

# East Lothian Cycle Forum

Notes from the afternoon meeting held on Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Present:** Iain Reid (IR) Note Taker

Councillor John McMillan (JM) Acting Chair

Paul Ince (PI)

Martyn Pegg (MP)

Peter Jackson (PJ)

Alastair Seagrott (AS)

Keith Burns (KB)

Mark James (MJ)

Fay Stanton (FS)

**Apologies:** Norman Hampshire, Jennifer Lothian, Nick Morgan, Douglas Kirkham, Cecile Starsmeare, Tim Harding, Mark Holling, Nicola McNeill, Philippa Barbour, Derek Williams, John Gray

		Action
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies:</b> Councillor Norman Hampshire had to tender his apologies at short notice and asked Councillor John McMillan to chair the meeting. <b>JM</b> welcomed members to the meeting and other apologies noted.	
2.	<b>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 14th September 2017:</b> Meeting notes were been circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as an accurate record.	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p><b>Local Transport Strategy – IR</b> reported that the Draft LTS, recently approved at a meeting of the Council Cabinet would be made available for public consultation. Included within the LTS is a draft Active Travel Improvement Plan, with specific references to cycling and <b>JM</b> encouraged all members to engage and contribute in the consultation. The draft documents will be advertised and available for the public via a wide range of mediums including public meetings and presentations. Full details, once known will be publicised in the local media.</p> <p><b>Segregated Active Travel Corridor</b> A section of the SATC proposed route between Wallyford Rail Station and Dury Way was recently completed and work is currently underway on a further section of route Strawberry Corner, Wallyford.</p> <p><b>Underpass Drainage at Longniddry Railway Path &amp; New Rail Station Car Park</b> <b>IR</b> reported that preparatory works had now commenced to extend the car park at Longniddry Rail Station and the drainage gully at the underpass will be examined and remedial actions taken in due course. Discussions had taken place with Sustrans officers over the funding of a new cycle path linking with the car park and the Railway Path but the proposed project design did not meet their funding requirements. <b>IR</b> had contacted colleagues over the complaint of the gritty Toptrec section of the railway path and it appeared to have ‘settled’. They will continue to monitor the path.</p> <p><b>NCN 76 Route at Tarmac (formerly La Farge) – ongoing maintenance</b> <b>IR</b> had contacted colleagues to take remedial actions to the ivy and weed growth encroaching on the cycle path on bridge over the rail line. There are ongoing discussions with Tarmac over the route of a new cycle path around the former quarry. Members wanted it noted of the very poor condition of the current route via the Tarmac staff car park and the south side of the railway that is narrow and uneven and not to an acceptable standard for a cycle route.</p> <p><b>Sustrans Community Links 2016-17 Fund</b> <b>IR</b> reported that following completion of these cycle route works there are new route signs on the Tranent to Ormiston and Gullane to Luffness Golf Club sections.</p> <p><b>NCN76/A1 Torness Section – Weeds damaging Surface</b></p>	IR

