

## Who are we?

R2 is a network of organisations working collaboratively in north Edinburgh. Over 40 organisations are involved from the third, statutory and private sectors. The network aims to support organisations to work more collaboratively.

In 2020 a group of local organisations was convened to develop the North Edinburgh Active Travel plan and the plan was completed in May 2021. This exercise showed the value of working with local organisations who know the area, and have good relationships with local people. More recently, R2 has brought together local organisations to update the action plan for delivery in 24/25. As a result the Council agreed to commit some funds to delivering the plan.

Members of the NEAT working group are embedded in the local community and committed to collaborating with each other. Through this group, as practitioners, we can share skills, experience and resources to ensure that anything we have is used to its maximum potential. Because we work with a wide range of different target groups, we can hear from and work with a wide range of local residents.

## What do we want to do – outcomes –5 year ambition

We want to develop a bank of community resources that encourage and enable local people to get about more easily and feel safe doing so. It will include information, knowledge, skills and physical resources. We are very aware that the majority of people in the area don't have access to a car and therefore rely on active travel or public transport to get where they need to go. As much as we want to support people to develop skills and confidence in walking and cycling, we recognise we need to improve the environment and how safe residents feel so that they do walk and cycle more. Current developments on Pennywell Road and West Pilton Park give us the opportunity to do this. The resources will support local people and organisations with an interest in increasing or improving opportunities to walk and cycle. It will promote a positive view of the area and walking and cycling here, better connecting people to their neighbours and to more local amenities/services

We want this to be sustainable and to be socially enterprising in the sense that it is locally led and has both a sound business model and achieves social impact. We'd expect it to offer employment and training opportunities. We want to be able to offer affordable bike maintenance, bikes for sale or loan, free advice and information for local residents and organisations. We'd expect the active travel hub to work in partnership with local organisations to reach beyond those that are already inclined to walk, wheel or cycle.

We want any new walking and cycling infrastructure to be designed with us and the community directly. We think our knowledge of the area and relationships with local residents give us useful insight into what will be appreciated in the area. We want any signage to be for and by us and 'show off' all the good things happening in North Edinburgh. We think there is a real opportunity if our paths, parks and public realm are safer and more accessible for everyone but this will take time, careful planning, genuine community engagement and investment.



## **What have we got already - what are we building on**

North Edinburgh already has a wide range of organisations committed to working collaboratively through the R2 group. Many of these organisations want to expand their work around active travel.

- North Edinburgh Arts Centre – Link Up team working with residents to improve skills re bike maintenance and running Dr Bikes
- Pilton Community Health Project offers walking to all its groups and walking/cycling maps
- Midnight and Beyond works with young people and has a keen interest in developing skills and offering outdoor activities including walking and cycling
- ELREC working at Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre to support people to maintain bikes and offering regular Dr Bike sessions and led rides
- Active involvement from Police Scotland officers at Drylaw station
- Granton Goes Greener runs litter picks and supports others to do so
- Many other organisations are interested in or working towards outcomes that overlap with this group. Other members of the R2 network's NEAT subgroup collaborating on this workstream including Granton Community Gardeners, Community Renewal Pennywell, Muirhouse Housing Association and Citizens Advice Edinburgh.

Much of this work is dependent on small pots of funding and/or particular workers who are keen to promote walking and cycling. The community resources we want to create would be a collaborative and joined up effort to make a more consistent and responsive offer around walking and cycling in the area.

## **Taking it one step at a time**

The proposal below is a first step towards the longer term vision.

The funding we are requesting from the Council will be used collaboratively by the above organisations and more. We anticipate that this funding will provide a firm foundation for work around active travel that we can build on with other funds from other sources. The development of this plan has already allowed us to open conversations with Scottish Cycling and CoMo who are keen to be involved and could, potentially, bring additional resource. We also anticipate applying to organisations like Cycling Scotland for funds for bike storage in the future.

We also expect that this work will help us further develop an already good working relationship with the active travel team within the Council. The NEAT working group members want to bring their own knowledge of the area to support the design of the new infrastructure. The connections we have with local people put us in a good place to hear from them about what they need and want from the new infrastructure so we are keen to be involved in discussions about the design. We have included some costs for this in this proposal and hope for further opportunities will open up over time.

Many organisations have already committed to deliver specific parts of the proposal below. We have left some aspects open to other organisations that may well want to join the delivery group at a later date or in a more adhoc basis. We believe that some flexibility is desirable and inevitable, and offers local people the best opportunity to hear about and be interested in, and take advantage of the work we want to do. We are confident that this is an achievable plan.

