NTBCC Transport and Environment Committee Update – August 2025

Communal Bin Review

The Transport and Environment Committee in June approved the recommended waste collection arrangements in the Phase 6 area which includes most of the New Town. Following representations from some of our local Councillors, several verbal amendments to the final recommendations were approved which include the need for Council officers to review the decisions made for streets where the responses of residents were unclear or inadequate. We await further information about how we will be involved in this further engagement.

City Centre Cycling Exemptions

We submitted an objection to the TRO24/27 specifically with regard to the proposal to allow contra-flow cycling on two one-way streets in our area (Rose Street and Thistle Street) due to concerns about pedestrian safety. Living Streets Edinburgh also submitted an objection regarding the largely pedestrianised Rose Street. It remains to be seen whether there have been sufficient objections to require this matter to go to committee for a final decision.

George Street and First New Town

Following our deputation to the Transport and Environment Committee meeting regarding the pausing of the work on the cross streets we had a follow-up meeting with Jamie Robertson to expand on our concerns. It was agreed that we would have a further meeting to look at the re-routing of buses from George Street.

Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – East Area

We made further representations to the Traffic Regulation Orders Sub-Committee meeting in advance of their meeting on 7 August regarding Experimental Traffic Regulation Order _ East Area (ETRO 21/28A). The sub-committee agreed to defer any decision pending greater clarity on the scope and cost of any modifications to make the measures suitable for permanent use.

Trams to Newhaven Project Update

The Community Councils Together for Trams (CCTT) once again met with Gareth Barwell (Interim Head of Place) to review progress on the actions resulting from our previous meeting in January to allow the project to be closed out. It was agreed that good but slower than anticipated progress had been made in prioritising work on the master issues list of over 800 items. The TTN website has been updated to include a dashboard showing the status of the various issues. There will be a pause in much of the work in our area during the festival period which means that there will be no progress on the relocation of the benches on Blenheim Place until at least September.

Charlotte Square

We attended a meeting regarding the planned public realm improvements in Charlotte Square. Although some features of the planned work would be welcome, it is still not clear on what basis this work is being progressed when there are higher priority projects awaiting resources.

North/South Trams Route Consultation

The Council has confirmed its plans to commence public consultation on a new north-south trams route. Although this will be mainly outside of our area, the project and the subsequent trams route

could have a significant impact on traffic flows especially the short section of Princes Street between North Bridge and South St Andrew Street.

NTBCC Transport and Environment Committee

Due to other commitments we needed to postpone the planned committee meeting for the end of July, but we will hopefully be able to find a suitable date and location for this meeting before our September meeting

Prepared by Mike Birch
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