

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday 21 February 2022, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Rhona Matthews (RM)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg
Ann Stewart Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Norrie Scott (NS)	Loanhead
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Fraser Jervis (FJ)	Moorfoot
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater

In attendance:

Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Operations & Asset Manager Roads
Fraser Gilbert (FG)	Midlothian Council - Senior Consultant Engineer
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities and Lifelong Learning

Apologies

Louisa Wilson (LW)	Moorfoot
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1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – JANUARY MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

2. A7 URBANISATION PROJECT – FRASER GILBERT (MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL)

Attachments circulated (1 March)

Project Status Update

- A7 – 1 – Gilmerton Rd to Melville Dykes
- A7 – 2 – Melville Dykes to Eskbank Rd
- A7 – 3 – Eskbank Rd to Hardengreen
- Midlothian Bus Alliance (MBA) Award Area Route Map (More info here [Three new bus partnerships established | Transport Scotland](#))
- The A7 Urbanisation scheme consists of a new shared cycleway/ footway both sides of the A7 between Gilmerton Rd Rdbt & Hardengreen Rdbt.
- Initial attached design drawings are currently being updated after a topographical survey was undertaken in December 2021 – inc. the proposed extension to Newtongrange at the lights at Dalhousie Rd (B6482).

- Note the key dependency on the linked scheme from funding awarded through Transport Scotland's (TS) Bus Partnership Fund (BPF), going out to tender in March.
- Funding has been awarded for the feasibility/ design work only – on the ground that may include things like new bus lanes, upgraded signalisation for bus etc to make bus more attractive.

Current projected timescales as below (to be confirmed)

(With consideration to collection of developer contributions to fund, the scheme and dependency on the external consultant appointment later this month on the separate bus route feasibility work).

2022/23

- A7 Urbanisation – Initial Design Work
- Orbital Bus Route – STAG Appraisal Work into bus based improvements of which A7 corridor and Gilmerton Rd Rdbt & Melville Dykes Rdbt identified as problem areas to be addressed through bus partnership funding.
- A7 Urbanisation – Detailed Design Work
- A7 Urbanisation - Construction of Phase 1 – Gilmerton Rd Roundabout to Melville Dykes Roundabout

2023/24

- A7 Urbanisation – Construction of Phase 2 – Melville Dykes Roundabout to Eskbank Roundabout
- A7 Urbanisation – Further detailed design work through external funding (TBC). Surrounding the extended sect. from Hardengreen rdbt to Newtongrange, additional crossing facilities, new connection with the existing NCN penicuik to Dalkeith walkway that already passes over the A7 carriageway on this sect.
- A7 Urbanisation – Construction of Phase 3 – Eskbank Roundabout to Hardengreen Roundabout

2024/25

- A7 Urbanisation – Construction of Phase 4 – Hardengreen Roundabout to Newtongrange (TBC, Funded externally 100%).

FG went on to confirm

- Funding to support a feasibility study for a new orbital bus route has been obtained.
- Once consultants have been engaged further discussion about route proposals can be undertaken.
- Parapet of bridge will need to be raised because it is adjacent to the proposed cycle path.
- There will be proposals to reduce the speed limit on the section to 40 mph and the 30 mph speed limit near the Sun Inn will be extended.
- Consultation and design of the links to existing paths is still to be undertaken.
- Project team are happy to engage with MTRaP group
- Cycle paths (shared with other users) will be included in cleaning schedules

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Capital Works Update

AH has circulated progress report

- Good progress has been made during the previous month
- There has been a focus on carriageway works.
- Have been using an external contractor to carry out work.
- Footway work will be carried forward to the period 2022 – 2023.
- Extra finance will be carried over to the next financial year.
- Joint priority schemes will be carried forward into the next financial year.

Damhead

CN (Damhead) noted concerns about the Armco barrier on Burnside Road, which is becoming unstable.

Bonnyrigg

- Still to complete road line marking in on the roads where work has previously been undertaken. Although road marking on the A7 has been prioritised it is anticipated that road marking in Bonnyrigg will be completed by the end of March.
- An enquiry was made about work to be undertaken in the Sherwood Estate. Work on roads in the Waverly estate is planned to be undertaken next year

Eskbank

- Concerns expressed about the general condition of the footpaths on Bonnyrigg Road and particularly the narrow width of the path near to Short's Garage.
- AH indicated that footpaths on the Bonnyrigg Road will be included in the programmes for improvement in the next year.
- AH will highlight the concerns about the narrow width of the path to the Roads Safety team

Easthouses

- Tree roots are having an impact of the surface of the footway from Mayfield down to Easthouses. AH emphasised that pedestrian safety is a priority and he will arrange for the path to be inspected.

Dewarton Village

- Dewarton Village to Cranstoun crossroads. Footpath, regularly used by nursery children, is in poor condition and becoming narrower.
- AH noted that the state of the path can be inspected

4. ROAD MARKING

- As discussed previously, Midlothian Council is bringing road marking work 'in house' and is in the process of creating a Road Marking team.
- A vehicle is required and although the Council is in the process of purchasing one, availability has meant that this is being delayed.
- As noted previously, external contactors have been working on A7 to mark new lines. The 'filter' road markings in Newtongrange have been completed.

5. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY (SURVEY)

- All Community Councils have received information about the survey
- ENCC are submitting a response on behalf of their community.
- Agreed that where possible all Community Councils would submit a response on behalf of their communities.

6. CORE PATHS

- PJ (Midlothian Council) highlighted the response from James Kinch (in January MTRaP notes).

- RH noted that involvement of local community members should be a priority.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pathways in Mayfield Park

- RH highlighted concerns about the condition of the paths in Mayfield Park where they meet the tunnel to Newbattle High School. Noted that this is an issue for Land and Countryside and any concerns can be forwarded to LandscapeAndCountrysideEnquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

Flooding and Drainage

- Wayne Clark noted that if members have any concerns about flooding or drainage issues then they can contact the Roads Operations department. Contact can be made on 0131 271 7500 or email: wayne.clark@midlothian.gov.uk
- Two new gully cleaning vehicles have been ordered. They are anticipated to arrive by October 2022 and this will support a proactive cleaning service.

Responses to re request for issues of concern to be addressed.

- DE (Bonnyrigg) expressed thanks on behalf of the community, for Midlothian Council's responses in addressing necessary improvements to roads related matters.

Midlothian Council Website fault reporting form

- Some of those present at the meeting indicated that, although they had completed 'web-forms' to report faults, they hadn't always received a response or acknowledgement.
- WC (Midlothian Council) noted that for a period of time, enquiries had been misdirected. This had resulted in a back-log in terms of responses.
- A new system for receiving and addressing complaints will be introduced in April and it is anticipated that this will result in a great improvement in service provision.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 April, 6.00 – 7.30, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87184829944?pwd=Ym1na2pnd01GbUQ0WXVlNUhvZElIQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 8482 9944

Passcode: 824097