

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 17 June 2021

Petition for Consideration: Pedestrianise Elm Row

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive Leith Walk
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the terms of the petition 'Pedestrianise Elm Row' as set out in Appendix one.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Report

Pedestrianise Elm Row

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Transport and Environment Committee is asked to consider a petition at this meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council at its meeting on 22 June 2017 agreed the Petitions Committee be discontinued and that petitions would be sent to the responsible executive committees or in future locality committees for consideration.
- 3.2 At the meeting, the committee can:
- a) request a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee;
 - b) agree that the issues raised do not merit further action and/or
 - c) agree to take any other appropriate action.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A valid petition entitled 'Pedestrianise Elm Row' has been received. The petition received 223 signatures.
- 4.2 The petition calls on the Council to help local businesses by closing 'Elm Row' to traffic once a week, to allow outdoor seating.
- 4.3 There are currently some businesses on Elm Row which have applied for and been granted permits for outdoor space.
- 4.4 However, due to the on-going Tram construction work on Leith Walk, officers consider that it would not be possible to pedestrianise Elm Row at the current time.
- 4.5 Once the Tram construction works are completed, officers could work with local businesses and residents in the area to investigate options to pedestrianise Elm Row at least one day per week.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The committee will determine next steps at this meeting.

6. Financial impact

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 There are no stakeholder/ community impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council 22 June 2017.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Petition - Pedestrianise Elm Row

Appendix 1 - Pedestrianise Elm Row

Date made available for signatures	Date closed for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected
1 April 2021	10 June 2021	<p>Pedestrianise Elm Row</p> <p>As the Covid restrictions in Edinburgh begin to ease, those businesses without space for outside seating are at a severe disadvantage.</p> <p>My proposition to the council is to help local businesses who do not have much (if any) outdoor seating,</p> <p>I ask the council to consider closing Elm Row to traffic for at least one day a week to give the businesses a fighting chance in staying open.</p> <p>Closing Elm Row to traffic one day a week and allowing businesses to extend their seating onto the road, maximising outdoor capacity.</p>	Leith Walk