

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 16 May, 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)	Tyne water

In Attendance:

Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities and Lifelong Learning
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Apologies

Alan Heatley	Midlothian Council
Wayne Clark	Midlothian Council

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – APRIL MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

Moved: Robert Hogg

Seconded: Mark Whitham

PREVIOUS MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Capital Works Programme Update

- i Preparation and budget - The final programme is still to be confirmed as the team are awaiting confirmation of the available budget.
- ii There is a provisional list of 16 carriageway schemes and 28 footway schemes, including 1 carriageway and 7 footway joint priority schemes.
- iii To date, 3 schemes have been put out to tender to external contractors with returns due shortly.

Pot Hole Pro

- i In the period since the last meeting, many of those present had reviewed information and were supportive of the potential purchase of a machine. BF (EBCC) agreed to compose a letter in support of the purchase. He will forward to RH for submission to Midlothian Council.

Action: BF to compose letter of support and forward to RH to submit to the Council

Street Lighting in Dalkeith

- i. Although repairs had been completed, ASK (Dalkeith) noted that the lights were not working again.
- ii. ASK noted her thanks to Wayne Clark and the Midlothian Council Street Lighting team for the work they have been doing to facilitate street lighting repairs being made.

Sheriffhall Grade Separation - Federation Objection

- i. ASK reported that 2 meetings had been held. One with MFCC and MTRaP members in preparation for the subsequent meeting and then one with AECOM and Transport Scotland.
- ii. The meeting had been very positive and the concerns held by MFCC & MTRaP members had been addressed by the Grade Separation project team.
- iii. Objections raised on behalf of MFCC had been withdrawn and are now described as 'concerns'.
- iv. AECOM and Transport Scotland had provided in depth responses to the questions raised by MFCC & MTRaP members.
- v. It would appear that a lot of work on environmental issues and concerns had been undertaken.
- vi. Those people representing MFCC & MTRaP had agreed that the group would circulate information when requested.
- vii. A note of the meeting (taken by AECOM) will be forwarded to ASK who will circulate to MFCC & MTRaP members when available.
- viii. There is likely to be a Public Local Enquiry later on in the year
- ix. RH (Mayfield and Easthouses) thanked the MFCC & MTRaP sub-group members for their work on this matter.

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

- i. No further update from Land & Countryside re repairs to footpath slabs in Fountain Green, Loanhead.
- ii. Condition of footways in Clerk Street, Loanhead – these are still being assessed with a view to undertaking localised repairs. This may result in some areas being repaired in bitumen if matching slabs or similar cannot be sourced.

Footpath extensions in Whitehill.

As requested at the previous meeting, PJ contacted colleagues re interest in a potential footpath extension. (See responses below).

- i. This could be included in the current Active Travel consultation with a view to a possibility in our future strategy.
- ii. Not able to say where it would be placed as far as priority for surveying / costing at the present.
- iii. Resources are such at present with other demands that the council cannot afford time to scope out all the various locations brought to our attention.
- iv. Forming this link would not be a straightforward case of removing a verge and constructing a footway. The verge is particularly steep in areas and there may be other issues that has led to this section being a missing link. This would need to be explored if and when resources became available.
- v. The continuing footway surface towards Edgehead is in extremely poor condition and it is likely that any footway works in future would require this footway to be completely reconstructed too, which would be a considerable cost.
- vi. *Update* – though not discussed at the meeting David Miller had contacted colleagues to highlight that it in terms of Active Travel, the extension of the footway would be ‘extremely advantageous’ and requested that it be considered as desirable.
- vii. PJ noted that at the last meeting there had been agreement that work on identifying joint priorities for 2023-2024 will begin in October. This section could be included for consideration.
- viii. Those present agreed in order to discuss this issue, that an invite to attend the next MTRaP meeting be extended to David Miller.

Action: At the request of MTRaP members, PJ to invite David Miller to the next MTRaP meeting.

Access Officer – Update

As requested by MTRaP members at the April meeting, PJ contacted Land and Resources colleagues to make further enquiries about an Access Officer post. (See response below).

‘A request and case was made by Land and Resources for the post to be replaced. This was rejected. Therefore the post of Access Officer will not be replaced’.

- i. A wide ranging discussion highlighted the following points:
 - MTRaP members would like further information on who or which group in the Council rejected the case for an Access Officer post, and on what basis was the case rejected?

