

[Good to see congestion made a major priority?](#)

On our website at www.edinburghtramfacts.com we commented on how encouraged we were back in the last Council election in May 2012 when Labour's candidate in the Stockbridge and Inverleith ward, Lesley Hinds, made the problem of traffic congestion, and the pollution, noise and general aggravation it brings, such a major part of her campaign to get elected.

A few years back our group who have fought long and hard to make clear the realities behind the spin surrounding the Tram, and other projects especially affecting traffic and air pollution in Edinburgh, made a prediction.

It was that many roads, often many miles from the actual tram would see enormous increases in traffic, and the pollution it brings with it.

(To be honest we didn't make the prediction ourselves we found it in the main report that was commissioned to study the effects of the project years back in 2003.)

But it is a prediction that the Council itself has managed to totally ignore for over a decade, a decade in which they have pretended their tram is a Green project, good for the city and the environment.

But eventually the truth will out of course.

While for years the Council have said the tram works are to blame for the congestion, now they are long finished we are starting to see that is not so.

It is the tram itself and it's needs, that are responsible for increasing traffic congestion and pollution, just as was predicted by us and by their own 2003 report.

It did not have to be like this, the tram could have been designed differently the project managed better, but it wasn't—and now this is what is going to be like until something, finally, is done to face up to it.

That report of course said a staggering 65% of ALL households in the entire city would have WORSE air quality because of the building of the tram...not if it was or wasn't built, but because of it being built as then proposed.

And here we are in March 2014 on a street miles from the Tram line, Montagu Terrace looking down to Canonmills and, below that looking up, towards Inverleith Row and it is one continuous row of gridlocked traffic.



Congestion, pollution, gridlock and noise for residents on a road well over a mile from the tramway-- just what we predicted and even now the Council continue to deny.

Even though recently they have made Inverleith row and Ferry Road an Air quality management area for the first time...something consistently denied to the streets through the Moray Feu despite them carrying ever higher levels of traffic.

And of course the traffic doesn't just sit there, it is already rat running through smaller and smaller streets around these neighbourhood roads trying to avoid what are becoming well-known gridlocks and stoppages.

But perhaps we just got it wrong back in 2012?

When Lesley Hinds said to her electorate that she would be making traffic congestion in her ward a priority, she said exactly what she meant...and not what we thought she meant.

If so then you have to hand it to her, she is certainly being successful judging by the pictures above.

She wanted traffic congestion to be a priority and thanks to her Council's continuing state of denial and stealth policy to relocate most traffic from the central zone across the neighbourhood roads, it is finally becoming one.

Ends