

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 4 March 2024, 6.00 to 7.30pm

Zoom

PRESENT

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Paul McGrath (McG)	Moorfoot and District
Moira Cuthbert (MC)	Penicuik and District
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater and District

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Anna Herriman (AH)	Midlothian Council - Strategic Transport Planning Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability

APOLOGIES

Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Service Manager, Road Networks and Transport
Dougie West (DW)	Bonnyrigg and District

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- i Robert Hogg (Mayfield and Easthouses) chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.
- ii Apologies received were noted.

2. ANNA HERRIMAN - STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER

- i Was welcomed to the meeting
- ii AH (STPM) provided information about the role of Strategic Transport Planning Manager and noted the following:
 - There has been a huge growth in development in the county.
 - The post involves looking at both major and local transport projects.
 - Will be involved in supporting the Active Travel Strategy and developing proposals for funding for projects, including Bus and Travel corridor development
 - There has been a 16.1% increase in population between 2011 – 2021 and project growth is projected to be 13.8% going forward.
 - Investment and funding have not tracked this increase in population growth.

- Projects within the department will be informed by local consultation and focus on being inclusive.
 - Lack of funding – Midlothian Council does not have the resources to best obtain funding.
- iii MW (Tynewater) highlighted that the ability to engage in ‘active travel’ in the area is affected by distances between settlements, proximity to (busy) roads, and the ability to be safe.
 - iv Those present discussed the perception that the majority of funding to support active travel is spent in urban areas. There is a need to connect rural settlements together.
 - v There is a requirement to work with local communities to map out where they want to get to, through active travel.
 - vi There is a requirement for active travel to be safe, ensuring that people are visible.
 - vii There is a recognition that there are concerns with active travel routes being next to main roads.
 - viii BF (ENCC) raised concerns about overcrowding on the 3 & 31 buses
AH (STPM) highlighted that she had been engaging with Lothian Buses re their service provision in Midlothian with a view to improve and develop partnerships.
 - ix JT (MFECC) raised concerns about school transport.
AH (STPM) is aware of some of the issues raised and will be investigating the implementation of innovative solutions and exchange and share experiences and learning from other local authorities.
 - x ASK (Dalkeith) highlighted that, often the perception is that active travel is undertaken by people in the younger age groups. In reality, the population of Midlothian is ageing and more consideration needs to be given to people in this age group.
The Active Travel strategy is required to be more inclusive
AH (STPM) will encourage and welcome feedback on the draft plan. The title is ‘on the move in Midlothian – Active travel for everyone’ Focus needs to be broader than cycling. Consideration of the needs of people with visual and hearing impairments will also be required.
 - xi RH (MFECC) highlighted a perceived lack of consultation between the Midlothian Council Active Travel and Planning Teams, when planning proposals are produced.
AH (STPM) emphasised that she would be keen to meet with MTRaP members to discuss improved collaboration between the 2 teams.
 - xii AH (STPM) would be keen to come back to meet with the MTRaP group to discuss progress on the issues raised by MTRaP members.

RH thanked AH (STPM) for her attendance and contribution to the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Brian Farrell

Seconded: Robert Hogg

i **Gritting of Path – North Wynd, Dalkeith**

- ASK (Dalkeith) noted that the gritting of the surface was still being missed

MATTERS ARISING

i **Capital Works Programme update.**

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

- **Carriageway Schemes**

Since the last report, the remaining 3 schemes (B6368 at Woodcote, A6106 Lauder Road at Easthouses Junction, U55/U56 D'Arcy Road, Mayfield) have been completed. 13 schemes in total have been completed including 3 Joint Priority schemes.

- **Footway Schemes**

Of the 2 remaining schemes, 1 is in progress (Bonnyrigg Road) and the other (B7006 Roslin) is due to start on the 18 March 2024. When both schemes are completed, this will be a total of 7 schemes including 4 Joint Priority schemes.

- **Budget**

96% of the budget has been spent with £200,000 from the capital works budget having been spent on Pothole Pro works

2025-2025

Work has commenced on planning the programme for the next financial year. This will include 2 Joint Priority carriageway schemes and 2 footway schemes.

- **Development in Conifer Road, Mayfield.**

AH will discuss with Wayne Clark.

- **Enquiries from Bonnyrigg and District Community Council**

PJ will forward queries from BDCC to AH (Roads).

- **Eskbank Road needs attention**

AH will discuss with his engineers

ii **Pothole repairs in Penicuik**

MC (Penicuik) decided not to discuss the issues.

iii **Borthwick Village – Access for Walker**

PMcG highlighted a situation whereby a local householder was making it difficult for walkers (and neighbours) to access a road next to his house. The householder has diverted paths and erected gates.

This has been discussed at the Moorfoot Community Council and PMcG had been asked to bring to the attention of the MTRaP group.

PJ highlighted that senior colleagues (Planning, Land and Countryside, Legal, Dog Warden) had provided information and support but there was a limit to how much they could intervene. The Landowner had not contravened any legislation upon which they could act.

3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i **Road Markings in Dalkeith**

ASK highlighted that road markings in Dalkeith for disabled parking had still to be changed. Old signage is still in place.

ii **Car Parking Bays \ Line Marking**

There was a discussion about the spaces allowed in car parks.

PJ noted that the Council would only be responsible for its own car parks not those in private ownership. BF observed that Midlothian Council car parks has wider markings compared to Car Park managed by the private sector

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15 April 2024, 6.00 – 7.30

Zoom Meeting details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637107009?pwd=WmdleTdDeUdZdlFadHppRVpXTkErUT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3710 7009

Passcode: 776193