

Response ID ANON-MKNR-FGGJ-P

Submitted to **Edinburgh: connecting our city, transforming our places**

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Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Patrick Keady

2 What is your email address?

Email:

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3 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is your organisation?

Organisation:

Old Town Community Council

Ideas for an active and connected city

4 The Council wants to ensure that the city centre is at the heart of Edinburgh's communities, its cultural and civic life and the focal point for its economy. In addition, improvements to our environment and transport system must benefit our local town centres and neighbourhoods. Please tell us your views on the following statements:

The amount of general traffic in the city centre and town centres should be reduced to improve the experience for people who live, work and visit:

Strongly Agree

The amount of general traffic in the city centre and town centres should be reduced to improve the experience for people who travel on foot, bicycle and public transport. :

Strongly Agree

5 Evidence suggests that an increased uptake of walking and cycling can have a positive impact on physical health and mental wellbeing. Better connections for people on foot and bike could improve their access to employment, education, health services and social support networks. Please tell us your views on the following statement:

By creating a safe, attractive, accessible and connected network of walking routes and cycling routes, more people would choose to walk or cycle for short journeys rather than use a car:

Strongly Agree

6 Most of Edinburgh is well served by frequent public transport (bus or tram), especially for journeys to/from the city centre. Travel by rail has also increased over recent years. However, Edinburgh's population is growing and there are some communities who could be better served by public transport. Please tell us your views on the following statement:

The city's public transport system should be extended and serve more people and employment areas across the city and the city region:

Neither agree nor disagree

7 The volume of public transport going through the city centre, particularly at peak times, leads to longer journey times and impacts on how people experience the city centre environment. A single type of ticket and fare payment across all forms of public transport could reduce congestion. Please tell us your views on the following statement:

There should be a single type of ticket or fare payment to cover multiple journeys across the public transport system.:

Strongly Agree

Ideas for an active and connected city

8 There are a number of ways that the Council could help provide more travel choices for people without access to a private car, or who are poorly served by public transport within the city. Which of the following would be useful? Please tick as many as you wish.

Providing more car club hire locations across the city

Other - please write in.:

For residents wanting to move from A to B in Old Town, our neighbourhood is not particularly well served by affordable public transport. It is the view of Old Town Community Council that Lothian Bus ticket holders should be allowed to use the Edinburgh Bus Tour buses, Rabbits City Tours and other tourist centred bus companies - this would support the LEZ proposal by increasing options for residents to get from A to B in Old Town, increasing occupancy in these buses from a

mere 15%, and without introducing more diesel/petrol driven vehicles. It is the view of Old Town Community Council that allowing residents to use these and other tourist buses should become a mandatory condition of renewing licences all tourist bus companies operating in Edinburgh City Centre.

9 The Council has a responsibility to protect people from the harms of poor air quality. The Scottish Government and the Council are committing to implementing Low Emission Zones (LEZ) in Edinburgh. LEZs would restrict vehicles from entering a zone by imposing a monetary penalty where they do not meet minimum emission standards. Please tell us your views on the following statement:

Restricting access for the most polluting vehicles to the city centre and the wider city is one way to control and improve air quality:

Strongly Agree

10 Thinking about your most recent visit to the city centre, what was your main reason?

Reason for visiting:

I live in the city centre

Other, please write in:

If you don't visit the City Centre, please tell us why.:

11 Thinking about your last visit to the city centre, overall how satisfied were you with your enjoyment of the streets and public spaces?

satisfaction with public spaces:

Dissatisfied

Please tell us why you feel this way.:

Our satisfaction varies significantly throughout the year - from lows (in July/August/December) to highs (October/November/January/February). In July/August/December, attempting to get from A to B in Old Town is as bust as trying to get to Murrayfield Stadium on the afternoon of 6-Nations matches. The main difference is that while Murrayfield Stadium will be busy for up to 5 hours on match day, most of Old Town is this busy seven days a week between the hours of 10am and 11pm. The reasons for our dissatisfaction are well documneted over the last 10 years or so in interviews with most media channels in the UK (including BBC tv, STV, Scotsman, Glasgow Herald, Times, Express, Guardian). For more details, please see <http://web14.extendcp.co.uk/edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk/wordpress/virgin-hotels-edinburgh-india-buildings/> <http://web14.extendcp.co.uk/edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk/wordpress/grassmarket/> <http://web14.extendcp.co.uk/edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk/wordpress/old-town-bid-business-improvement-district/>

12 If you are a resident of the city, please tell us your views on whether the appearance of streets and public open spaces should be improved where you live?

