

**Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 5.30 to 7.00pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Rhona Matthews (RM)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead
Peter Luke (PL)	Danderhall
Alan Symon (AS)	Eskbank and Newbattle
David McNeil (DMcN)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Norrie Scott (NS)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Jeremy Adderley (JA)	Newtongrange
Douglas West (DW)	Poltonhall
Mirabelle Maslin (MM)	Roslin and Bilston
Louisa Wilson (LW)	Moorfoot

**In attendance:**

	Midlothian Council
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Communities and Lifelong Learning
Ian Lennox (IL)	Operations and Asset Manager Roads
Lindsay Haddow (LH)	Policy Planning Manager
Keith Slight (KS)	Lighting Manager
Alan Heatley (AH)	Structures Manager

**Apologies:**

Ian King (IK)	Howgate
Robin Barclay (RB)	Eskbank and Newbattle

**1. IAN LENNOCK (OPERATIONS AND ASSET MANAGER ROADS)**

**Winter Service Priorities**

- Winter service priorities are reviewed each year  
[www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/287/winter\\_on\\_midlothian\\_roads](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/287/winter_on_midlothian_roads)
- Road gritting priorities generally remain the same each year.
- A review was started 3 or 4 months ago but progress has been interrupted by the restrictions due to COVID-19 and will now take longer than anticipated to complete.  
[www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/287/winter\\_on\\_midlothian\\_roads/2](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/287/winter_on_midlothian_roads/2)

- Due to staff being redeployed because of COVID-19, the department has been able to have an increased number of staff working in rural areas.
- Midlothian is one of the fastest developing local authorities in Scotland and although the department has finite resources, it is facing an increasing demand on its services.

### **Mini-Gritter**

- The number of mini-gritters used in the community could be increased, but this would need an increased budget and more operatives to be trained.
- IL could look into whether the progress of mini-gritters currently in service can be tracked.
- J.A. noted that Newtongrange does not have a mini-tractor service. Not all areas are on the list to receive such a service and IL will contact JA with further information.

### **Grit Bins**

- Midlothian Council is undertaking a process of replacing community based grit bins.
- ASK highlighted that requests to replace grit bins in Dalkeith have been made. IL requested that ASK provide the details and he will investigate why they have not been replaced.
- Currently the team have a backlog of 800 grit bins to be filled.
- Each crew is able to fill 25 bins per day.
- During the most recent icy spell, local community representatives submitted a request (inc. Mayfield/Easthouses and Penicuik) to increase the amount of grit available. IL had organised drop-offs in community locations that enabled residents to collect grit for their streets and paths.
- The Council is planning to locate large grit stores in community-based locations. Once bins have been purchased, the department will be working with local organisations, including Community Councils, to plan the locations and processes to enable access to the grit stores.
- A suggestion was made that community groups other than Community Councils, e.g. Resilience groups, may wish to be involved in the management of these new larger grit stores.
- Group members noted that more work needs to be done on this initiative but appreciated that it will lead to the greater availability of grit for community users.

## **2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING**

**Proposed:** Norrie Scott

**Seconded:** Constance Newbould

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

- Lighting – RH thanked KS for his responses and provision of information at the last meeting.
- At the request of the members in the meeting, KS provided further information.
- Laptops can be used to dim or trim the level of lighting.
- Equally, lighting can be increased in the event that is required e.g. when pubs are closing or during emergency responses.
- Emergency Services can use an 'app' to increase the level of lighting during a response to an incident or accident.
- JA thanked KS for the lighting department's quick response to the vandalism to lighting outside Newtongrange Library.
- KS confirmed that on the Scottish Power network, a single non-functioning light should be repaired within 25 working days.
- If a group of five or more lights required attention, they should be repaired within 20 days.
- If on the council network, faulty lighting will be attended to and repaired as soon as possible.

