

## **NTBCC Transport Committee Update – December 2023**

### **East London Street**

Following the decision taken at the October Transport and Environment Committee meeting to bring forward a report on the options for this street, we have written to Councillor McFarlane to clarify a couple of issues that we raised in our deputation. He has provided responses from Council officials which have confirmed that the traffic survey has been completed and will allow the type of vehicles using the street to be determined. The response regarding the noise survey last year however raises concerns as there has not been any independent review of the results despite us highlighting specific issues with the data and conclusions reached in the report. We will continue to seek clarification of the results in advance of the January 2024 TEC meeting. I have also had a constructive Teams meeting with senior management from Lothian Buses in an effort to improve communications on issues affecting our community including East London Street. A further meeting has been arranged for February 2024.

### **Picardy Place**

As noted last month, the drawings provided in response to our Freedom of Information request do not contain the requested information regarding the dimensions of footpaths and cycle paths. I have visited the site with a local Spokes representative, and we identified a number of issues with the design. The most significant of these is a lighting pole in the middle of a cycle path. I will email the Council Officer responsible for this project to ask for clarification of their plans to resolve this issue. Based on a review of the information provided, I believe that we should appeal the decision to withhold the detailed drawings but will seek advice from our local Councillors on our next steps.

### **Low Emission Zone**

We had a meeting with the Project Manager for the LEZ Project to discuss the plans for additional monitoring of traffic and atmospheric emissions on streets adjacent to the LEZ. It was not clear from the discussion whether there are any specific plans for additional monitoring of either traffic volumes or atmospheric emissions in the areas outside the LEZ. The primary focus appears to be on compliance within the LEZ and impact on atmospheric emissions within that city centre area. We will continue to press for clarification of their plans. There is an interesting SEPA [report](#) available on the Council's website that looks at compliance levels by vehicle type since 2016. This shows that there continue to be about 50% of diesel cars and 35% of light goods vehicles that are not currently compliant. These vehicles will presumably be excluded from the LEZ and therefore will either need to be replaced before next June or will be restricted to roads outside the LEZ. These numbers raise significant concerns about the future operation of the LEZ

### **Tram Works**

Community Councils Together for Trams (CCTT) made a deputation to the November Transport and Environment Committee meeting highlighting that there remain many defects and other issues to be resolved before the project can be considered complete. The deputation also sought clarity on the future handover and management of these issues. It was reported that a formal handover plan would soon be presented to the Trams Board for approval, but it is not clear when this will be available for scrutiny by Councillors and Community Councils. We continue to press for the agreed changes to the public realm at Blenheim Place to be progressed. We still await the issue of the latest Road Safety Audit which was expected to be complete by mid-November.

### **Supported Bus Services**

Just prior to the November TEC meeting, we were alerted by Councillor Caldwell that there was a proposal to change the route of the number 13 bus so that it terminated in Dumbiedykes rather than Lochend. This would have resulted in it no longer serving the northern New Town, Bellevue and Broughton Road in our area. Councillor Caldwell spoke against any such changes being approved now given the lack of consultation and an amendment to this effect was approved. It is likely that this matter will come back to committee again once the planned bidding exercise for

subsidised routes has been completed. It will be important to gather feedback from people living in our community about the value of the current service so that we and local Councillors can properly represent them when it is considered again.

### **Controlled Parking Zones**

We note that Councillor Mitchell has asked questions at next week's full Council meeting about the impact of the roll out of communal bin hubs on the number of parking spaces in a number of streets, some of which are in our area. It would be helpful to have visibility across our whole area of the current number of resident, dual use and pay&display spaces that are available compared to the number of permits that have been granted and how many have been lost as a result of the implementation of other Council policies such as communal bins, cycling storage and travelling safety measures. We will request our Councillors to obtain this information or submit a FOI.

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