

## Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 27 June, 2022, 6.00 to 7.30pm

### Zoom Meeting

#### Present:

Rhona Matthews (RM)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Ella Mercer (EM)	Gorebridge
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
David Miller (DM)	Midlothian Council - Senior Consultant (Road Safety)
Justin Venton (JV)	Midlothian Council - Land and Countryside Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities and Lifelong Learning
Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Operations & Asset Manager Roads

#### Apologies

Diane Easton	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Edith Cameron	Rosewell
Louisa Wilson	Moorfoot
Fraser Jervis	Moorfoot

#### 1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – MAY MEETING

Any matters arising are included in discussion at this meeting.

**Moved:** Robert Hogg

**Seconded:** Mark Whitham

#### MATTERS ARISING

##### Pot Hole Pro Machinery & other resources

- i There was a further discussion about the item raised at the May meeting. WC (Midlothian Council) noted that there had been discussion with colleagues about the purchase of the equipment. Subject to budgetary decisions, the equipment would be a good addition to resources to effectively make repairs and improve conditions on the Midlothian road network. BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) reiterated that he is willing to draft a letter on behalf of MTRaP to indicate support for a purchase. Those present agreed that BF would write a

letter of support to be submitted on behalf of MTRaP via Robert Hogg (Chair of Midlothian Federation of Community Councils).

- ii WC informed members that the delivery of an additional gully-cleaning vehicle is likely to be delayed until July 2023.

**Action: MTRaP members to forward comments to BF. BF to compose a letter of support and forward to RH for submission to Midlothian Council**

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

- i. No further update available at the meeting.
- ii. PJ informed the group members that Norrie Scott has resigned from Loanhead Community Council.

**Action: PJ (Midlothian Council) will contact colleagues to see if there have been any further developments.**

## **2. INPUT FROM COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**David Miller - Senior Consultant (Road Safety)**

**Footway Extension in Tynewater area**

DM noted that a potential extension to the existing footway had been identified by Active Travel Team members.

- I. However, such an extension (covering a distance of approximately 1 kilometre) could be difficult to implement due to the cost of construction, which could be between, £180,000 – £220,000.
- II. In order to assess fully the cost and viability of the project a detailed survey of the route and the land conditions would be required.
- III. The existing footway is in poor condition. It would also require improvement if an extension was to be constructed.
- IV. The path will be on the list for prioritisation.

*Questions raised*

- *MT (Tynewater CC) asked if a footfall survey could be undertaken.*  
DM noted that there would need to be a survey to ascertain whether there is a demand from the public for the path to be extended.
- *RH enquired whether the existing path could be repaired and whether Developer Contributions can be used to support development and maintenance.*  
DM noted that there is difficulty in obtaining a budget for maintenance of existing paths. Developer Contributions – if available to support the funding of a potential footway extension, would be something that would be negotiated and agreed by the Midlothian Council Planning department.

- *DM was also asked if Elected Member's Environmental Funds could be used.*  
DM noted that this would be a decision that would be made by individual elected members. He noted that contributions from a range of sources could be used to support the improvements of Footways if available.

### **Parking & Yellow Line Markings**

- I. The Yellow Lines outside St Nicholas Church are on the list to be removed.
- II. WC (Midlothian Council) will chase up the removal of yellow lines where they are due to undertaken. He noted that the removal process had now changed – road markings are no longer removed by burning them off due to environmental considerations and the potential danger to operators.
- III. WC noted that his department has a limited budget and that work is required to be prioritised. The initial priorities are markings that support road safety and traffic efficiency.
- IV. 'Disabled Bay' road marking is a priority and recently, applications from residents to have spaces marked, have increased.
- V. He highlighted that Midlothian Council enforces traffic management procedures and this has led to some contractors increasing the cost of work they undertake.

**Justin Venton** - Land and Countryside Manager

### ***Hedge Cutting***

- I. Hedge cutting is undertaken during the period mid-August to October. This is to avoid the nesting period for birds. There is a maximum fine of £20,000 if this is ignored.
- II. The maintenance of hedges on domestic households or private land is the responsibility of landowners.
- III. Notices can be served on Landowners if there are unwilling to cut hedges. Further information can be found here: [High hedge notices | Planning enforcement | Midlothian Council](#)
- IV. Midlothian Council has responsibility for maintenance of hedges in open spaces and public parks.

### ***Litter Bins***

- I. The bins in public parks are emptied on Mondays and Thursdays
- II. The recent period of good weather has meant that bins in public parks have been used more than they normally would have done.
- III. Due to the limited number of staff available to fulfil this function, flexibility to carry out additional operations at weekends is limited although, where available, staff from the Cleansing department will assist.
- IV. JV will arrange for an additional bin to be installed in Ironmills Park.
- V. Full bins can be reported here: [Litter and street cleaning | Midlothian Council](#)

## ***Access Officer***

- I. The post had been previously removed by Midlothian Council.
- II. In order for the post to be reinstated, Land and Resources would need to submit a report with a proposal at a meeting of Midlothian Council. The proposal would have to include the 'need' for the post to be reinstated, what is not being done, how services would be improved if the post were reinstated.
- III. It would be helpful if MTRaP members could highlight the issues, as they perceive them, and what services are not being provided as consequence of an Access Officer not being in post.

**Action: MFCC and MTRaP members to forward information / suggestions to Justin Venton ([justin.venton@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:justin.venton@midlothian.gov.uk)) that would support a proposal for the reinstatement of an Access Officer.**

### *Questions raised*

- *Could an Access Office post be shared with a neighbouring local authority?*  
Shared service provision has been discussed and the sharing of an Access Officer post could be explored.
- *Who is responsible for fallen trees that are blocking a path?*  
That would be the responsibility of the landowner concerned. If on Midlothian Council land, in the first instance reports can be made by emailing the Contact Centre ([contactcentre@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@midlothian.gov.uk)), users should be able to attach a photograph with the enquiry.  
JT noted that she had been unable to attach a photograph and had not received feedback when recently making an enquiry via the Contact Centre.

**Action: JV agreed to investigate the process of making an enquiry and whether it is possible to attach a photograph.**

**RH thanked David Miller and Justin Venton for taking the time to attend, provide information and responding to the questions posed at the meeting.**

### 3. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

- i. Further to the request for information made at the previous meeting, PJ had circulated an update on the progress of the Active Travel Strategy (provided by Rebecca Brotherstone - Sustainable Transport Officer) to MTRaP members.
- i. Several Community Councils had contributed to the consultation. Those present agreed that it would be helpful for those Community Councils who had not been able to, be offered an opportunity to do so.

**Action: PJ to circulate consultation questions for consideration for completion.**

### 4. CORE PATHS.

- i. JV had covered the issues of concern in his input

### 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### **Private Contractor responsibilities**

- i. RH enquired as to the responsibility when incidents occur on their workspaces – do they need to report accidents?
- ii. WC responded that Midlothian Council does inspect works and incidents or accidents should be reported by the contractor, if they occur. Neil Bisset (Road Inspector) can be contacted if residents have any concerns about safety in locations where works are taking place. [neil.bisset@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:neil.bisset@midlothian.gov.uk)

### 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 29 August June, 6.00 – 7.30, Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81631894202?pwd=Af8fsvGaFLdazKy3mon7H0iFzuYuQJ.1>

**Meeting ID: 816 3189 4202**

**Passcode: 109241**