<p><b>IR</b> reported that he had contacted Amey, who maintain the A1 trunk road requesting action to remedy this problem. Members commented that this had been like this for some time and the inaction from Amey. <b>JM</b> asked that if necessary, correspondence from him could help progress this.</p> <p><b><u>Sustrans Community Links Fund 2017-18 – Projects</u></b> Two projects were progressed using this fund:- Wallyford Rail Station to Dury Way – this project has been completed Luffness to Aberlady – the design for this project did not meet the Sustrans guidelines resulting in this project not receiving funding support however ELC did carry out limited surface improvements, including dropped kerbs.<b>JM</b> asked if the Local Area Partnership would consider funding any further cycle path work. <b>IR</b> to provide details to North Berwick &amp; Area Partnership for consideration.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Sustrans Community Links Fund 2018-19 - Proposed Projects</u></b> Sustrans have recently asked local authorities to submit projects for consideration for funding support. East Lothian Council will be proposing the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Barns to Beltonford new shared use cycle path</li> <li>• Dury Way to Railway underpass cyclepath, Wallyford (connecting with the 2017-18 project)</li> <li>• The <u>Drem village section</u> of the Drem to Gullane cycle route</li> </ul> <p>Further discussions to take place with Sustrans officers in March that will determine which projects can be supported using this fund</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Musselburgh’s Future Sustainable and Accessible Transport Network</u></b> <b>IR</b> informed the members that East Lothian Council had commissioned AECOM, transport consultants to develop a Masterplan for people walking, cycling and travelling sustainably in and around Musselburgh, which extends into Midlothian and Edinburgh. Musselburgh will be growing in the future and this study provides the opportunity to consider how every day travel can be done more sustainably, without relying on private cars for journeys. The Masterplan will aim to create an accessible network around Musselburgh to suit the needs of everyone moving in and through the area and connecting into Midlothian and Edinburgh. AECOM have commenced early consultation using an online survey link sent to members and this survey will close on 16<sup>th</sup> March. <a href="https://placecheck.info/maps/musselburgh">https://placecheck.info/maps/musselburgh</a> AECOM staff are currently engaged in surveying and obtaining a range of data and reports for their study and there will be further public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders, including the Forum in March. The Masterplan report is to be prepared by the end of May 2018. <b>JM</b> suggested that Bikes on Buses, Electric Bikes and Trolley Buses, could be considered as alternative transport modes. <b>IR</b> to keep members informed.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Dropped Kerbs on cycle route on A199 at Markle and East Fortune junctions</u></b> <b>IR</b> had discussed with transportation officers the request from <b>JG</b> to re-align the dropped kerbs at the Markle and East Fortune junctions to allow a more direct passage for cyclists. Both locations were assessed and found that due to the wide ‘bell-mouths’ the existing dropped kerbs/crossings allowed clear sightline visibility for path users and to relocate them closer to the A199 would restrict those sightlines and make the crossing the junction less safe. Note: the wide bell mouths are a legacy from when the A199 was the A1 main trunk road. To reduce the ‘bell mouth’ at these locations would incur significant costs and is not a priority for the council. <b>FS</b> asked if the dropped kerb crossing at Tynfield (A199) to be assessed to allow a more direct connection for cyclists. Also, for the cycle path to be brushed to remove the loose stones, detritus. <b>IR</b> to discuss with transportation officers.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Route Signing Project</u></b> <b>MJ</b> informed the members that he and Dan Watters are working on a signing project in Dunbar that would provide time and distance on signs to local places of interest/destinations from the Rail Station. He was in contact with the Local Area Partnership to obtain support to allow this to progress.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Removal of Metal Guard Rail on NCN76 at Beltonford</u></b> Following on from correspondence received by Council staff regarding restricted access on the NCN76 cycle path at Beltonford It was agreed to remove the metal guardrail at the road crossing point over the access road to the sewage treatment plant. There will be additional road markings to inform users they are approaching/crossing a road.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b><u>Spokes competition 2017 – “Low cost ideas to boost bike use”</u></b> Spokes ran a competition in summer 2017 for low cost ideas to boost bike use in the Lothian area. Of the 10 prize winners, 3 came from East Lothian.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p>

