

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 4 April, 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
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater

In Attendance:

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

Apologies

Alan Symon,	Eskbank and Newbattle
Fraser Jervis	Moorfoot
Louisa Wilson	Moorfoot
Constance Newbould	Damhead

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – FEBRUARY MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

Moved: Brian Farrell

Seconded: Diane Easton

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Capital Works Programme Update

AH, (Midlothian Council) had circulated the update before the meeting and highlighted the following:

- i External contractors have supported the work
- ii The report notes all of the completed carriageway and footway schemes.
- iii The Capital Works schemes are running alongside the Residential Streets Programme.
- iv The CWP programme for 2022/23 is currently in preparation.

- v It is anticipated that the budget for the 2022/23 CWP will be as per the normal annual allocation, together with any monies not used in the previous CWP. The final list of schemes to be included will be dependent on the confirmed total available budget.
- vi Those present agreed that MTRaP and Midlothian Council would commence consultation on 2023-2024 joint priority scheme in October / November 2022.

Residential Streets Programme (R.S.P.)

WC (Midlothian Council) provided an update on the programme.

- i £2.5 million has been available to carry out the programme.
- ii Schemes have been completed in estates in Bonnyrigg and Mayfield.
- iii During the process, the Council has been working with local residents who have been able to provide an input into the programme.
- iv WC reported that where work has been undertaken there had been very good feedback from residents.
- v Projects in other towns are planned and, subject to approval from colleagues, WC will be able to provide a list of proposed projects and their provisional timescales.
- vi If MTRaP members have alternative suggestions for the Residential Streets Programme, they can contact WC.
- vii Where possible and a budget is available, when carriageways are upgraded footways will also be upgraded.
- viii The R.S.P. has supported the provision of local employment opportunities for local residents and the division is recruiting additional members of staff.
- ix Seeking to improve the process of repairing of potholes, the division is exploring how this can be undertaken and has had a demonstration of machinery that could improve the process.
- x WC highlighted that a national Bitumen shortage may have an adverse impact upon the Capital Works and Residential Streets Programme.

3. Sheriffhall Grade Separation - Federation Objection

- i NS (Loanhead) highlighted that Loanhead Community Council were unhappy that an objection to the planned project had been lodged in the name of Midlothian Federation of Community Councils. Loanhead Community Council members had expressed the view that the objection should be withdrawn.
- ii ASK (Dalkeith) also expressed concerns, indicating that Dalkeith and District Community Council members were unaware that an objection had been submitted.

- iii ASK also noted it would have been preferable if the responses from Transport Scotland had been shared with all the Federation members.
- iv BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) remarked that due to their communities being affected by hold-ups on the bypass or break-downs on the roundabout, both Eskbank and Newbattle and Community Councils in the Bonnyrigg area, would support the grade separation project.
- v RH (Mayfield) noted the comments made at the meeting and indicated that the subject would be discussed at the Federation meeting on April 20.
- vi ASK observed that changes have been made to the grade separation project design features since the proposals had first been circulated in autumn 2019.

Action: PJ to add to MFCC Agenda

4. Footway Condition in Fountain Green & Clerk Street and Road Markings in Loanhead.

- i NS expressed concerns about the condition of the footways in the Fountain Green area of Loanhead. AH highlighted that these footways are maintained by Land and Countryside and may be subject to temporary repairs in the near future. It may be difficult to replace the existing slabs (that are in poor condition) with matching slabs.
- ii The footways in Clerk Street are being assessed and options are being considered.

Footpath extensions in Whitehill.

- i PJ (Midlothian Council) agreed to contact colleagues in the Council to see whether there could be an assessment of whether an extension to the existing footway would be feasible.

Action: PJ to contact colleagues re potential assessment of extending the footways

5. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

- i Survey conducted recently. Results have not been reported on yet.
- ii BF highlighted concerns that footways in the county can be narrow and therefore have an impact on their use by members of the public. He also noted that that there appeared to be a lack of a car use reduction strategy. He suggested that when improvements to roads in the county are made, the footways alongside them are widened.
- iii WC noted that this could have a substantial impact upon project costs and the time taken to undertake work to improve carriageways.
- iv JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) observed that walking as a means of moving around could be adversely affected by overhanging foliage obstructing

footways, lack of gritting after icy or snowy weather and the closure of public toilet facilities in the community.

6. CORE PATHS.

- i The Core Paths review was raised as a point of discussion. The requirement for an Access Officer was also discussed. These issues had been discussed previously. PJ had circulated the response from the Council in the January MTRaP minutes. (see 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.

- ii Those present requested a further update on both of these points of interest.

Action: PJ to contact James Kinch for an update

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Gritting

Gritting routes have been expanded. Some of those present noted that there appeared to be excess grit on the roads and paths in the Mayfield area. Midlothian wide, some of the people present noted that roads appeared to be gritted when there hadn't been any need. WC noted weather forecasts had predicted colder weather than subsequently had been experienced.

ii Yellow Lines – Clerk Street, Loanhead

NS highlighted that markings were missing and the lines outside Paradykes Primary School were badly faded.

WC agreed to have checks made and lines repainted where appropriate.

iii Street Lighting

ASK enquired about response times for repair of faulty street lights on Edinburgh Road (Dalkeith). WC noted that the fault was reported on 10 March.

Grit Bins

JT had submitted an enquiry about the updating of the Grit Bin list on the Midlothian Council website but at the time of the meeting had received no response.

Action: WC to check about responses

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 16 May, 6.00 – 7.30, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89806035891?pwd=b3d3U1c1cDFJbW5odWZielFMNkN3QT09>

Meeting ID: 898 0603 5891, Passcode: 701887