

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday 15 November 2021, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| Norrie Scott (NS) | Loanhead |
| Robert Hogg (RH) | Mayfield and Easthouses |
| Louisa Wilson (LW) | Moorfoot |

In attendance:

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

Apologies

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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Fraser Jervis (FJ) | Moorfoot |
| Douglas West (DW) | Poltonhall and Hopefield |
| Diane Easton (DE) | Bonnyrigg |

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – JULY MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

RM indicated that she had contacted an MSP and MP about the position of Access Officer in the past but not recently as noted in the October Minutes

Proposed: Constance Newbould

Seconded: Peter Luke

2. MATTERS ARISING

Road Markings in Dalkeith

- a. ASK noted that although the markings around the Bus stop had been corrected, work was still required in other locations.

Winter Service Plan

- a. Although PJ (Midlothian Council) had circulated a document with links to the plan on the Midlothian Council website, ASK (Dalkeith) noted that the plan was for the period 2020/21.
- b. AH (Midlothian Council) noted that prior to leaving Midlothian Council Iain Lennock had been making good progress with the latest plan. PJ will make enquires to Derek Oliver, to see when the latest plan will be posted on the website.
- c. ASK noted that during the recent frosty weather, the Council has responded quickly to grit paths and that Grit Bins have been filled in preparation for the coming winter.
- d. PJ had submitted a series of enquiries for information arising from the October about gritting and grit bins to colleagues in Midlothian Council. PJ had provided links to the Council website (sent out MTRaP members) and is awaiting an update from colleagues on specific issues.

Capital Works Programme (CWP) update

- a. PJ had previously circulated the update provided by AH (Midlothian Council). Alan was thanked for the provision for these reports. Those present noted that they were valuable in highlighting the progress of the Capital Works programme. It was source of valuable information for local communities.
- b. AS (Eskbank and Newbattle) asked about the improvement of footways on Bonnyrigg Road (near the bus stop) from the Eskbank Toll Roundabout. AH agreed to check progress of repairs.

Action

- **PJ to check about latest Winter Service Plan and further information about gritting provision.**
- **AH to check on progress of footway repairs on Bonnyrigg Road (Eskbank)**

Residential Streets Programme

- a. Work on 4 streets in Bonnyrigg has been completed. It is anticipated that the other 6 streets in the programme will be completed before the Christmas break.
- b. RM (Bonnyrigg) highlighted the poor condition of the road surfaces of Chesters View and Golf Course Road.
- c. NS (Loanhead) highlighted the poor condition of the footway on Mayshade Road. AH noted that when road surfaces are being improved, footways adjoining the road are also improved during the same process if possible. AH noted that footways could be added to the list for improvement at a later date.

- d. RH (Mayfield) enquired as to whether ‘back roads’ (used for deliveries, parking, bin collection etc.) are included for repairs during programmes for road improvements. He noted that there are several examples in the Mayfield area. AH noted that some of these roads are classed as being ‘private’ (e.g. owned by Housing Associations or other owners). These roads will be inspected as part of maintenance programmes and then owners will be contacted. AH highlighted that some roads may be improved by ‘temporary’ repairs through reactive works subject to resources available to the Operational Team. They would not be part of the Capital Work Programme.

3. ACTIVE TRAVEL GROUP

- a. AS (Eskbank and Newbattle) noted that the Dalkeith group had received support from Councillors Hackett and Imrie. Andrew Mathieson, a member of the group, had primarily been interested in creating cycle lanes on the roads around Dalkeith, linking cycle routes between Dalkeith and Edinburgh and support for active travel around the Eskbank Toll area. AS also noted that there were concerns about speeding traffic in the area. There is a survey being conducted to ascertain the extent of speeding traffic.
- b. Group members agreed that ‘Active Travel’ should remain on meeting agendas. Those present also agreed, that initiatives such as increased use of public transport, walking and cycling need to be encouraged, and increased.
- c. CN (Damhead) highlighted that rather than people having to use motor vehicles, improved public transport links across the county would support local employment / travel to work / shopping.

