

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday 29 August, 2022, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom Meeting

Present:

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and Lasswade
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses

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

Apologies

Robert Hogg	Mayfield and Easthouses
Fraser Jervis	Moorfoot
Edith Cameron	Rosewell
Mark Whitham	Tynewater
Myrtle Pont	Tynewater
David Miller	Midlothian Council

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES – JUNE MEETING

2. Amendment to June meeting notes Item 5 - Private Contractor responsibilities

Neil Bisset (Midlothian Council) only has responsibility for liaison with Utilities contactors rather than contractors in general. He does not have any enforcement powers.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Pot Hole Pro Machinery

- i WC (Midlothian Council) reported that there has been further discussion about the value and potential purchase of the machinery.

- ii WC reported that the letter of support submitted on behalf of the MTRaP group has been considered as part of the discussion.
- iii WC noted that that elected members had provided positive feedback about the work of the MTRaP group (Council Officers and MTRaP members working successfully together).
- iv ASK noted that not all MTRaP members had a copy of the final version of the letter submitted on behalf of the group.

Action: JT will send a copy of the letter submitted, to all MTRaP members.

Footway Condition in Fountain Green & Clerk Street in Loanhead

- i No further update available at the meeting re the Fountain Green area. This will be a responsibility of Land and Resources staff.
- ii AH (Midlothian Council) reported that he would discuss again with a colleague to get the latest update.

Action: AH (Midlothian Council) will discuss the latest updates with colleagues.

Tynewater Footway Extension

- i AH noted that, currently, there is no funding to support repairs to the existing footway or an extension of it.
- ii Sustrans funding will support Community routes identified by local communities. The potential extension of the footway could be put forward for consideration during the process.

Parking & Yellow Line Markings

- i The removal of parking and yellow line markings is still in the process of being completed.

Hedge Cutting

- i DE (Bonnyrigg and District) enquired about the process of hedges and other vegetation that obscures signage and reduces the width of footways. Information provided by Justin Venton was highlighted.
- ii In order to avoid the nesting period for birds, hedge cutting is undertaken during the period mid-August to October.

- iii The maintenance of hedges on domestic households or private land is the responsibility of landowners. Further information can be found here: [High hedge notices | Planning enforcement | Midlothian Council](#) or report via the Midlothian Council, **email:** development.management@midlothian.gov.uk
- iv Midlothian Council has responsibility for maintenance of hedges in open spaces and public parks.

CN (Damhead) highlighted that the most effective way to support the Council with dealing with concerns is to report to Midlothian Council with a location and photographs of vegetation that is overgrown, email:

LandscapeAndCountrysideEnquiries@midlothian.gov.uk

If on private land, Midlothian Council can write to the landowner to request that it be cut back.

Action: If there are concerns that vegetation is overgrown or obscuring road signs, this should be reported to Midlothian Council with notification of the location and where possible a photograph to illustrate issues of concern.

Midlothian Enquiry / Contact System

- i JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) reported that she had contacted Midlothian Council re reporting of issues of concerns (including being able to add photographs). Her understanding is that if a contact is made, there is no referencing system and therefore is it difficult to follow up on enquiries. JT is going to contact Midlothian Council to discuss how the system could be developed to work more effectively to provide an adequate service to local residents.

Action: JT to contact Midlothian Council re the enquiry system

Capital and other works update

- i AH (Midlothian Council) reported that the Residential Street programme is progressing well. Currently there are schemes in the Barleyknowe Lane (Gorebridge) and St James (Penicuik) areas.
- ii 3 Footway schemes (including a joint priority scheme) have been completed.
- iii 4 more schemes will commence in October.
- iv Progress may be subject to the availability of contractors.
- v There are 4 sets of traffic signals that are being renewed.
- vi The supply of new lighting columns is out for tender. 537 lighting columns should be delivered by April 2022.
- vii It is anticipated that 2000 new lighting columns will be installed during the next 4-year period.