## **4. ROAD WORKS (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE) PRIORITISATION FOR 21/22**

- Work on the previous years' projects has been delayed due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- There has been approximately a 6 months delay.
- 40% of works projects have been completed.
- The council had made a decision to undertake maintenance using its own staff.
- In order to facilitate the acceleration of the works programme, the department have been preparing tender documents for outside contractors to be able to undertake work.
- The department has been able to pick-up the majority of the joint priority schemes from 2020-21.
- Alan will recirculate the list of schemes.
- Bonnyrigg Community Council has identified 3 proposals.

- Alan noted that capital works are generally large-scale permanent repairs.
- Road works are being undertaken but they might not be funded through the Capital budget.
- Road Orders can only be issued by Midlothian Council.
- Road Orders cover all maintenance including that undertaken by private contractors.
- New technology is reviewed and evaluated as and when appropriate. Most recently, a demonstration of a process to repair potholes has been received by the department.
- In order to take control of the process, the council is considering bringing the painting of road markings 'in house'.
- The department has small amount of finance to support traffic calming measures.
- Suggestions for traffic calming measures should be directed to Lindsay Haddow.
- There is concern about the potential increased level of traffic due to the new developments (New Pentland, Straiton West) in the Loanhead area. Alan highlighted that, when planning proposals are considered, members of the department will carry out traffic modelling.
- A member of the team has the role of being a link between the Roads and Planning departments.

**Action: MTRaP members, (and Community Councils), to submit proposals for joint priorities for Capital Roads expenditure at the earliest opportunity.**

**PJ to submit proposals to AH**

#### **5. ACTIVE TRAVEL FORUM (LINKS DALKEITH – EDINBURGH, A SYMON)**

- LH highlighted that the Active Travel Plan, linking routes across the county, has been approved.
- The routes highlighted on the Active Travel Plan are the priorities for Midlothian Council.
- It would now be difficult to resource additional routes or deviation from the agreed plan.
- However, if community groups wish to develop new initiatives, Midlothian Council would be able to provide advice and some technical support. The Council had done this recently in the Eskbank and Newbattle area.

- AS will contact LH about the proposals that he has been involved in. He highlighted that active travel links from Midlothian to Edinburgh are important.

**Action: AS to contact LH re cycle path proposals**

#### **Midlothian Council contacts for information about paths**

- If it is on a roads type, (asphalt) surface, the contact is Lindsay Haddow ([Lindsay.haddow@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Lindsay.haddow@midlothian.gov.uk)). If it is about off-road paths the contact is James Kinch ([james.kinch@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:james.kinch@midlothian.gov.uk)).
- Widespread consultation with the community will be undertaken during the process of the Active Travel Strategy being refreshed in late 2021.
- A question was raised about the relationship between SPOKES and cycling initiatives in Midlothian. LH noted that the Midlothian Cycle Map is being updated, and will consider new developments. These routes may vary from Spokes cycling route recommendations.
- New developments may contribute to the improvement of the cycle network in Midlothian. Planners can make requests for developers to provide additional paths or links to those in existing plans.

#### **Development of paths / walkways**

- Midlothian Council cannot impose timescales on developers to complete the construction of paths within their developments.
- Developers are required to bring road and paths up to standard before the Council can adopt them.

## 6. IMPROVEMENTS TO SHERRIFHALL ROUNDABOUT

- The improvements are being funded through the Edinburgh City deal.
- Legislation required to start development is being delayed due to objections to the proposal being received.

## 7. A.O.C.B.

- MM requested an update on the proposal for a Midlothian wide 20mph speed limit.
- The Core Paths consultation period has closed.
- Members repeated concerns that some core paths are still being blocked by landowners.
- Members expressed concern at the perceived lack of effectiveness of enforcement by the local authority.
- Agreed that a list of blocked paths is required in order to pursue this issue
- This issue is to be a permanent item on future meeting agendas.

### **Roslin Glen**

- There has been no update or response to document submitted by Mirabelle.

**Action: PJ to obtain an update re the 20mph proposal**

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 8 March 2021**

**5.30 – 7.00 pm**

### **Zoom Details**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88192057292?pwd=YXhjMUFaY2ZqWmh2TC9lbStuaWZNdz09>

**Meeting ID: 881 9205 7292**

**Passcode: 0XsqbP**