
From: John Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2015 12:27
To: Info
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: tram enquirey

Dear Lord Hardie,

I own a number of properties in the West End of Edinburgh.
In particular Nos [REDACTED] (some in part some whole).
I have made it my lifes work to develop our part of the West End as a useful and pleasant place to shop and live in.
Over 50 years the area has become a vibrant part of the city centre.

Our area of the West End has been largely destroyed as a shopping area, full of lovely small specialist shops, by six years of indecisive tramway construction followed by a road system that makes it almost impossible to approach with a wheeled vehicle.

During the construction time as a landlord I have seen a huge decline in the areas prosperity.
The cost to my company has been in six figures. Most importantly the small specialist shops that have closed will not come back.

I would argue that visitors to Edinburgh delight in small specialist shops rather than the high street international names....Boots Next Tesco etc.

Do we need a tram system?

Alasdair Darling said rightly that trams are for big high density cities. Edinburgh is a small low density city. Electric buses are now running in Edinburgh. I feel the decision was made to have trams as a "prestige" project with no proper research undertaken.

I rented out an office to a tram consultant. He told me at the start of the scheme the basic facts were missing. I have also had many dealings with the West End Association and have followed their involvement with interest. (I re started the association several years ago).

I could help to supply some names and facts if this would help.

John Johnson

(Aspidistra Ltd).

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