

Living Streets applaud traffic ban

Walking campaigners have hailed the City Council's plans to stop daytime vehicle traffic in two streets in the Old Town during the August as a good move.

Both streets link from either side of the Royal Mile, and the council says it will close them both between 10am and 5pm each day in August.



David Spaven, the Convenor of Living Streets Edinburgh Group, commented: 'We've been pressing the Council for several years to tackle this growing problem of lack of space for pedestrians in the city centre during the peak summer season. So, we're delighted they've taken up our idea. Banning traffic from Cockburn Street and Blair Street is an important step towards creating a civilised city centre which is safe and convenient for all pedestrians. But it should be just the start of a more ambitious programme – with growing safety

concerns along Cowgate, we feel this traffic-dominated street should be an early priority for treatment.'

Living Streets are marking up the traffic ban as their second campaigning success in a matter of weeks. In May, the Council backed a plan to remove advertising boards from pavements throughout the city – one of the walking group's key aims in recent years.