

**Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting**  
**Monday 23 August 2021, 6.00 to 7.30pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rhona Matthews (RM)      | Bonnyrigg and Lasswade     |
| Dianne Easton (DE)       | Bonnyrigg and Lasswade     |
| Ann Stewart Kmicha (ASK) | Dalkeith                   |
| Constance Newbould (CN)  | Damhead                    |
| Peter Luke (PL)          | Danderhall                 |
| Alan Symon (AS)          | Eskbank and Newbattle      |
| Norrie Scott (NS)        | Loanhead                   |
| Fraser Jervis (FJ)       | Moorfoot                   |
| Douglas West (DW)        | Poltonhall and Hopefield   |
| Louisa Wilson (LW)       | Moorfoot Community Council |

**In attendance:**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Paul Johnson (PJ) | Communities and Lifelong Learning - Midlothian Council |
| Alan Heatley (AH) | Structures Manager - Midlothian Council                |

**Apologies**

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Cath McGill (CMcG) | Gorebridge Community Council |
|--------------------|------------------------------|

**1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – JULY MEETING**

PJ highlighted the contents of the July minutes.

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

**Proposed:** Ann Stewart Kmicha

**Seconded:** Peter Luke

**2. Matters Arising**

**i Capital Works Programme (CWP) update**

AH provided an update on the programme. See separate report.

Additionally, AH highlighted the following information

Although progressing well, the CWP is running approximately 1 month behind the projected schedule.

Staff isolating after covid infection and taking Annual Leave due to them has reduced the number of staff available

AH will provide information on which streets will be included in the Residential Streets Programme (RSP).

When asked about repairs to speed reduction measures, AH noted that Midlothian Council were moving away from installing 'speed humps' and instead were installing 'sinusoidal' speed humps. A sinusoidal speed hump is designed to provide a smooth "on/off" transition for vehicles, whilst still providing the appropriate degree of hump to deter speeding.

## ii A7 Urbanisation

Further to the update provided at the July meeting, AH reiterated that whilst the principle of the design has been agreed, the detailed design of the scheme has still to be finalised, and that given the extent of the scheme, it would appear likely that it will be delivered in phases.

The *draft* proposals being considered entail alterations to the A7 road edge and verges between the four roundabouts from Gilmerton Road (Dobbies), Lasswade Road/Melville Dykes Road, Eskbank Road/Bonnyrigg Road (Tesco), and Hardengreen Roundabout. This is a total scheme length of approximately 1.5 miles, and includes associated alterations to the River North Esk Bridge. It is AH's understanding that the final detailed design will be based on the following:

- introduction of a 40mph speed limit
- existing lane widths maintained but with raised kerbs (no hard strips)
- provision of shared surface footway/cycleway along both sides of the carriageway
- the cycling provision will be separated from the road by a kerb.
- provision of bus stops at Dobbies, Melville Dykes and Tesco roundabouts
- associated drainage and replacement of road side vehicle barriers
- raised bridge parapets, and modified bridge joints and drainage
- Midlothian Council is still receiving financial contributions from developers. Once sufficient funds have been received, the Council will be in a position to move forward with the scheme.
- These are all *draft* proposals at the moment and still need to be finalised.
- AH noted that a service review is being undertaken and that there are two new members in the Roads team. One of these members of staff will take the lead on the initiative. Once confirmed PJ will notify MTRaP members.

### **iii Road Surfacing in North Middleton**

AH provided the following update from a transport consultant in the Policy and Road team.

- The housing developer is getting towards the end of the development in North Middleton and as it fronts onto and takes access from Borthwick Castle Road, will have some works to undertake on the public road.
- Notifications of the proposed works are listed on the [www.roadworksscotland.org](http://www.roadworksscotland.org) website and the developer has also notified residents of the new development that this work will be taking place. The works are linked to the development and will not include repair and maintenance of the general road network.
- General repair and maintenance of the local road network will be undertaken by Midlothian Council. The engineer covering this area has been asked to investigate if the potholes mentioned by constituents are already on the list awaiting attention and if not to add them to it.
- It is anticipated that remedial work, undertaken in phases, will be undertaken over a 5-year period.
- Local residents can quickly and easily report any repair work required to the road network using links on the council website. This is the most effective method to use.

