

Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths Meeting

Monday 5 June, 2023, 6.00 to 7.30pm

Zoom

Present:

Diane Easton (DE)	Bonnyrigg and District
Ann Stewart-Kmicha (ASK)	Dalkeith and District
Constance Newbould (CN)	Damhead and District
Judy Thomson (JT)	Mayfield and Easthouses
Moira Cuthbert (MC)	Penicuik and District
Mark Whitham (MW)	Tynewater and District

In Attendance

Wayne Clark (WC)	Midlothian Council - Operations & Asset Manager Roads
Alan Heatley (AH)	Midlothian Council - Network & Structures Manager
Paul Johnson (PJ)	Midlothian Council - Communities, Lifelong Learning

Apologies

Brian Farrell (BF)	Eskbank and Newbattle
Robert Hogg (RH)	Mayfield and Easthouses

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

ASK (Dalkeith) chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.
Apologies received were noted.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed: Judy Thomson
Seconded: Diane Easton

MATTERS ARISING

Capital Works Programme update

- i AH, (Midlothian Council) provided an update on progress. A report will be circulated separately (7 June)

Residential Street Programme (RSP) update

- i The team has two groups working on RSP projects in Midlothian. One group is currently working in Newtongrange before moving on to Bonnyrigg and then Roslin. The second group is currently working in Bilston before moving on to Easthouses and then Dalkeith.
- ii Work in Bonnyrigg (Waverly area, Dundas Park and Mayfield Place) will commence in late July / early August.

- iii WC (Midlothian Council) highlighted that the work is subject to budgetary constraints.
- iv Increases in the cost of materials are having an impact. The cost of Tarmac for example, has increased by 30% over the last couple of years.

Pot Hole Pro (demonstration)

- i WC will review the timetable for the operation of the machine. He will then provide some suggestions for dates and locations for MTRaP members to attend a demonstration of the machine operating. PJ will then survey MTRaP members via a 'doodle poll' to organise attendance.
- ii WC highlighted that, in addition to permanently repairing potholes the machine, can be used to perform a range tasks and will be in use for approximately 46 weeks in the year.
- iii Midlothian Council has run a public competition to name the machine. The winning submission was the 'The Tarminator'.

Action: WC to forward suitable dates to PJ. PJ to survey members to organise a date for the demonstration

3. NUMBER OF MTRaP MEETINGS

- i A request had been made for the number and frequency of meetings to be reviewed. PJ advised those present that, initially MTRaP meetings had been on a monthly basis, but subsequently MTRaP members had agreed that meetings would be every six weeks.
- ii After discussion, those present agreed that meetings would continue to be every six weeks apart from a break during the summer period.

4. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

- i A request had been made for the attendance of Council officers to be reviewed.
- ii PJ highlighted that he attends most MTRaP meetings as result of a request by MFCC and by MTRaP members when the group was formed.
- iii Other Council Officers attend if available, at the request of MTRaP members, to provide progress reports or to discuss relevant issues or ongoing / new initiatives.
- iv Those present agreed that they appreciated the attendance of Council officers. Those Council officers provided an opportunity to raise issues of concern and for action to be taken where required. It enabled information to be exchanged. They noted also, that the work of MTRaP group members (CC's and Council Officers) had been highlighted as an example of good practice.

5. REQUEST BY COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER TO JOIN AN MTRAP MEETING

- i Councillor Dianne Alexander has the portfolio for 'community facilities, climate change, and the environment' and had attended an MTRaP meeting in October 2022.
- ii A request for Councillor Alexander to attend another MTRaP meeting had been received at a meeting of Bonnyrigg and District Community Council.
- iii Those present agreed that it would not be appropriate for elected members to attend MTRaP meetings on a regular basis.
- iv MTRaP members agreed that Councillor Alexander would be approached to ascertain the purpose of another visit.

