



the Causey

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West Crosscauseway, 1900s



The Causey today



A Tropical Island



A Tropical Island



Transforming a Place

The Causey project sets out to reclaim this small, historic, urban space on the South Side from cars and transform it into a place for people that is a focus for events, encourages neighbourliness, is accessible to all and draws attention to its historic buildings. The project is a grass roots initiative by people for people, delivered by the Causey Development Trust.

A Rich History



1914: West Crosscauseway looking east towards Arthur Seat



WEST CROSSCAUSEWAY (CROSSCAUSEY)
This map of 1745 shows The Causey when Bonnie Prince Charlie was in Edinburgh and when Robert Burns stayed here in 1786. The area still appears to be fairly rural and the road pattern remains unchanged from earlier times. Crosscausey is one of the oldest streets in the South Side; in 1599 it was paved or "causeyed" (from the Old French word caudle, a beaten way) - hence Crosscausey.

The map shows the Gusedub (goose pond), mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in memories of his childhood. The pond was drained in 1715 but the watery connection continued with a horse trough on the site in the early 20th century.

The Chapel of Ease on Chapel Street was built to accommodate overspill congregation from Greyfriars Church.



ROBERT BURNS

From 1786 Robert Burns spent fourteen months in Edinburgh and is known to have resided for some of that in Buccleuch Street on the South Side. He lived in the basement of...



Today



THE CAUSEY TODAY - TRAFFIC

The Causey project is about people but it begins with cars

- Vehicle traffic has increased five-fold since 1950
- Traffic oriented thinking almost demolished The Southside in the 1960s
- Thanks to groups like The Southside Association this didn't happen
- But streets became increasingly designed for cars, not people
- People feel less inclined to use the street, less safe
- Health and wellbeing issues
- The red light is a problem
- Over people

Involving Local People



SIX CITIES DESIGN FESTIVAL

In May 2007, as part of the SIX CITIES Design Festival, we created a temporary transformation of the traffic island at West Crosscauseway into an elegant "tropical island". Over 500 people a day visited the project and were invited to place their

responses to the transformation on an "Ideas Tree" at the centre of the island.

Feedback from the Ideas Tree was so positive that we set to work on a permanent transformation of the place for people.

INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE - WORKSHOPS

Continuing the ethos of engaging with and embedding the project in the local community, we worked with local organisations and in 2008-9, with The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland, we held three Ideas Workshops attended by 90 local people, aged from 13 to 93, where they explored the history of The Causey and its buildings and how it has changed over the years. They then created designs and models expressing how The Causey could be designed for people to use in future.



A Vision for the Future



THE OUTLINE DESIGN PROPOSAL INCLUDES

Making West Crosscauseway into a shared surface where pedestrians have priority, move at a very slow speed and good behaviour is encouraged. Stowing the traffic on Buccleuch Street by narrowing and raising the kerb through The Causey.

The Causey wallboard

- A meeting place for the local community that is accessible to all members of the local community
- Appropriate materials used should be high quality and adaptable by the city for future
- Flexibility to accommodate a variety of temporary events
- Context and heritage of the South Side.



Pop Up Lighting event



A Pop Up Lighting event



Street Art , Southsiders: portrait of a community



Southsiders: portrait of a community



the
Causey

DOORS OPEN Dance Day 2018
Dance Day at The Causey



The Sit Ooters



Clean Air Day at The Causey



Canaries at The Causey



#thecausey #canarycraftvisits

Canaries in The Causey



A Causey animation

The Causey / West Crosscauseway, Edinburgh

Artist's Impression: Aga Mietkiewicz / Wee Dog Media



Where Will The Flight Take Us?