

Queensferry High Street Town Centre Improvement Project Update No.3 – May 2023

Progress so far:

Firstly, apologies for not offering a project update sooner. Since the last update in 2021 we have delivered the first phase of the High Street works, developed a final design layout in conjunction with the Project Steering Group and recently sought committee approval to promote the necessary traffic orders.

As a recap the last update noted the Steering Group had agreed to progress with the one-way layout similar to the temporary measures that are currently in place. It is considered the best way to create more space for pedestrians and cyclists and improve the environment for everyone on the High Street and represents the clear majority of the community to move away from the congested two way system in the consultations.

In November 2020 and June 2022 we submitted bids for external project funding to Sustrans. Unfortunately, despite early positivity both bids were rejected and further discussions in early 2023 concluded that funding would not be available unless the presence of parking was significantly reduced.

As a result, the project team will work to secure other project funding via council and external sources, over the next financial year. The project has an allocation of just over £1m from the Scottish Government Place Based

Investment Programme, however, the cost to deliver the full scheme will be in the region of £2m to £3m depending on the material specification.



Advance Works

I'm sure you will have noticed the Phase 1 works that were completed at the Loan / High Street junction to install new pedestrian crossings and widen the pavements. These works were completed in June last year and will hopefully give you an idea of the quality and style of work we plan to deliver through the rest of the High Street.

These works were delivered separately to take advantage of time limited Scottish Government funding in 2021 and 2022.

The advance works will hopefully bookend the High Street scheme, improve road safety for pedestrians and provide a safe turning area in the Hawes Car Park for larger vehicles.

The works comprised of:

- Installation of a new signalised junction with pedestrian crossing points at the foot of the Loan to improve road safety for pedestrians and vulnerable road users.
- Introduction of a turning head at the west end of the Hawes Car Park to provide a safer turning facility for larger vehicles.
- A speed table on Rosshill Terrace (Station Road) to try and influence driver behaviour.
- Resurfacing of the Bellstane and footways to the frontage of the Priory Church in hard wearing granite materials.

The Next Steps

Following approval of the final layout, at the Council Transport and Environment Committee, the project team are focusing on promoting the new Traffic Orders required to:

- Create a permanent one-way road layout (traffic heading east), to allow widening of the pavements including a contraflow cycle lane heading west.
- Introduce a Restricted Zone through the High Street to restrict parking out with defined bays.
- Retain most of the existing Pay & Display parking bays and introduce

full time disabled persons parking places.

- Introduce a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the High Street (with a relaxation to allow morning deliveries).
- Widen the pavements and slightly narrow the road to create a safer layout for pedestrians and west-bound cyclists (with a segregated cycleway on Edinburgh Road).
- Create dedicated loading bays on the High Street that operate during the morning to support local businesses.
- Introduce a parking bay for a Car Club vehicle on the High Street and 2 EV charging bays on Edinburgh Road.

Discussions with local stakeholders have recently focused on the provision of parking facilities for local residents and visitors.

The final scheme layout has evolved to strike a balance between maintaining a town centre that is safe and welcoming whilst facilitating local business needs and residents' parking.

To make these changes we will need to promote new Traffic Orders

The legal process to make these proposed changes is due to commence shortly and everyone will have an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Unfortunately, the statutory process can take some time.

It is expected to take between 6 to 9 months to promote the various orders.

No further works can commence until the new traffic orders are in place. In the interim the current temporary one-way layout will also unfortunately need to be removed.



The Final Layout

The final project layout has evolved following detailed conversations with various stakeholders and the Project Steering Group.

I'm sure this layout will improve the environment for residents, shoppers and businesses in the Town Centre for the decades ahead, by reducing the volume of traffic and enhancing the pavements and areas to dwell.

When the necessary traffic orders are made, the project will focus on resurfacing the High Street, in high quality materials, and narrowing Newhalls Road leading up to the Hawes Car Park. By doing this we can create a new segregated cycleway, for westbound cyclists, from the Hawes Car Park into the High Street.

We have also accommodated a significant number of spaces for visitors and residents to park on Edinburgh Road.

Project Updates over 2023

The traffic order process should start shortly with an engagement for statutory consultees, followed by the public advertising of the relevant orders.

We will keep you updated of progress relating to the proposed traffic orders and our funding bids as the year progresses.

As we get closer to the start of the project, expected to be in Spring 2024, we will prepare another project briefing for the local community. Before any future works starts we will also contact all residents and businesses affected over the project area, to discuss the programme, phasing and access during the construction period.

We will continue to hold Project Steering Group meetings, when appropriate, and work closely with the Queensferry & District Community Council to ensure our lines of communication are maintained.

More information

I hope this project update is helpful and apologies again for not keeping you updated. If you need any more information about the project, please contact me on the following email david.sinclair@edinburgh.gov.uk

We will arrange for project updates and plans to be posted on the Queensferry and District Community Council Facebook page and Website as well as community noticeboards in the Town.

If you wish to be included or removed from the mailing list, or to have your data amended please contact gillian.smith@ironsidefarrar.com



Data Protection

Any information shared with the project team will be used to inform the development of this project and may be shared with contracted organisations if deemed necessary, appropriate and compliant with GDPR legislation.