

# Community Street Audit Workshop

## Equally Well: integrating health into spatial planning

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# Agenda

1. What is a Community Street Audit?
2. The CSA process
3. Auditing Dennistoun (outside)
4. Priorities and solutions (inside)



# Living Streets

Living Streets is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians.

With our supporters we work to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.



# Our key areas of work

- **Projects and campaigning**
  1. Engaging Communities
  2. Healthy Environments
  3. National and local lobbying
- **Local groups and supporters**
- **Consultancy services- Community Street Audits**



# Community Street Audit Workshop

## - objectives

- Discuss the importance of walking
- Explore what encourages and discourages walking in public spaces
- Participate in a “Taster” audit
- Have an opportunity to discuss what you have seen
- Look for ways of tackling the main issues identified
- Consider future use of Community Street Audits



# Why Walking Matters



- Health
- Transport
- Economy
- Communities

# Walking and cycling as a main mode of travel is decreasing

	1999	2006
Walking	19.5%	13.6%
Cycling	1.1%	0.9%

Scottish Household Survey Travel Diary 2009



53% of all driver journeys are  
less than 5 km,

28% less than 2km

Scottish Household Survey – Travel Diary 2007/08

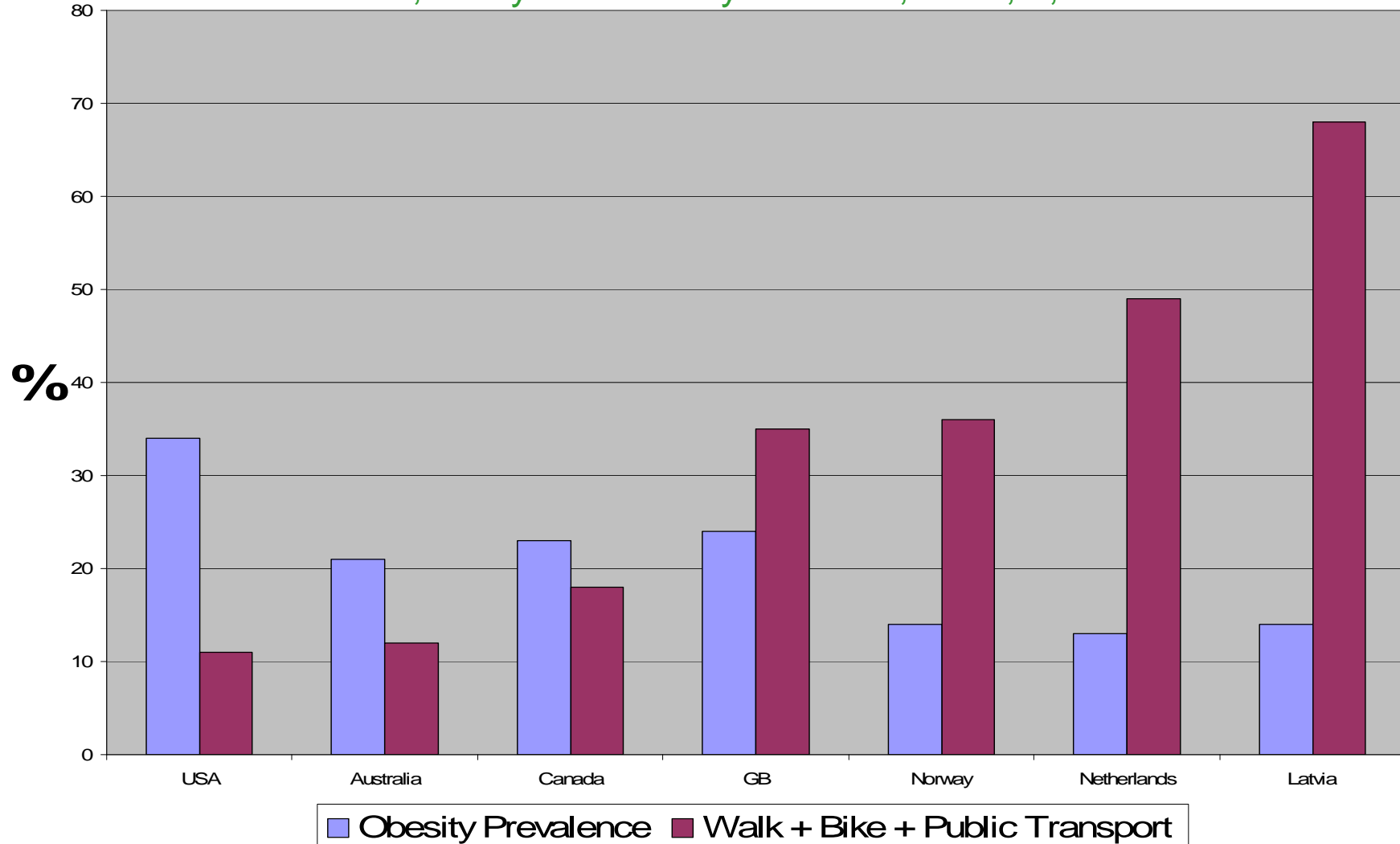




# Obesity & Active Travel

(short distance daily travel)

Bassett et al, J Physical Activity & Health, 2008, 5, 795-814



- People's physical environment can have a really positive impact on their health and wellbeing [physical and mental]. But poor quality surroundings can have the opposite effect.

Equally Well: report on the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities  
Scottish Government, 2008

- Walkable neighbourhoods are associated with higher levels of physical activity and lower levels of obesity

Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2008

- Environments that encourage & support physical activity offer greatest potential to get the nation active

Physical Activity Strategy Review 2009



# Why Community Street Audits?

Most pedestrian surveys focus almost wholly on the pedestrian as a transportation unit – how he gets from A to B.

But what he does between A and B is important too.

CSAs look at the places and spaces that people move about in from the point of view of those who live there.



# Street Audits in a **nutshell**



Small groups of local residents, traders, councillors, officers, police take part accompanied by a facilitator


Each group assesses a route

The facilitator takes notes, and acts as a catalyst for fresh discussion

