

EAST LoTHIAN CYCLE FORUM

Notes from meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025

15.00 – 17.00

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cllr Shona McIntosh (SMc) – Chair

Cllr John McMillan (JMc) – Provost and Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment, Economic Development and Tourism

Chris Milne (CM) – ELC Active Travel Infrastructure Officer (Note taker)

Nick Morgan (NM) – ELC Access Officer

Richard Kerr (RK) – ELC Active Travel Behaviour Change Projects Officer

Brett Walker (BW) – North Berwick Coastal On the Move

Martyn Pegg (MP) – ELC Outdoor Learning

Beth Harley-Jepson (BHJ) – SEStran

Steve Wands (SW) – ELC Club & Community Sports Development Officer

Angie Kinghorn (AK) – Cycling UK Development Officer East Lothian

Mark Holling (MH) – Cycleforth / North Berwick area

Niall Deans (ND) – ELC Sustrans Embedded Officer

Derek Williams (DW) – Musselburgh Area Partnership Active Travel sub-group

Geoff Burns (GB) – Charles River Laboratories / North Berwick area

Evelyn Philp (EP) – ELC Technical Clerk Roads Services

Paul Ince (PI) – Longniddry area

Apologies:

Ben Morse, Kristian Woodsend, Rhodri Thomas, Katherine Henebry, Tim Harding, Philippa Barber, Louise Hastie,

Gordon Webber, Nicola McNeill, Liz Hunter, Ralph Averbuch

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Councillor McIntosh welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Project updates were issued ahead of the meeting and can be found here.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 11th December 2024</p> <p>Meeting notes had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>CM reviews previous actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members had discussed the potential for a wider discussion about Pump Tracks and their role in supporting community cycle hubs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM suggests that this is discussed at the next in-person session in August. ELC were to review whether signage for cyclists at Dirleton / A198 can be reviewed to make the cycle route through Dirleton more obvious. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM confirms that this has not happened and notes that it should be carried out ahead of the next meeting. The responsiveness of pedestrian crossings in Haddington had been raised as an issue at the last meeting, with ELC due to look into this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM confirms that this still needs to take place and will discuss it with ELC Roads Engineering. A request was made for a hyperlink be provided to the project updates in each set of future meeting notes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has now been actioned by ELC. ELC were to investigate whether the details for repair and recycle providers for bikes could be added to on to ELC's website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMc has enquired about this with ELC Waste Services, who noted that arrangements were already in place at recycling centres. There may be a need for messaging around this. 	<p>ELC</p> <p>ELC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PI talks about an earlier arrangement for Bike Station to collect bikes from Kinwegar Recycling Centre, which should still be in place. Dunbar and North Berwick have alternative arrangements locally. RK notes the Justice Social Work project within ELC, who were looking to provide a similar service as part of community payback. ELC will request for further information and share in on website as well as with Cycle Forum members. ND talks about Bikes for Refugees, who are looking for people to drive the collection of bikes from East Lothian to Edinburgh. <p>SMc asks when Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel results will be available. RK notes that Sustrans will be able to provide this when it has been fully collated and CM points to some initial information provided by Sustrans and contained in the project updates. ND notes that Sustrans are developing the first ever walking and cycling index for children and young people. SW comments that Active Schools colleagues can potentially support with future counts and consultation work.</p>	ELC
4.	<p>ELC Outdoor Learning update</p> <p>MP starts by playing the following Bikeability promotional video for attendees: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8Ei68AOd5o and notes that as part of East Lothian Outdoor Learning's delivery of this programme every school receives at least 6 hours of Level 2 training, which is not common across Local Authorities in Scotland.</p> <p>ELC Outdoor Learning are trying to reduce their Minibus use and are now moving equipment by Cargo Bike where they can, courtesy of a cargo bike loan from SEStran.</p> <p>MP talks about ELC Outdoor Learning's observation that an increasing proportion of school pupils are struggling to undertake Bikeability training. This has led to development of a new Learn to Ride project, which aims to bridge that gap by preparing pupils for Bikeability. SMc asks how this training will work. MP confirms that it builds on the existing Play on Pedals training and will be delivered by ELC Outdoor Learning. RK confirms that grant funding is now in place for the Learn to Ride project, provided by SEStran.</p> <p>MP notes that ELC's Associate Instructor Philippa Barber is very highly regarded as a trainer and is regularly in demand and being asked to travel around the country supporting Bikeability delivery elsewhere.</p> <p>SW talks about the potential role that Pump Tracks will have in providing training and confidence-building opportunities.</p>	
5.	<p>Local Access Forum update</p> <p>NM updates attendees on discussions held by East Lothian's Local Access Forum, which were focused on the planning process, in particular the challenges involved when trying to retrofit appropriate paths once developments are completed.</p> <p>The Local Access Forum are looking at potential wording and policies for the Local Development Plan, with NM preparing a note that will enable Local Access Forum members to consider what this looks like. Any output from that process would go forward to Planning for consideration, with a focus on walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>SMc talks about the Local Access Forum's priorities being very similar to those of the Cycle Forum, which presents an opportunity to engage Cycle Forum members and gain their input. NM will circulate a draft from the Local Access Forum, which CM will share with Cycle Forum members. PI notes that a draft which is endorsed by both the Local Access Forum and Cycle Forum may carry more weight.</p> <p>SMc refers to Dalkeith Country Park now having a bespoke access point for cyclists. They are keen to have an opening event which Cycle Forum members could potentially attend. CM will circulate details on behalf of SMc when these are agreed.</p> <p>DW asks if data is available on cycling rates in East Lothian. CM and RK note that some data is available, but this doesn't provide a complete picture of cycling rates in the county. Sensors and counters are in place which provide counts at specific locations, however a few of these don't accurately represent modal share in that area e.g. N High Street, Musselburgh, which is located at the</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>CM</p>