	<p>East Lothian Council were made aware of these suggestions and responded to each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Remove metal chicane at the eastern end of the Ash Lagoons, Levenhall</b> <i>As part of the re-development of the former Cockenzie Power Station ash lagoons East Lothian Council have plans to improve this area for active travel, walking, cycling and improving access that will involve the removal of this metal chicane barrier.</i></li> <li>• <b>6<sup>th</sup> Prize – Allow contra-flow cycling Lammermuir Crescent, Dunbar</b> <i>This suggestion has been considered in the past however not progressed as there are alternative safer route options, currently being used. The introduction of a contra flow for cyclists at this location, which would be the first road in East Lothian with this traffic flow arrangement, could also have unintended consequences and increase the risk of accidents on what is currently a street/road used by pupils attending the nearby Dunbar Primary and Dunbar Grammar schools, with no accident history.</i></li> <li>• <b>9<sup>th</sup> Prize – Re-time pelican crossing on Belhaven Road in Dunbar</b> ELC Transportation engineers have noted the suggestion and will examine the timings between the phases to allow greater time for walkers/cyclists to cross. A toucan crossing at this location is not considered necessary with the current volume of users and traffic flows at this location, and it is safer, in particular for children cycling/scooting to slow down/stop in particular when travelling from north to south from Parsons Pool.</li> </ul> <p>There were three other suggestions with ELC officers comments in italics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dunbar Back Road, restrict cars</b> <i>this suggestion to restrict vehicle access for this section of Back Road and potential benefits does have merit. Transportation officers are currently examining the road network in this area of Belhaven as part of the wider transport impact assessment in relation to the various current and planned housing developments to the south and east of Dunbar and have noted the suggestions. Any restrictions would require Traffic orders and relevant public consultation.</i></li> <li>• <b>Haddington cargo-bike trial *</b> <i>this suggestion would require a local business or other Haddington organisations to progress. These details along with Spokes paper on promotion for e-bikes and cargo bikes was passed to the Haddington and Area Local Area Partnership to consider, which has a sustainable travel sub group, East Lothian on the Move that has local community membership. East Lothian Council also has sustainable and active travel officers who provide support to this group.</i></li> <li>• <b>Sign Dunbar Railway Station circular family route</b> <i>this suggestion for local circular/family friendly cycle routes to be signed and mapped from Dunbar Rail Station has merit and will be passed to the Dunbar and East Linton Local Area Partnership for the attention of the sustainable travel sub-group, East Lothian on the Move to consider.</i> (Note: this has synergy with the route signing project led by MJ)</li> </ul> <p>* <b>JM</b> commented that in his role as a Councillor and Provost, he is very keen to encourage economic and business development across East Lothian and he can be contacted direct at Tele 1620 827000 or <a href="mailto:jmcmillan@eastlothian.gov.uk">jmcmillan@eastlothian.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b><u>Cycle Tourism</u></b> <b>IR</b> informed the members of a new project by ELC Economic Development, Visit East Lothian being progressed in 2018. A brief summary of the key elements of the project would be to produce short feature films, marketing East Lothian, featuring local people, show casing coast and countryside, cycle routes, creating a bike packing adventure on the John Muir Way. Additionally, bring together local businesses and organisations to deliver wider business engagement. Promote and encourage Visit Scotland's Cycle Welcome' scheme, currently there are no accredited businesses in East Lothian. More information and publicity will follow using local media, websites, blogs and events in the coming months. <a href="http://www.visiteastlothian.org">http://www.visiteastlothian.org</a></p>	MJ
4.	<p><b><u>Any other Business</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Play on Pedals</u></b> <b>PJ</b> Informed the members that Cycling Scotland support for the Play on Pedals scheme is being expanded and available across Scotland. The Play on Pedals will teach pre-school children about the parts of a bicycle; how to fit a helmet correctly and the basics of looking after their bikes. Through a series of fun and imaginative activities, the scheme will help to develop their balance and control skills, often using a pedal-less balance bike. Play on Pedals has strong links to the curriculum for excellence. East Lothian Council's Early Years Team have already engaged with this scheme supporting the delivery in areas of the county.</p> <p><b><u>Bikeability</u></b></p>	

	<p><b>MP</b> reported that Cycling Scotland are providing financial support for 2018-19 to support the delivery of Bikeability training in schools.</p> <p><b><u>Pencaitland Railway Path – NCN196</u></b> Jennifer Lothian, ELC Outdoor Access Officer has asked members to be aware that path upgrade works to provide a ‘Ultritrec’ surface are about to commence imminently on the Pencaitland Railway Path from the junction with the Elphinstone Cemetery Path westwards to Crossgatehall. The route will still be passable with care but please take account of signage and directions from the contractors. Sustrans are funding this path upgrade.</p> <p><b><u>Development Opportunities</u></b> Mark Holling representing Cycleforth reported their negative experience with housing developers in North Berwick over clarification of cycle links in to and through new housing estates, including forming safe routes to school. He commented their lack of response “is appalling” and with the other developments around the county he asked Forum members to be aware of the planning stipulations for developers to ensure opportunities are not lost.</p> <p><b><u>Warm Showers – for Touring Cyclists</u></b> <b>MJ</b> brought members attention to a website for touring cyclists, providing free accommodation <a href="https://www.warmshowers.org">https://www.warmshowers.org</a> Extract from their webpage: <i>The Warm Showers Community is a free worldwide hospitality exchange for touring cyclists. People who are willing to host touring cyclists sign up and provide their contact information, and may occasionally have someone stay with them and share great stories and a drink. All members agree to host others either now or in the future, but for some members hosting may be in years or even decades in their future.</i></p>	
	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting:</u></b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 1900hrs in Council Chamber, Town House, Haddington</b></p>	

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