The facilitator produces a report of proceedings

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Local people  
know their area  
better than anyone

They know the  
problems & some  
of the solutions

# A structured approach to streetscape issues

1. Footway surfaces and obstructions
2. Facilities and signage
3. Maintenance and enforcement
4. Personal security
5. Crossing points and desire lines
6. Road layout and space allocation
7. Aesthetics
8. Traffic



A photograph showing a sidewalk with a large, irregular pothole. A person in a wheelchair is on the left side of the frame, partially obscured. The pothole is filled with water and has a rough, uneven edge. The surrounding pavement is cracked and shows signs of wear. A metal fence is visible on the right side of the image.

## What to look for on a Community Street Audit?

**Are pavements clean, smooth, even and well-maintained?**



**Are pavements free of temporary or permanent obstructions?**





**Can you cross the road with the minimum delay where you want to cross?**



**Do you feel safe?**



**Do conditions encourage you to walk here?**



**Are pedestrian routes direct and uninterrupted?**



**Do people on foot have enough space?**



**Is there provision for all users?**



**Does the impact of traffic make walking dangerous or unpleasant?**



**What's it like at night?**



# Community Street Audit

## - outcomes

- An independent and structured mandate for discussion and action
- A blueprint for decisions and investment
- Greater community understanding of street scene issues, the processes and the timescales involved
- Wider ownership of and responsibility for street scene projects



# A taster of the audit process ...

- Set aside your position, think as a streets user, particularly consider the needs of - older people; children; people with disabilities; wheelchair / buggy users
- Think small – and think big!
- The eight audit categories
- Think different times of day
- Be careful on the street – **you are responsible for your own safety**



# Things to consider after the audit

1. What was your overall impression of the audit route?
2. What did you like? What would encourage you to walk or spend time here?
3. What did you dislike? What would discourage you from walking or lingering?
4. What were the conditions like for people with mobility difficulties?
5. Did any major issues surprise you?
6. Did any detail issue surprise you?
7. Name one recent change (in the last 5 years) that you particularly liked.
8. What 3 things could be improved for next to no money
9. How safe did the route feel, how could it be made safer?



# Thank You

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