

# **Calls for the public to help redesign the Pride Bridge**

## **Calls for the public to help redesign the replacement for the Pride Bridge at Lindsay Road.**

The local landmark was a popular route over Hawthornvale Path for people walking and cycling, and in 2021 it was painted in rainbow colours, leading to it being named locally as the 'Rainbow' or 'Pride' Bridge.

In December 2021 the bridge, which is at the end of its lifespan, was closed due to concerns around health and safety, sparking a local 'Save the Pride Bridge' campaign. Council officers have since made a [successful application for Transport Scotland funding](#) for the design of a replacement bridge deck, with £232,700 awarded.

Now designer, Mott McDonald, has been appointed and, along with the council, are engaging with the local community to develop potential designs. Two information sessions and an online consultation will help the team to better understand everyone's needs and gather feedback on proposed designs.

Cllr Scott Arthur, Transport and Environment Convener, said: "The Pride Bridge has been such a well-loved landmark and thoroughfare for the local community, it's only right that we involve them to develop a replacement.

"I was delighted last year when we secured funding to design a new bridge deck, which would once again provide a safe and convenient walking and cycling route between North Fort Street and Newhaven area.

“The strength of feeling amongst local people for this bridge, and its celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride, has been inspiring. I’d like to thank those who campaigned to protect it.”

Kasper Schwartz, Grant Advisor for Sustrans, said: “We’re excited to see how designs for the new Pride Bridge come together over the next year, and are immensely grateful to the local community for their enthusiasm in seeing this vital active travel connection reinstated for North Edinburgh.

“The Pride Bridge is not only a key walking, wheeling and cycling link for communities surrounding the Hawthornvale Path, it is also as an iconic symbol of enduring support for LGBT+ people everywhere.

Róisín Thérèse, who fronts the Save the Pride Bridge campaign, said: “The Save The Pride Bridge campaign has worked closely with the Council and design team to communicate the wishes of the local residents in terms of preserving an accessible route, a community space, and an important LGBTQ+ landmark. We are excited to participate in the public consultations to reimagine this space and secure it as a valuable community asset for years to come.”

This process is expected to last a year and when it is complete council officers intend to apply to Transport Scotland for between 70 and 100% of the construction funding required to build the bridge.

The work will be delivered alongside the [Leith Connections project](#) which is making improvements to community spaces and providing better connections for anyone walking, wheeling or cycling through the streets of Leith.

Lindsay Road Bridge information sessions will take place at the following locations and times:

Thursday 7 March, 6pm – 8pm: Dreadnought Leith, 72 North Fort

Street

Saturday 23 March, 11am – 1pm: The Heart of Newhaven Community, 4-6 Main Street

[Take part in the online consultation](#), which will close on 4 April.



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