LIVING STREETS EDINBURGH MANIFESTO FOR WALKING

Living Streets Edinburgh is a local campaign group which promotes everyday walking.

We want Edinburgh to have a better public realm encouraging safe and convenient movement for everyone.

With Council elections taking place on 4th May 2017, Living Streets Edinburgh is asking all political parties to include measures in their manifestos that will make walking in the city safer, easier and more enjoyable. Walking is not only the most inclusive and sustainable form of travel, it is also vital for the local economy. for public health and above all, for a genuine sense of community. Edinburgh is a naturally 'walkable' city, but conditions for pedestrians are often wholly inadequate. Yet despite the many barriers to walking, virtually everyone uses the pavements. We want the Council to build on this, and to support our aim to make Edinburgh a truly world-class city for people walking. Here are our four 'big ideas':

1. TRANSFORM STREET MANAGEMENT

Many of our streets are currently a shambles, with broken pavements full of all kinds of clutter. We need to change the way our streets are managed on a day-to-day basis, with joined-up and accountable responsibility for looking after our streets, spotting faults and ensuring that they are fixed quickly.

2. INVEST MUCH MORE IN WALKING

We need to prioritise spending more on practical measures to help walking as a key component of a civilised public realm: such as better maintenance, junction improvements, more pedestrian crossings, renewal and widening of pavements. Unless we do this, the Council's pro-walking policies and Street Design Guidance are just talk.

3. MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR THE CITY CENTRE

Many streets in central Edinburgh are overwhelmed by traffic, especially large vehicles like coaches, bin lorries and HGVs. We can't fix these problems street-by-street, but instead need a coherent and comprehensive plan for the whole city centre that strikes a better balance between people and traffic.

4. PEDESTRIANISE GEORGE STREET

Edinburgh lacks a landmark pedestrianisation project – in stark contrast to almost any peer city in the world. There is a clear case to return George Street to people, rather than traffic, through an ambitious pedestrianisation scheme.

LIVING STREETS EDINBURGH GROUP

Edinburgh, with its generally dense pattern of housing, and its walkable distances, could be a European exemplar of a pedestrian-friendly city. But the many sensible walking-related policies of the City of Edinburgh Council too often don't translate in practice into a safe and attractive walking environment on the streets. Motor traffic continues to dominate the vast majority of the city's streets – yet there are clear economic, environmental and social benefits in prioritising pedestrian movement within a high-quality public realm.

The key aim of Living Streets Edinburgh Group (LSEG) is to promote walking as a safe, enjoyable and easy way of getting around the city – so why not join our campaign?

Contact David Spaven, LSEG Convenor, at livingstreetsedinburgh@gmail.com

*35% of all journeys by Edinburgh residents are made on foot, whilst a further 18% are by bus which involves walking to and from stops.

Last census showed a very small growth in trips by walking, bucking the trend compared to other Local Authorities across Scotland.

53%
OF ALL TRIPS
BY EDINBURGH
RESIDENTS
INVOLVES
TRAVEL
ON FOOT



AND THIS NUMBER IS GROWING*



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Living Streets Edinburgh is the local campaigning group of the national charity for everyday walking, Living Streets Scotland.