Opinion on your street:

Strongly Agree

Please tell us how it could be improved: :

The Royal Mile has been taken over by cheap tartan products not originating in Scotland. Visitors regularly comment at the lack of local shops. The surfacing of the main trunk roads has improved considerably. But setted streets need much more attention. The ban on A-Boards and street advertising structures was porposed by Old Town Community Council and we welcome its introduction earlier in October. Coaches and local business owners continue to park on pavements - this reduces access for pedestrians and increases the maintenance budget for CEC. It is the view of Old Town Community Council that this needs to be prevented by increasing the volume of streets that are fully pedestrianised. It needs to be managed through tougher enforcement.

Ideas for an active and connected city

13 To reduce traffic in the city centre and town centres, create a more welcoming and healthy environment for people and business, and to protect its heritage and culture, how much do you support the following ideas?

Selected temporary vehicle free streets once a month in the city centre and town centres:

Do not support

The creation of permanently vehicle free streets within the city centre:

Somewhat support

A reduction in the availability of on-street parking:

Somewhat support

Reducing the number of bus services passing through the city centre:

Fully support

Introducing and enforcing controls to manage access for large delivery vehicles by size, weight and time:

Fully support

Investing in freight depots around and within the city and supporting delivery within the city by smaller, cleaner vehicles:

Do not support

Investing in technology to better manage traffic congestion and improve safety:

Do not support

The park and ride network should be expanded:

Fully support

14 The Council has to do more to ensure the air we breathe is healthy for us all. In five of Edinburgh's six Air Quality Management Areas legal standards for nitrogen dioxide are regularly exceeded. These are the City Centre and the West End, St John's Road, Inverleith Row, Great Junction Street, and Glasgow Road (Newbridge).

Euro IV:

2 years

What are your reasons for this answer?:

Time for CEC to introduce new arrangements and vehicle owners to make alternative arrangements

15 How much do you support the Council investing in electric vehicle charging points to reduce the reliance on privately-owned petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles?

EV:

Fully support

Ideas for an active and connected city

16 Where businesses in the city provide free parking spaces for employees, how much would you support charging the business to fund a higher quality public transport system?

Workplace parking levy:

Fully support

17 Some neighbourhood streets in Edinburgh are used by people to park on the street for free. To reduce the impact of this on local residents, should the Council extend parking controls across the city?

parking zones:

Yes

If this impacts on you, please tell us more:

18 Overall, having considered the range of ideas, how ambitious do you think Edinburgh needs to be to deliver a city that works for you?

Ambition:

Investment and improvement is needed in key locations

Please tell us more about why you feel this way:

OTCC would like to see an exception made for residents in Old Town with cars that would incur LEZ charges so that they would be exempt from the proposed for a defined number of years, or until they sell their car, or until a residents parking permit is issued for another car at their address.

19 Do you have any other ideas, big or small, about how Edinburgh can support its economy, connect its communities and transform its streets and public spaces?

Ideas:

Thank you for giving the public this opportunity to shape decisions around traffic and the proposed LEZ. Old Town Community Council has been giving our ideas for about 20 years now. Our current views are summarised in "Our Streets"

<http://web14.extendcp.co.uk/edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Our-Streets-2.pdf> Reactions to Our Streets are summarised at <http://web14.extendcp.co.uk/edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk/wordpress/2018/04/11/chronology-of-our-streets-coverage-in-the-media/>. Old Town Community Council notes that CEC has listened and a number of steps have been taken in response to Our Streets, although more needs to be done.

20 What impacts on fairness and equality, if any, might result from introducing any of the ideas discussed previously?

Question 20:

The experiences of residents living in Old Town could be enhanced and demands on the NHS reduced.

About you

21 What is your age?

55 - 64

22 What is your gender?

Male

23 Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

No

24 What is your home post code?

post code:

EH1 1YJ

25 What mode of travel do you use most often?

mode of transport:

On foot

26 What is your ethnic group? (Choose ONE section from A to E, then tick ONE box which best describes your ethnic group or background)

Irish

Other white ethnic group, please write in:

Not Answered

Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in:

Not Answered

Other, please write in:

Not Answered

Other, please write in:

Not Answered

Other, please write in:

Your experience

27 To what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements about this survey?

Feedback about consultation process - I was given all the information that I needed.:

Strongly agree

Feedback about consultation process - The information was clear and easy to understand.:

Strongly agree

Feedback about consultation process - I was allowed the opportunity to have my say.:

Strongly agree

Please provide any other comments or suggestions you may have about the consultation process.:

28 If you would like to be contacted with the results of this survey and about the next stages of this project please enter your email address below.

email:

online@edinburgholdtowncc.org.uk

29 The Council will publish all responses received. Please indicate how you would like your response to be published:

Publish:

Publish my response with the name of my organisation