### **Practical matters**

The money will be held by North Edinburgh Arts on the understanding that it will be shared by a wider range of local organisations. North Edinburgh Arts will invoice for monies spent regularly, probably on a quarterly basis.

We will ask organisations delivering work to complete a brief report of the work they have delivered (see evaluation and monitoring below) as part of the invoicing process. The R2 co-ordinator will oversee the finances and produce a final report on activities for the Council.

## Delivery plan

Activities	Delivery partners
<p><b>Walking activities</b></p> <p>We will <b>train</b> at least 10 (up to 30) people to be <b>walk leaders</b>. They will be a mixture of local workers and volunteers.</p> <p>Workers and volunteers who attend this training will be required to deliver at least one walk in partnership with a R2 member organisation.</p> <p>Participants will be encouraged to share risk assessed walks, popular destinations, local highlights and best practice with each other and other walk leaders in the area – helping to build a library of locally accessible shared resources.</p>	<p>Open to all R2 members to apply for places.</p> <p>Anticipate: CAB Edinburgh, PCHP, Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, North Edinburgh Arts as a minimum</p>
<p>We will develop a programme of <b>40 led walks</b> for the year 24/25. These will target different groups and abilities and be led by existing and new walk leaders. We really want to explore how we can add value to these walks by having advisors, health professionals or others join the walk. There will be a focus on highlighting the assets in this community. For example: buggy walks, gentle walks for older people, Art trail walks, foraging walks, advice delivery etc.</p> <p>Delivery organisations will be required to deliver at least 50% of led walks in partnership with another R2 member organisation.</p> <p>Organisations delivering these walks will be encouraged to share risk assessed walks, popular destinations, local highlights and best practice with each other and other walk leaders in the area – helping to build a library of locally accessible shared resources. (see below also)</p>	<p>Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre Community Renewal Pilton Community Health Project North Edinburgh Arts Centre Grass Roots Remedies</p>
<p>Litter picks</p> <p>Library of litter pickers to be held by Granton Goes Greener who will organise a least 6 litter picks for their groups.</p> <p>They will support at least 6 additional litter picks by loaning equipment to other local organisations.</p>	<p>Granton Goes Greener</p>

The NEAT team will lead 6 local <b>'walkabouts'</b> with specific target groups to hear more about what needs to be improved in the area. Local politicians and developers will be invited to attend.	Community Renewal North Edinburgh Arts Pilton Community Health Project
<b>Cycling</b>	
Provide 8 Velo tech training courses (Bronze, Silver or Gold)	Offered to all R2 members.  Anticipate NEA, ELREC and Midnight and Beyond
Basic bike maintenance courses (in partnership with local organisations)	NEA/ELREC
Deliver 15 x 2 hr Dr Bike sessions in various venues across north Edinburgh.  Delivery partners will be expected to deliver at least 50% of sessions in partnership with another R2 member organisation.	To be delivered by NEA and ELREC (Midnight and Beyond)
Train local workers and volunteers in British Cycling Ride Leaders	Offer to all R2 members
Programme of bike activities for diverse groups in and around north Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn to ride sessions</li> <li>- Bikeability (levels 1, 2 and 3) for children who missed it at school and for young people who missed it because of COVID</li> <li>- Led rides tailored to diverse groups</li> <li>- Fun rides for kids/young people (at the Gypsy Brae track)</li> </ul> 50% of delivery in partnership with local groups  Transport to move bikes when required.	ELREC, Midnight and Beyond, North Edinburgh Arts
Led rides to/from community festival visiting local places of interest (bike tours of Pilton)	ELREC
<b>Development of Bike library</b> Includes: Preparation of storage space, purchasing bikes and associated safety equipment, establishing a library system, making bikes safely available for local organisations, liaison with Scottish Cycling who may be able to provide additional bikes and storage space, and maintenance of the bikes.	NEA and WPNC
<b>Promotion</b>	
Update and reprint 'Little Gems' booklet to include cycle rides	Pilton Community Health Project

Update and add to NEAT.scot website, webhosting	Community Renewal and R2
Active travel event in MacMillan square	R2/CEC/NEAT
<b>Project development and oversight</b>	
Hearing from local people. Employ a film maker to work with groups and individuals to hear about their local journeys and how they could be improved. Aim to engage with at least 5 different groups/individuals who have particular needs.	NEA/CR in collaboration with other local organisations.
First aid courses for 10 individuals who become ride or walk leaders	R2 to co-ordinate
Administration of finances	