	<p>end of a cul-de-sac and regularly reports a very high modal share for cycling due to there being limited access for cars. ND refers to the Scottish Household Survey as another source of potential data. PI talks about historic SEStran counters, some of which may no longer be operations. CM agrees that ELC will look into the condition of each of those.</p> <p>JMc notes the ongoing cost of collecting data and CM confirms that the sensors recently installed around the county come with significant annual operating costs, which accumulate quickly as new sensors are added.</p> <p>DW asks if the Cycle Forum could carry out Spokes-style counts in future. CM agrees to talk to Spokes about how they conduct those and return to the Cycle Forum with further information.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>CM</p>
6.	<p>Folding Bike Hire project update</p> <p>RK highlights that 5 Brompton Hire hubs are now active, providing a low-cost approach to public hire for both ELC and the public. These are located at Libraries in Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh and Prestonpans, as well as Queen Margaret University (the latter installed by SEStran). The bikes can be hired using the Brompton App.</p> <p>RK notes that a system like this could be part of the future transport mix for East Lothian and encourages members to share information.</p> <p>MP is concerned that Brompton isn't a brand of bike that beginners will find useful. RK explains that it will work for some people, particularly those who are looking for occasional use and have limited storage space at home.</p> <p>To supplement hire opportunities like this MP refers people to confidence-building support and training that can be provided by AK through the Cycling UK project, who will have larger models of bike available for people to borrow. RK confirms that ELC are promoting this type of support alongside the other activities.</p>	
7.	<p>ELC projects 2025-26</p> <p>CM provides a brief update on some of ELC's delivery plans for 2025-26. A few potential sources of funding have been confirmed, while others have not, so this will not be a complete list of activities.</p> <p>Before talking about 2025-26, CM shows some before and after photos of selected projects delivered in 2024-25, including path improvements at East Linton, Haddington, Musselburgh and Whitecraig. These will be shared on the active travel project pages of ELC's website over the coming weeks.</p> <p>Subject to grant funding, ELC hope to be able to continue progress with the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility audit and improvement programme • Coastal feasibility study • Community cycle parking • Dunbar station access • East Lothian Active Freeway • Elphinstone to Tranent • Haddington Riverside Footbridge • North Berwick School and Station links • Prestonpans Cemetery Park • Prestonpans to Levenhall • Bike repair stands • Residential cycle storage • Refuge island lining • School cycle storage – Pinkie St Peters Primary School • Wallyford Toll • Workplace cycle storage <p>CM confirms that ELC plan to install repair stands and pumps in prominent public locations, with the aim being to provide a county-wide for a network of these in future, which will ensure that facilities are available to most cyclists when needed. These will be co-located with community facilities in towns and villages, as well as being spread along popular cycling routes, such as the coast. Cycle</p>	

