walking or cycling the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys”. The Council’s own policy guidance recommends the [sustainable transport hierarchy](#). It is very difficult to find any transport or planning policy that advocates the continuing dominance of vehicular traffic where people live. Scottish Government Covid-19 policy guidance is explicit in its recommendation to make walking and cycling the first choice of getting around to help maintain physical distancing and to ease the pressures the road network faces as people avoid public transport.

The [Active Travel Task Force](#) recommendations say that “strong leadership is required at a national and local level, to take charge and to take the difficult, contentious decisions.” While we realise that there has been some vocal opposition to this scheme, we hope that the local and national policy landscape, evidence from other LTNs, the local community’s keenness to reduce traffic, and the knowledge that it is important to make the right decision and not the popular one will lead you to support this trial and all the potential that comes with it.

Yours sincerely
(on behalf of Low Traffic Corstorphine)

Vikki Brown

Damian Mullan

Chris Young