### **iv Reporting of faults on the Midlothian roads network**

Roads maintained by Midlothian Council

[www.midlothian.gov.uk/forms/form/35/en/road\\_defects](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/forms/form/35/en/road_defects)

Trunk Roads – report to BEAR

- A68: from A720 City of Edinburgh Bypass to Scottish Borders Council boundary
  - A702: from Edinburgh City boundary to Scottish Borders Council boundary
  - A720: from Edinburgh City Bypass including Sheriffhall Roundabout
- [www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/](http://www.bearscot.com/report-a-defect/)

### **v Road Markings in Loanhead**

NS highlighted concerns about the painting of yellow lines in the centre of Loanhead (Fountain Place and entrance to Mayshade Road). In both locations, in order to be fully effective, he suggested it is necessary to extend the length of lines.

**Action AH will forward details to colleagues in the Roads team.**

### 3. ACTIVE TRAVEL GROUP

- i ASK highlighted information about an interactive Active Travel Map available on the Midlothian Council website - [www.mapsinteractive.co.uk/midlothian-active-travel-map/](http://www.mapsinteractive.co.uk/midlothian-active-travel-map/)
- ii AS and Jeremy Adderley had met with local elected members. Group are looking to develop a cycleway between Dalkeith and Edinburgh.
- iii *Midlothian Active Travel Forum* (Knowledge Hub) was thought to be useful although there was a belief that responses were not as quick as they could be
- iv To access the forum go to this web page - [Welcome - Knowledge Hub \(khub.net\)](http://khub.net) where you can register for an account. Once registered search for *Midlothian Active Travel Forum*

### 4. CORE PATHS ACCESS

- i Thanks were extended to James Kinch and Rhona Matthews for their contribution involved in the core paths work.
- ii However, RM expressed her disappointment with regard to the updates received from JK. Furthermore, she indicated that, in her opinion, Midlothian Council is not upholding the Land Reform Act. She is going to raise her concerns with one her local elected members.

#### Action

**RM will feedback to the MTRaP members at the October meeting.**

### 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i A7 – approach road leading up to the Sheriffhall Roundabout  
PL noted that although work was being undertaken on the A7 urbanisation project, work was required to repair the section leading up to the Sheriffhall roundabout. Motorists were using the unprepared surface to progress to where there were two lanes. It was his view that Midlothian Council should make these repairs. AH noted that the Council had made temporary repairs but that these were limited to due to the requirement for a proper foundation.  
Those present noted that there are proposals to upgrade the roundabout and that BEAR will be responsible for the approach roads, including the one discussed at the meeting.

**ii Contribution of Roads Team representative**

On behalf of the MTRaP members, DE expressed thanks and appreciation to Alan Heatley for his contribution (updates and provision of information when requested) to the work of the MTRaP group. She also highlighted the quality of the road improvement works undertaken in Poltonhall.

**iii A701 realignment**

CN noted that scoping activities were still being undertaken, as was consultation about the project.

**iv Cycleways**

Noted that most cycleways in Midlothian are off-road

**v Snowsports Centre**

CN highlighted concerns about the 'triple' junction. The junction is still under review and proposals for adjustment are being considered. Transport Scotland are one of the groups involved.

**vi Provision of Grit Bins**

Further to an input by Ian Lennox at the January meeting, members had requested an update on the provision of Grit Bins, particularly the proposal to site 'community grit bins'.

Although this had not been discussed at the meeting, PJ had subsequently received an update from Ina Lennox:

Midlothian Council will be deploying an additional, 16 x 1 tonne bins at strategic locations (yet to be decided).

6. **A701 Realignment & impact of housing developments in the Straiton area**

- i NS raised the issue of the impact upon traffic levels around the Straiton area. PJ had received the following response from colleagues in the Planning Department.

*Midlothian Council consultants have nearly completed the options appraisal stage of the roads project and will shortly move on to the preliminary design stage thereafter.*

*However, prior to the start of the design process they will be undertaking non-statutory stakeholder engagement in the next 4/5 weeks (invitation only/mix of interest groups). This will include the community councils affected by the proposals and will provide a lot of detailed information on the alignment, junction arrangements, impact and mitigation measures etc. It will consist of a dedicated web page (branded with MC, ESESCRD, and consultants logos), an online interactive exhibition, and a live presentation from the consultant team including a Q & A session.*

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 4 October, 6.00 – 7.30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81533852532?pwd=eXZPTUxVkwTW4yb2dZeHVEU1BLQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 815 3385 2532

**Passcode:** 698925