	<p>Forum members can send in suggestions for potential locations to activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk if they have somewhere in mind.</p> <p>AK talks about new repair facilities at the Aubigny Centre in Haddington. RK notes the potential for these facilities to be locations where additional activities, such as training and events, can take place with support from Sustrans and Cycling UK.</p> <p>DW talks about Prestonpans to Levenhall noting that there had been criticism of certain elements of that project and asks whether ELC will take forward change that will really benefit active travel users. CM acknowledges that, while much of the project was well received, some elements are less straightforward. A consultation summary report will be shared soon, which will be followed-up by discussions with some of the key stakeholders, such as elected members, community groups and bus operators.</p> <p>JMc highlights the need for ELC to say more about what is being done, highlighting projects that have delivered positive outcomes for communities.</p>	
8.	<p>Cycling UK project update</p> <p>AK shows a map which highlights the spread of different activities by Cycling UK across the county over the last year, including bike loans for people who are commuting into East Lothian and those connecting to train stations.</p> <p>Winter activities were more focused on maintenance sessions, particularly in areas without bike shops. It has been encouraging to see more women attending sessions like this.</p> <p>A long-term loan has been provided to In-Tandem East Lothian, who are being supported with led rides. Volunteers have been recruited to support rides like this, as well helping with maintenance and admin activities.</p> <p>A programme is under way involving both parents and pupils together running on Fridays and Saturdays at Letham Mains and Port Seton Centre.</p> <p>Future planned activities include a led ride in June as part of Edinburgh Festival of Cycling and a ride for Carers Week that same month with Venturing Out. The project is also supporting Guides groups with their Duke of Edinburgh award.</p> <p>RK talks about East Lothian involvement in the Edinburgh Festival of Cycling this year and agrees to share promotional materials with CM, which will be circulated around Cycle Forum members.</p>	RK
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>BW asks for an update on ELC's cargo bikes, in advance of his discussion with North Berwick On the Move. RK talks about ELC's partnership with Sustaining Dunbar, which see's them loan the bikes out to community members, noting that it would be great to see this replicated elsewhere, such as with Sustaining North Berwick. RK confirms that ELC will cover the costs of insurance for any community organisation hosting cargo bikes.</p> <p>DW asks if cargo bikes are available in the Musselburgh area. RK notes that AK has bikes available in the Musselburgh area as part of the Cycling UK project. AK outlines the different options available via Cycling UK and will send further information over to DW.</p> <p>MH talks about a retail development that had added car parking but does not appear to have provided cycle parking. CM is awaiting further information from Transport Planning and will share what he can with MH. This raises a wider point about cycle parking being included as standard within any new development such as this and CM confirms that this is something ELC's Transport Planning team try to ensure.</p> <p>ELC's Sustainability and Climate Change Officer could not attend the meeting, but sent over the following update for members:</p> <p><i>The ELC Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan 2025-30 passed unanimously last Tuesday. Most actions to do with Active Travel are in the 'Commuting' Focus Area – this is the largest section of the action plan. The Strategy explains that we plan to follow the sustainable travel hierarchy and that</i></p>	AK

	<p><i>modal shift is a key part of emissions reduction. The full text can be found at https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210657/climate_emergency.</i></p> <p>A further update was provided by In-Tandem East Lothian as follows:</p> <p><i>In-Tandem East Lothian are a tandem cycling club for visually impaired riders and also any rider who is no longer able to ride a solo bike. We were formed in 2024 and are based at Queen Margaret University. We have recently been awarded charity status.</i></p> <p><i>We are gradually building our pool of riders and are particularly keen to hear from anyone who would like to have a go at tandem piloting, especially if they are in East Lothian.</i></p> <p><i>Further information can be found on In-Tandem East Lothian's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/share/19D5RQnNDp/?mibextid=wwXlfr.</i></p> <p>A further link has also been provided by Sustrans containing the latest newsletter for the IBike East Lothian project - https://sway.cloud.microsoft/jzcwMcn6w7jkMwd0?ref=Link.</p> <p>SW provides an update on progress of the Pump Track project. There is a funding shortfall of £180,000 for the overall project, which ELC are working on. SW wonders whether cycle counters could be placed near pump tracks to gather data which would help make the case for further funding.</p> <p>SW confirms that the facilities at Dunbar are all-but complete, with landscaping and wildflower works to follow. A planning application has been submitted for North Berwick, with a decision expected in due course. A planning package is being pulled together for Musselburgh, which requires additional work as this will include floodlights. Haddington is likely to be the next location. Prestonpans and Tranent would follow, subject to funding.</p> <p>Pump Tracks provide ideal locations for repair stands, as discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>SW further highlights Ormiston Park as a great example of community-building, with the pump track co-located next to the playpark and other facilities such as a basketball court.</p> <p>SMc highlights the experience of a cyclist who has communicated with her recently. This communication included a video showing a very close pass by a vehicle at a refuge island, noting that Police Scotland do not plan to take action as it was determined that there was sufficient space to pass there. SMc has emailed Police Scotland to request a review of this. JMc notes that information on incidents can now be uploaded to Police Scotland via their website.</p> <p>CM highlights new wooden fence posts, which have been added on the coastal path just outside Prestonpans (western entrance to the town). ELC's Landscape and Countryside team have added these as a safety measure in response to erosion near the path, which had caused another section of temporary fencing to disappear recently. The purpose of the posts is to steer path users away from the coastal side of the path while the issue is being monitored. This leaves a usable path width of 1.8m, plus additional grass verge. CM notes that ELC is preparing a Coastal Adaptation Plan, which will identify areas of the coast that are vulnerable to erosion and recommend repair actions. There are no current plans to widen the remaining path, as this work would come at a considerable cost, but potentially be subject to further short-term damage due to erosion. Once the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan is complete ELC will then know whether a new path should be considered further inland or if there is an option to protect the coastline further and reinstate the existing path.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>CM confirms that the next meeting will be an in-person gathering in August, with the date to be confirmed soon.</p>	