

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 10 January 2022, 6.00 to 7.30pm

Zoom Meeting

Present:

Rhona Matthews (RM)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg
Ann Stewart Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Norrie Scott (NS)	Loanhead
Louisa Wilson (LW)	Moorfoot
Myrtle Pont (MP)	Tynewater

In attendance:

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities and Lifelong Learning
Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Operations & Asset Manager Roads
Jill Irving (JI)	Transport Scotland
Stuart Moffat (SM)	Transport Scotland
Mokshda Bheem Singh (MBS)	Transport Scotland

Apologies

Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Alan Symon (AS)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Ian King (IK)	Howgate
Peter Luke (PL)	Danderhall

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – NOVEMBER MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Puffin Crossing In Loanhead

- a. NS noted that he had contacted the local elected members in November. He had received a response from Councillor Imrie who is seeking further information. PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted that he had raised the concerns with a colleague who had indicated that he had offered to discuss concerns with Loanhead Community Council but had not been contacted. NS will discuss at the Loanhead CC meeting on 11 January.

Action: PJ to forward Midlothian Council contact details to NS

b. Traffic Lights in Loanhead

NS had highlighted an issue where bushes were obscuring traffic lights. PJ had contacted colleagues and the work to remove obstructions to the lights has been undertaken.

c. Core Path – Straiton Nature Reserve

Funding for the initiative is being provided by Loanhead elected member's environmental funds.

d. Off Road Path - Vogrie Grange

RM noted that she had been quoted £34,000 to improve a section of path to enable off-road travel. WC suggested that Justin Venton (Land & Countryside Manager) be approached to see what it would cost for his team to undertake the work.

Action: RM to contact Justin Venton

Midlothian Council Update inc Winter Service Plan matters – Wayne Clark.

- a. Grit Bins – The list of locations of Midlothian Grits has been updated on the Midlothian Council website. The location of grits bins has now been numbered and this should facilitate making requests for refilling much easier. Further information and documents including a list of 'Community' Grit Bins, can be downloaded here:
www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200287/roads/50/grit_bins
- b. A mapping system of the location of Grit Bins will be uploaded to the Midlothian Council website in the next few weeks.
- c. A programme of refilling Grit Bins has been undertaken – subject to ongoing use, all bins should be full.
- d. Group members noted that the pathway between Hardengreen to Rosewell can be slippery in icy weather and asked whether it could be gritted. Wayne Clark (Midlothian Council) noted that currently the machine that works on paths in the area is fully engaged with clearing priority paths. However, with the increase in the numbers of residential housing in the area, resources may become available in the future to allow the situation to be addressed.
- e. The Residential Streets Improvement programme in Bonnyrigg has been completed. The team are about to move to work in the Mayfield area. WC (Midlothian Council) reported that there had been positive feedback from residents in Bonnyrigg about the programme of work. This was endorsed by DE (Bonnyrigg) at the meeting.
- f. MTRaP members noted that there had been good communication from Midlothian Council and this has been welcomed by residents.

- g. Road Markings – LW (Moorfoot) noted that on some roads in the county, markings had become obscured. WC highlighted that Midlothian Council is intending to bring Road Marking 'in house' and is in the process of creating its own team. This will mean that the Council can be more responsive in undertaking Road Marking work and additionally, it will create employment opportunities for local people.
- h. NS (Loanhead) highlighted that a drain on Edgefield Road had overflowed and has flooded the path. WC has taken a note of the issue and will contact colleagues in order to get the situation addressed.

Action: WC to discuss Edgefield Road drainage issue with colleagues

Capital Works Programme (CWP) update

- a. Due to the building being closed, AH had to leave the meeting but will provide an update. PJ will circulate to MTRaP members.

Action: PJ to circulate once he has the update from AH

3. ACTIVE TRAVEL GROUP

- a. The Midlothian Active Travel Survey is now 'live' with a dedicated web page on the Council Web Site. See link and further information here:

General Information

[Consultations - Help us get more local people travelling actively | Midlothian Council](#)

Online Survey

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fQWQf6A->

[kawfOBWhicIG2w2pTCE2ntKvoQZ7fd5JipUMEtSSEwzNjM1VU9PSkQyRiUyMzBYTEIBUC4u](#)

4. SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT – TRANSPORT SCOTLAND.

- a. Members of the Project team from Transport Scotland joined the meeting to provide an update and respond to questions raised. (See information - details in attached PowerPoint).

Transport Scotland highlighted the following:

- b. A review of active travel and public transport had been undertaken in 2020 - 2021
- c. The project would provide huge benefits in term of an improvement in safety particularly for the pedestrians, cyclists and other people negotiating the roundabout. Additionally it would improve safety and reduce congestion for drivers and people using public transport.
- d. Transport Scotland had provided responses to almost 100% of the objections that have been submitted.
- e. As result consultation with partners and local groups, changes to the proposed design have been made. This should lead to further improvements in active travel and provision of public transport.

- f. There will be provision of CCTV in order to increase safety of people using the underpasses. As a consequence of work undertaken in the recent review of the project, the design of the underpasses has been improved.
- g. During the development of the project, the increase in the numbers of new housing developments alongside the A720 has been taken in to account.
- h. It is anticipated that there that there will be a Public Local enquiry in 2022.
- i. There is a commitment from Scottish Government for the project to have access to appropriate funding to ensure its completion.

5. CORE PATHS

- a. *Update received after the January meeting.* As requested at the previous meeting PJ has been in touch with colleagues in Land and Resources about the issues raised.

Information is noted below

- Midlothian Council has no Access Officer and therefore the Access Forum is not supportable for the time being. The Council may look to having one in the spring time.
- Without the Access Officer post, the Core Paths Plan review will not be progressed for the foreseeable future.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. A7 Urbanisation

The project is underway. Those present agreed that it would be helpful if a member of the project team could join the meeting to provide an update.

Action: PJ to contact Fraser Gilbert (Senior Consultant Engineer) with regard to availability to join an MTRaP meeting in the future.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 21 February, 6.00 – 7.30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84664193330?pwd=MmNCSzFDS1hEWDd4MDdWOVpkRUh0dz09>

Meeting ID: 846 6419 3330

Passcode: 308860