

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 22 January 2024, 6.00 to 7.30pm

Zoom

PRESENT

Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater and District
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Moira Cuthbert (MC)	Penicuik and District

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager, Road Network and Transport

APOLOGIES

Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
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1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

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

Apologies received were noted.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Brian Farrell

Seconded: Mark Whitham

i Pavement Parking

- Currently there are no policies in place to implement the legislation. A draft proposals report will be submitted for consideration by elected members.
- Once the report has been submitted and policies for development implemented, it is likely that traffic patrols will enforce the policies.

ii Crawlees Road

- Further to the meeting in 2023, a meeting of the Newtongrange, Gorebridge and Mayfield & Easthouses Community Councils will be held.
- Improvements to the route will have some dependence on proposals for further housing development alongside the road.

- The ability to lay down road markings on Crawlees Road will be affected by the numbers of vehicles using the (busy) road, and weather conditions. It is anticipated that road marking will commence in April or May when weather conditions improve, daylight is extended, and the likelihood of congestion is reduced.

MATTERS ARISING

i Capital Works Programme update.

AH (Midlothian Council) provided a brief overview of the report circulated to MTRaP members.

- **Carriageway Schemes**
 - To date, 10 schemes have been completed, including 3 Joint Priority schemes.
 - 2 schemes were completed since the last meeting, namely the A701 at Straiton Roundabout, and Buccleuch Street in Dalkeith.
 - A further 3 schemes are programmed to be undertaken before end of March 2024.
- **Footway Schemes**
 - to date, 5 schemes have been completed, including 2 Joint Priority.
 - 2 further schemes are currently out to tender and programmed to be completed by end of March 2024.
- **Completion of Carriageway and Footway Schemes**
 - AH noted that the number of schemes being completed will be dependent on available resources, changes to budgets, favourable weather conditions, and any unforeseen events or priorities that could impact on delivery of the programme.

ii Residential Streets Programme (RSP) update

- WC (Midlothian Council) highlighted that 2 teams are involved in the Residential Streets Programme.
- Due to complications, there has been a 6-week delay to the work in Bonnyrigg.
- The team will be moving on to work in the Roslin area.

iii Pothole Pro (PHP)

- The equipment is currently being used to carry out work in the Carrington area.
- In February, the team operating the machinery will move to the Kippielaw area.
- MTRaP and MFCC members attended a *demonstration* of the equipment in operation. Positive feedback had been provided, with those present at the demonstration highlighting the work and support provided by MC 'roads' staff in organising and facilitating the event.

iv Work across Midlothian

- WC was asked whether the PHP would be used in the Penicuik area or the Woodburn area. He noted that both these areas had seen significant resurfacing works.
- WC also highlighted that there was requirement to spend budgets across the county.
- BF (ENCC) provided suggestions as to where work could be conducted in the area.

v Bonnyrigg (Skeltiemuir)

- DW (Bonnyrigg) enquired about progress on repairs to 'dropped' drain covers. WC noted that this work will be categorised and included when other works in the area are carried out.

vi Penicuik

- MC highlighted that Kirkhill Road was frequently being flooded.
- There are also issues of concern on the U50 road between A702 and A766.

vii Dalkeith

- ASK commended Midlothian Council and Waynes's team members, re the Residential Streets Project work undertaken and completed in the area.

3. ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY

- i Publication of the strategy has been delayed
- ii A draft document is in preparation before being presented to elected members at a Council meeting.

4. CORE PATHS

- i CN (Damhead) had circulated an email making the following observations:
 - As the council has no active Access officer major developments that encroach on core paths and other used paths no one is checking and commenting in order to maintain the paths or more importantly have community consultation.
 - Another instance is Rosslynlee where the developer has blocked the path, and we now discover that they propose to tarmac this path which has been used by horses in the area for years. Tarmac as you are no doubt aware is not suitable for horses. It was a stipulation within the Land Reform Bill that all council had to have an access officer and also facilitate meetings of an access forum. This has not happened since covid which frankly is unacceptable.

- **Access Officer** - Those present at the meeting noted that the position of Access Officer (deleted) had been discussed in June 2022 (Minutes of the meeting – Page 4), Justin Venton (JV- Land and Countryside Manager) had requested that MTRaP members forward information / suggestions that would support a proposal for the reinstatement of an Access Officer. PJ had checked before the meeting, but it would appear that JV had not received any correspondence.
- **Developments In Rosslynlee** – Those present noted that proposals had been in the public domain and objections or observations could have been made at the planning stage, but it would appear had not been.
Action: In order to inform potential discussion and a proposal for reinstatement of the post, MFCC and MTRaP members to forward information e.g. the ‘need’ for the post to be reinstated, what services are not being provided as consequence of an Access Officer not being in post, how services would be improved if the post were reinstated, to Justin Venton (justin.venton@midlothian.gov.uk)

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i Midlothian Council Budget

- RH (Mayfield) highlighted that there had been very little communication about 2024-2025 budget.
- Those present noted that the Scottish Government were still to finalise its financial support for Local Authorities. This would then allow Local Authorities (including Midlothian Council) to make its decisions
- It is anticipated that the Roads budgets are likely to remain on target.
- There may be requests for increased funding to further develop projects currently being undertaken.

ii Staffing

- WC noted that his team is in the process of recruiting a senior member of staff. The position had been advertised several times.
- Currently the Midlothian Street Lighting team has only 1 (very good!) member of staff compared to other Local Authorities who have a staff team comprising of 5 members.

iii Gritting of path - North Wynd, Dalkeith \ Grit Bins in Easthouses

- ASK noted that the access path is sometimes missed when gritting of footways is undertaken. **WC will highlight to his team.**
- Grit Bin Easthouses – JT (Mayfield and Easthouses) highlighted issues with Grit Bins in Easthouses. **WC agreed to investigate.**

iv **CCTV Camera Installation**

- WC advised those present that CCTV camera are being installed in Dalkeith. Subsequently camera will be installed in Penicuik, Bonnyrigg, and Mayfield.

v **Tynewater area**

- MW highlighted drainage issues in the area. He will send information about locations to WC. **WC will investigate.**
- MW expressed thanks and appreciation for the work that Midlothian Council had undertaken to keep local people safe and clear debris after the recent storms.

vi **Eskbank area**

- BF advised of flooding at the Melville Dykes roundabout. **WC will investigate.**

vii **A7 Urbanisation**

- Group members were advised that, once the project is completed, the speed limit along the A7 urbanisation route will be a maximum of 30 mph.

viii **Invite to Strategic Transport Planning Manager.**

PJ will extend an invite for Anna Herriman to attend the next meeting of MTRaP on 6 March.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

4 March 2024, 6.00 – 7.30

Zoom Meeting details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83691482635?pwd=OHpiTE1CQ0VBc3cvR3Z5ZHRWMWRZQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9148 2635

Passcode: 824804