Action: DE to contact Councillor Alexander

6. BONNYRIGG

Line marking at the roundabout at Tesco Hardengreen

- i WC noted that the contractor who had been engaged to undertake the work had still to do it. The contractor had been let down by the traffic management company.
- ii WC will get in touch with the contractor and will update DE (Bonnyrigg) with outcome. It is anticipated that the work will be done in the next few weeks.
- iii WC highlighted that the budget for line marking has been reduced over the last few years however, Midlothian Council has purchased equipment that will enable line marking to be done 'in house'. It is anticipated that the vehicle and equipment should be available by the end of August.

Road and street signage in the Bonnyrigg area

- i DE highlighted that signage in the area was fading and in poor condition. WC noted that there had been a Council officer post with responsibility that had included 'proactive' inspection of signage in the Midlothian. This position had been cut and currently the team only has the capacity to address these issues on a 'reactive' basis.
- ii WC advised that residents can report poor or faded signage using the link on the Midlothian Council website. See link here: [Report problems with roads and streets | Instructions \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

Complaints about the poor condition of the road surface of St Anne's Avenue

- i WC will arrange for an inspection to be made.

7. TYNEWATER

Capital works item 23/24 - 'U78 Costerton Road, Pathhead - U77 to U43'

- i A request was received from Council for Costerton Road to be included in the programme following previous resurfacing work undertaken in March 2022. On that occasion, the section treated was from the A68 to Fala Dam Road. An assessment was carried out of the rest of the road, and some sections identified for attention in this year's programme, specifically between Fala Dam Road and Salters Road.

B6367 - condition of carriageway on the 200 yards approaching Pathhead

- i MW thanked WC for the work undertaken to repair potholes in the road.
- ii AH will arrange for an inspection to be made. WC will arrange for an inspection of drainage to be made and clearing of any blocked drains be undertaken

Equestrian user's safety on rural roads around Crichton

- i Residents in the area have expressed concerns about the safety of Horse Riders. It had been noted that a diversion had been operating in the area and this had increased the volume of traffic.
- ii One way to increase motorist's awareness of Horse Riders would be to increase signage. Requests can be made on the Council webpage here: [Report problems with roads and streets | Instructions \(midlothian.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Lamp post charging

- i Information has been sought as to the viability of using lamp posts as charging points for electric vehicles.
- ii WC highlighted that, in Scotland, lamp posts are installed on the inside of footways. This would mean that cables would trail across footways,
- iii He explained that lamp posts receive power only at night time and furthermore, receive only enough current to power the lights.
- iv WC advised group members that Midlothian Council has undertaken a programme of installation of charging point throughout the county. The locations of these charging points can be found on the council website at this location: [Chargers hosted by Midlothian Council | Electric vehicle \(EV\) charging | Midlothian Council](#) (lists will be updated as new locations are added).
- v Midlothian Council can only install charging points on its property. The Council is not able to install them in car parks that are in private ownership.
- vi WC confirmed that Defibrillators *can* be installed on lamp posts.

6. CORE PATHS

- i ASK noted that, due to a delay in the completion of the Normandy Court housing construction, the Core Path remains closed

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20 mph speed restriction zone

- i A budget to implement the initiative has been set aside.
- ii Implementation is likely to start first in the rural villages.
- iii Consultation with local communities will be undertaken as the project progresses.

Crossing near Sainsbury's (Dalkeith)

- i A Midlothian Local Development Plan consultation had highlighted an issue whereby the audible signals on the crossing are no longer functioning.
- ii WC will arrange an inspection to be made.

Height of grass on verges on the Beeches Road (Newtongrange)

- i The height of grass verges on the road is now impeding safe exit at the junction on the road to Newtongrange / Eskbank.
- ii WC highlighted that the frequency of verge cutting is now on a bi-annual basis.
- iii If residents have concerns about overgrown verges impeding visibility or access to footways, they should contact Justin Venton (Land & Countryside Manager), 0131 561 5220 or email justin.venton@midlothian.gov.uk

Installation of new lighting in Dewarton

- i MW noted that residents welcomed the installation of new street lighting in the village but highlighted that there had been a lack of notice given to local people about the work before it began.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28 August 2023, 6.00 - 7.30

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83694029950?pwd=Rm00RGxON0R3QzdXVXd2dzVGVVVSdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 9402 9950

Passcode: 185801