4. PUFFIN CROSSING IN LOANHEAD

NS (Loanhead) had highlighted local people’s concerns about the placement of a crossing in Loanhead and its potential adverse impact upon Road Safety. The crossing is not yet operational. NS indicated that Loanhead Community Council had not been consulted about the placement of the crossing. PJ had forwarded NS’s communication to colleagues in Midlothian Council and will provide an update once he receives further information. NS indicated that Loanhead Community Council will be pursuing the matter.

5. SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT

- a. PJ had been in touch with colleagues in Midlothian Council who had highlighted that although there had been consultation it was a Transport Scotland project.
- b. PJ had invited a Transport Scotland representative to the meeting but they had been unable to attend. Transport Scotland have indicated that a representative would be able to attend an MTRaP meeting in the future.

Action

- **PJ to invite the Transport Scotland representative to the January 2022 meeting.**
- **MTRaP members to consider what information that they would wish to obtain at the meeting**

6. CORE PATHS

- a. RM highlighted that there hadn't been an Access Forum since 2019.
- b. RM is working with the British Horse Association to obtain funding to improve a stretch of the path on Vogrie Grange land.
- c. There has been no update to the Core Paths plan and there has been no indication of when it will be published.
- d. Core Paths update from previous meeting. JK is still awaiting some information in order to provide an update.

Action

- **PJ to seek an update on the next meeting of the Access Forum and the Core Paths Plan.**

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Midlothian Outdoor Festival

ASK highlighted the recent successful Midlothian Outdoor Festival organised by the Ranger Service. There had been a long weekend of walks around the county, taking in the countryside, towns, and farmland. ASK suggested that Jo Cooke from Midlothian Council Ranger Service be invited to a future MTRaP meeting.

b. Traffic Lights in Loanhead

NS highlighted an issue where bushes are obscuring traffic lights on the B702 at the junction of Mayburn Terrace and Ashgrove Gardens in the direction of Straiton Retail Park.

c. Resurfacing of Path - Loanhead

NS enquired about the progress of resurfacing works on the Straiton Nature Reserve path (funded by the 'environmental budget' of one of the elected members). AH suggested that to get an update, Loanhead CC could contact James Kinch (Land and Countryside – james.kinch@midlothian.gov.uk).

d. Drainage on Harpers Brae – Penicuik

AH highlighted that work to improve drainage on Harpers Brae has been completed. Additional gullies have been revealed and existing gullies have been cleared.

e. Roslin Glen Road

AH noted that an old Well may have been the source of water that had been running on to the road surface. Drains have been cleared and linked in to a carrier pipe. There is a new gully at the bottom of the hill and new cross drain has been installed near the entrance to the water treatment plant.

f. Leaves covering cycle path – Damhead

CN noted that fallen leaves are covering the cycle path on the A702 on the section between the 'triple junction and 'The Steading'. On behalf of Damhead residents, CN expressed concern that speed limit on the Old Pentland road is too high given the layout and condition of the road and footways. CN highlighted that another car had overturned on the Old Pentland Road, 1 of 4 cars that have overturned on that road in the last year. Residents believe that speed reducing measures are required in order to improve safety for local residents.

g. Midlothian Council Small Grant programme

PJ highlighted that the Midlothian Small Grant programme has opened. The deadline for submission of applications is **17th December**. Further information: www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200284/your_community/18/grants_for_community_groups

Action

- **NS to contact James Kinch for an update about progress of resurfacing of the Straiton Nature Reserve path.**
- **PJ to contact Justin Venton (Midlothian Council) re Traffic Lights and the need for vegetation to be cut back.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 10 January, 6.00 – 7.30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87310055784?pwd=SFpmVXRDbFY0REhYbm90ODRVdGhXUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 1005 5784

Passcode: 969023