

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting
Monday 20 November 2023, 6.00 to 7.30pm
Zoom

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Brian Farrell	Eskbank and Newbattle
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
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning
Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager – Road Network and Transport

APOLOGIES

Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Moira Cuthbert (MC)	Penicuik and District

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses) chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.

Apologies received were noted.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Robert Hogg

Seconded: Mark Whitham

MATTERS ARISING

i Capital Works Programme update.

- AH provided a brief overview of the report circulated to MTRaP members.
- The report notes that to date, 8 schemes have been completed, including 3 Joint Priority schemes. A scheme is currently in progress on the A701 at Straiton roundabout. A further 4 schemes have been programmed for the early new year.
- Footway Schemes - to date, 4 schemes have been completed, including 2 Joint Priority. A scheme is currently in progress at Deanburn in Penicuik. A further 2 schemes are to be programmed for the early new year.
- Some schemes will be substituted by use of the Pothole Pro machine.
- Those present engaged in a discussion about highlighting the extent of the work undertaken during the Capital Works and Residential Streets programme.
- AH (Midlothian Council) will include the total mileage of work undertaken, in future updates \ reports.

ii Residential Streets Programme (RSP) update

- WC (Midlothian Council) advised group members that occasionally, work on RSP projects has to be temporarily paused when requests for urgent repairs at other locations are made. Consequently, completion of RSP's is delayed.
- WC noted that using the Pot Hole Pro (PHP) equipment, at the point of delivery, is more expensive than other procedures for pothole repair or road resurfacing. However, use of the equipment makes a far more effective repair. The useful life of existing road surfaces is extended and enables repairs without the whole road being resurfaced.
- Purchase of additional equipment (including the PHP) has supported increased effectiveness of expenditure of available financial resources.
- WC informed those present that JCB, (manufacturer of the Pot Hole Pro equipment), had made a request to highlight the work undertaken by Midlothian Council's Roads team.

iii **Pothole Pro (demonstration)**

There will be an opportunity for MTRaP members to attend a demonstration of the equipment in operation on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November in the Mayfield area.

Action: MTRaP members to contact PJ if they are interested in attending the demonstration.

3. UPDATE ON INTRODUCTION OF 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

- A final decision about the introduction of the initiative is still to be taken by elected members.
- The extent of the coverage of the 20-mph zone is also still to be decided.
- Introduction of 20 mph speed limits is likely to be implemented in the 2024-2025 financial year.
- Edgehead village has already been designated as a 20-mph zone.
- During the initiative, the design of 'Gateways' to settlements will be enhanced to improve recognition of lowered speed limits. Community Councils and local residents will be consulted and involved in the design and location of the 'Gateways'.

4. PAVEMENT PARKING - PROPOSALS TO ENFORCE LEGISLATION.

- It is anticipated that a report to discuss implementation of the legislation will be presented to elected members at the March meeting of the Council.
- If a decision is made, implementation is likely to commence in April.

5. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

i NC196

- There has been some discussion and investigation about the resurfacing of the path to provide a surface that would be suitable for potential path users.
- There was a suggestion that there is no requirement for the path to be resurfaced and that furthermore, the type of material to be used may be unsafe.
- AH informed those present that the material being considered has been used successfully in other areas of the UK.
- If the work is carried out, consideration of the most suitable time of the year will need to be made.
- A decision as to whether the project will proceed will be made at a meeting of the Council.

6. CORE PATHS

- i Staff working for the Midlothian Ranger service have been undertaking work to improve pathways. RH noted that this is valuable work that will support and promote the use of pathways.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Bus Stops

RH highlighted the poor condition of a number of bus stops in the area.

WC advised that RH email him with the locations of the bus stops and he will arrange for them to be inspected.

WC also noted that there will a programme for replacement of between 20 – 30 bus stops in the county.

An additional bus stop will be installed in Edgehead (Elizabeth Dickson Gardens).

Action: RH to provide information on the location of Bus stops that need to be improved.

ii Crawlees Road, Mayfield - Gorebridge

A meeting and 'walkabout' had been held between Midlothian Council officers and members of Newtongrange Community Council.

Concerns, including those about pedestrian safety and the width of the road had been raised. It was noted also that the lorries using the road meant that the surface condition was poor.

Residents had expressed a desire for a footway and street lighting to be installed along the length of the road.

WC advised those present that the road markings will be reinstated.

It is anticipated that further improvements are mostly likely to be possible once a proposed housing development commences.

iii Whitehill Resurfacing

MW (Tynewater) highlighted that residents in the village were unhappy that the Bus Service had been curtailed during the period when resurfacing work had been carried out. Residents believed that the bus service had been diverted for a longer period than was necessary. WC noted that resurfacing work carried out in Edgehead may have been the reason for the bus service being diverted. Further work will be undertaken in the area to install 'speed bumps'.

iv **Bonnyrigg**

Double Yellow Lines

- An objection to the current proposal has been raised and will be resubmitted for further consideration at a meeting of the Council.

Implementation of 1-way street

- DE (Bonnyrigg and District) noted a proposal for changing a 2-way street to a 1-way street.
- WC indicated that options are being reviewed and costed.

v **Blocked Drains**

JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) highlighted concerns about blocked drains in the area and that although reported, the time taken to respond was lengthy or perceived to be not responded to.

WC requested that information on the location of the blocked drains be sent to him, and he will arrange remedial work to be undertaken.

Action: JT to provide information to WC

vi **Tynewater (Cousland)**

Kiln Brae. MW raised concerns about a metal plate that had been in situ for a considerable length of time.

Hillside Cottage. MW highlighted that there is a hole in the road where water is escaping.

Action: These issues of concern will be investigated.

vii **Bus Service**

WC noted that funding applications to develop bus service provision are being developed.

viii **A7 Prioritisation Initiative**

WC confirmed that work on stage 3\4 has been put out for tender. Due to the impact of inflation, additional funding will be required.

Additional Information (from reply on Midlothian Active Travel Forum – 22 Nov')

“I should inform we were recently successful in obtaining Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' funding to look at feasibility and early-stage design for active travel infrastructure along the A7 corridor from Newtongrange to the Sherrifhall Park and Ride,

A consultant has now been appointed to deliver this work. This has allowed us to extend the scope/extent of the original A7 urbanisation scheme, with the funds from developer contributions being used alongside further Sustrans funding for the construction phase of the project following on from the current feasibility/design and consultation”.

Sam Murphy - Active Travel Marketing Officer, Midlothian Council

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22 January 2023, 6.00 – 7.30

Zoom Meeting details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82674019555?pwd=SIU3NlpgbTFObXlhbjN4Rm9tcE95dz09>

Meeting ID: 826 7401 9555

Passcode: 428626