- viii A new 'Toucan' crossing (funded by developer contributions) is being installed on Rosewell Road in Bonnyrigg.

3. INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNALS

There was an enquiry about information provided to support installation of temporary traffic signals.

- i Under the current code of practice there is a requirement for contractors to provide contact details (email address or telephone number). These details should be clearly displayed on the temporary traffic lights.
- ii If residents have any concerns or require information, they can use these details to raise them.
- iii ASK noted that information may not always be current. AH noted that this is a Scotland wide issue and that efforts are being made to ensure that information is kept up to date.
- iv AH noted that Midlothian Council has a role to coordinate utilities and other work but the number of works in progress across the county at any one time is quite large (up to 100 sites) and there is 1 inspector in post.
- v The Council has limited authority over the way that works are undertaken.
- vi The Council does pass on information to contractor. The contractor is contacted by members of the public.

4. MTRaP COMMUNICATIONS

- i Currently communication with members is undertaken by using individual email addresses.
- ii PJ (Midlothian Council) informed the group that he had a created Googlegroup email address for an MTRaP mailing list.
- iii There was agreement that using this email address would support effective communication between members.
- iv The address is mtrapgroup@googlegroups.com
- v Council Officers (AH, WC, etc) are not currently on the mailing list but it was agreed that they should be added.

Action: PJ to add relevant Council Officers to the MTRaP Googlegroup

5. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

Ian Findlay Path Fund

- i Information (Guidance / Criteria) is available here at the Paths for All website:
- ii [Ian Findlay Path Fund - Paths for All | Paths for All](#)
- iii 30% of funding is required from another source
- iv Discussion ensued about available support from Council Officers, could volunteer hours contribute to the 30% funding requirement?
- v Members noted that it Elected Members could be contacted to see whether they would consider using their 'Environmental Budgets' to support a contribution

Action: PJ to circulate consultation questions for consideration.

6. CORE PATHS Access Officer

CN (Damhead) raised this as an issue. PJ noted that this had been discussed at the June meeting (See June MTRaP Minutes) when Justin Venton attended. MTRaP and MFCC members had been asked to send supporting information re the reinstatement of an Access Officer post, to Justin.Venton@midlothian.gov.uk.

CN noted that it may be worthwhile to submit a letter on behalf of MTRaP (and MFCC?), to provide support for consideration of an Access Officer.

Action: PJ will check with to ascertain whether JV had received any information.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Street Lighting

BF (Eskbank and Newbattle) enquired as to whether Defibrillators can be mounted to street light columns. WC indicated that theoretically they could be but advised that there would be power available only during the evening periods. There are other options and they will meet to discuss them.

Street Lighting columns will not be painted and some new columns will be fitted with existing 'heads'.

There will not be retrofitting of 'heritage' columns.

ii Elected Member portfolio

Dianne Alexander (Elected Member for Bonnyrigg) has the Cabinet portfolio for 'Community Facilities, Climate Change, and Environment' and this includes matters relating to 'Roads'. Those present suggested the Councillor Alexander be invited to a meeting of the MTRaP group.

iii Appointment of new members of staff

WC highlighted that a new member of staff has been appointed. Robbie Beattie has been appointed to the position of Senior Neighbourhood Services Manager. Mr Beattie would be interested in joining an MTRaP meeting when appropriate.

iv Winter Service Policy and Operation Plan

Preparation for the new plan is underway. WC highlighted has if MTRaP / Community Council members have information they would wish to see in the plan, they can forward it to him. (wayne.clark@midlothian.gov.uk)

Action: MTRaP members to email Wayne Clark re the Winter Service Policy and Operation Plan

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday, 24 October, 6.00 – 7.30pm, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87687773008?pwd=VHBSa0lUaThoK0NyNUVveGx1d2M1QT09>

Meeting ID: 876 8777 3008

Passcode: 538670