- There is a belief that housing and other developments has led to many paths and rights of way / access are being lost and that, if an Access Officer was in place this would not be happening.
- Could the post be shared with another authority such as East Lothian where an access officer is in place? Could it be a part time post?
- There was agreement that, depending on the response to the queries about the Access Officer post, local elected members be contacted in order to raise concerns about the issues identified.
- The 'Access Officer' item is to remain on future MTRaP agendas.

Action: At the request of MTRaP members, PJ to seek further information from Land and Resources colleagues.

3. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

- Those present noted that, although they had participated in a focus group to contribute to the survey, they had not received any feedback and were unsure about the progress of the survey.
- MTRaP members would like to know if there is a date for the next Active Travel Strategy to be published.
- MTRaP members noted that they would be keen to highlight and support ideas for projects that could contribute to the strategy and work in partnership with Midlothian Council.

Action: At the request of MTRaP members, PJ to contact colleagues to seek further information about progress of the strategy.

4. CORE PATHS.

Newland Rig – Vogrie.

- RM (Bonnyrigg) had received a quote for the resurfacing of a multiuser path going through the wood (£33,000). Some work, funded by the British Horse Society, had already been undertaken.
- RM highlighted that in order for funding to be accessed, a constituted group with a bank account would need to be formed.
- RH noted that a recent report on Elected Member's Environmental Budget expenditure highlighted that funds remained unspent. This may be available to support the development of the Newland Rig – Vogrie project.
- Those present highlighted that funding may be available if applications were made to the National Lottery and Sustrans.
- MW (Tynewater) suggested that the Community Council could be approached to see whether it would be prepared to consider supporting an application for funding being made.

Action: MW to discuss possibility of TCC supporting a funding application.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Litter Bins in Kings Park

- i. ASK noted that although Midlothian Council Waste Services personnel are active in keeping litter to a minimum and that Litter Bins are regularly emptied on week days, by the end of the weekend they are overflowing.
- ii. It would appear that there is no schedule for emptying litter bins over the weekend.

Grit Bins

- i. JT (Mayfield and Easthouse) had submitted an enquiry about the updating of the Grit Bin list on the Midlothian Council website. A response had been received but further information will be requested.

Action: JT to follow-up on requests for information about Grit Bins.

Drain Cleaning

- i. An enquiry was made about the process of requesting the unblocking of road drains in the county.
- ii. Those present were advised that being specific about the location or sending a photograph of the issue can support a quicker response from the Council.
- iii. BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) advised that all lampposts in the county are numbered and this could assist in providing information about the location when reporting blocked road drains.
- iv. It was noted that another gully cleaning machine has been ordered but delivery is not expected until later on in the year.
- v. Information about reporting surface drainage issues can be reported here: [Flooding, road gullies and drainage | Midlothian Council](#) or a call made to 0131 271 7500

Yellow Lines in Bonnyrigg

- i. DE (Bonnyrigg) noted that there had been suggestions of proposals to paint Yellow Lines along Lothian Street in the town. Members of the group highlighted that official notification would be made before the work would be undertaken. DE noted that although this would support improved traffic flow through along the route, parking for local residents would be adversely affected.

Paths and verges in Dewarton

- i. MW reported that the council had responded quickly to address concerns raised about litter, branches, other material and loose manhole covers in the village.

Council Officer Response Times when issues are raised

- i. ASK noted that many Council officers responded quickly when issues are raised but there can be difference, depending on the department contacted, in response times when issues are raised.

Midlothian wide speed review (20 mph zones)

- i. BF noted that a report on the review will be discussed at the Midlothian Council meeting on 24th May.

Stopping Up Order for Old A701, Straiton - temporary pedestrian route

- i. NS (Loanhead) noted that the community council is unhappy with the developer's proposed temporary access route to the Peebles bus stop on the A701 at Straiton roundabout. This would involve pedestrians going through the Retail Park, when at present they can gain access from the old A701 (which will be stopped up) through old Straiton village. Community Council members feel that there is a road safety issue here as many people will attempt to walk on the outside of the railings at the roundabout to get to the bus stop. The existing route is regarded as a Public Right of Way.

Action: At the request of MTRaP members, PJ to contact James Gilfillan (Consultant Policy & Planning) to seek further information.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27 June, 6.00 – 7.30, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83945873268?pwd=WDdVMnJaVE9iMHVabHkrVmxnZnlOUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 4587 3268

Passcode: 952787