

# East Lothian Cycle Forum

Notes from the evening meeting held on Thurs 19th September 2019

**Present:** Iain Reid (IR) Note Taker/Acting Chair – East Lothian Council

Mark Holling (DW) Cycle Forth  
Iain Pryde (IP) Fa'side Area Partnership  
Philippa Barbour (PB) ELC  
Mark James (MJ)  
Angie Kinghorn (AK) Play on Pedals

**Apologies:** Cllr Norman Hampshire

Douglas Kirkham  
Nicola McNeill  
Nick Morgan (ELC Outdoor Access Officer)  
Danny Wight  
Dan Robertson (Sustrans)  
Paul Ince  
Robin McEwan (Cycleforth)  
Morag Haddow  
Neil Malone (Sustrans)  
Gordon Hall  
Suzanne Forup (Cycling UK)  
Jennifer Lothian (ELC Sustainable Energy & Climate Change Officer)

		Action
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies:</b> IR welcomed the members and noted apologies received. Cllr Hampshire was required to travel down south at short notice and was unable to attend to chair the meeting. IR would act as chair.	
2.	<b>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019:</b> Meeting notes were circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as an accurate record.	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <p><b><u>NCN 76 Route at Tarmac (Cement Works, Dunbar)</u></b> IR reported that discussions are still ongoing with the quarry owners Tarmac, over a number of subjects including a new route for the NCN76 to the north of the railway line that would address many of the maintenance issues currently being experienced in this area. The Forum to be kept informed of progress.</p> <p><b><u>Sustrans Community Links Fund 2018-19 - Projects</u></b> IR reported that the latest study report on options for a Drem to Gullane cycle route had been published. In summary the report concludes that all available options have been explored and it has been clearly demonstrated that no new solutions exist. Regrettably the project is not feasible and there is no way forward at this time. Council officers and local councillors subsequently met with the campaign group to convey that information.</p> <p><b><u>Sustrans, 'Places for Everyone' projects 2019-20</u></b> IR informed the members that following on from the transport consultants, AECOM report in October 2018, which identified 7 strategic cycle routes in and around Musselburgh that connect into Midlothian and Edinburgh council areas, a funding application was submitted by ELC to the Sustrans, 'Places for Everyone' 2019-20 fund. The application was approved and will provide additional staff resources who will be tasked to progress these routes to the next stages of further detailed designs and the necessary ongoing consultation with partners and the public.</p> <p><b><u>Safer Routes to Schools and other locations Dunbar and North Berwick</u></b> IR reported that transport consultants, Peter Brett Associates had produced a report on safer routes to school around North Berwick and Dunbar schools and walking &amp; cycling on Back Road, Dunbar. The report, which had been delayed, identifies a range of actions to address safety concerns at specific</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>NM</p> <p>IR</p>

	<p>locations and will be shared with the relevant partners. The section of the report that covers North Berwick schools has recommendations that will require further detailed design work and consequently an application has been submitted to the Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' 2019-20 Fund. <b>MH</b> asked why the report had taken so long to produce and in particular there were concerns that it did not address some of the wider areas in North Berwick where pupils may wish to cycle from. <b>IR</b> said that the focus of the study was to address parents' concerns for safety for school children on their journey to school. Whilst acknowledging pupils do walk and cycle from some distant from the school, the safety concerns were exacerbated in those roads in close proximity to the school at peak travel times. Consequently the report's findings and actions to address those safety concerns were in those areas close to the school(s).</p> <p>In relation to the delay from the original delivery date of May this was a result of extended communications with PBA to ensure the report met ELC's outcomes.</p> <p>The section of the report covering North Berwick is available on East Lothian Council's website by clicking on this <a href="#">link</a></p> <p>The report and the actions for all three locations is now being considered and how to progress the recommendations.</p> <p><b><u>Cycle Links – Prestonpans to Musselburgh</u></b></p> <p><b>IR</b> reported that coastal cycle route connections would be included as part of the development of the strategic routes in and around Musselburgh, to be taken forward with the new staff resources funded by Sustrans. It had been agreed at the last meeting that a joint meeting should be arranged with the Musselburgh and Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership's however this did not happen. <b>IR</b> would progress this and commented that there is a newly appointed Chair-person for the Musselburgh AP Active Travel Sub-Group.</p> <p><b><u>Sustrans, 'Places for Everyone' projects 2019-20</u></b></p> <p>This item is linked to the successful funding application contained in the previous item: <i>Sustrans, 'Places for Everyone' projects 2019-20.</i></p> <p>ELC staff have been surveying and designing improvements to the NCN76 at Broxburn, Dunbar and Hospital Road, Haddington. These projects, still at the design stage require to be approved by Sustrans before moving to the funding stage and subsequent construction.</p> <p>Note; Sustrans funding portal re-opens for new applications at different times within their financial year so it may be that new construction projects can be added in that period.</p> <p><b><u>E-Bikes at Musselburgh</u></b></p> <p><b>IR</b> reported that the projected date for installation of these electric bicycles has been delayed and not expected to be operational until November 2019. There will be media promotion of these facilities at Brunton Hall and Musselburgh Rail Station at that time.</p> <p><b><u>Phasing of automated signalised pedestrian crossings</u></b></p> <p>In response to a question by <b>DW</b> at the previous Forum meeting when he asked if the timing phases on pedestrian crossings could be changed to increase the time phase for walkers/cyclists, which would help at 'peak times' in particular at Station Road, North Berwick when the trains arrives and decants passengers. This would be an important change in the hierarchy, 'sending out a message' putting active travel to the fore and making vehicle drivers wait longer. <b>IR</b> had conferred with colleagues and there is 'Puffin' controlled signalised crossing equipment that would allow this, detection of pedestrians waiting to cross and change the traffic light sequence to allow them to cross, reducing their waiting time.</p> <p>The cost of changing the current equipment, underground cabling is c. £10k+. This crossing location is not identified as a priority in the ELC's transportation budget for these kind of upgrade works, however this may be something the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership could consider supporting. <b>IR</b> would inform the Area Partnership Manager of this and ask for this to be considered for discussion at their next meeting.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Response to East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy</u></b></p> <p><b>MH</b> had requested this item on the agenda and asked if the Forum should be providing a response to the consultation on ELC's Climate Change Strategy. <b>IR</b> had been in contact with Jennifer Lothian and she had informed him that the public consultation period had now ended and she provided a summary update of where the Council was in respect of this item:</p> <p><b>Climate Change Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultation on East Lothian Council's draft Climate Change strategy closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2019. 160 responses were received, many extremely detailed. We are very grateful to</li> </ul>	

	<p>everyone who took part, and took the time to give us their thoughts, views, ideas and feedback on how we can develop and progress the strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, we also received over 100 responses to the climate change survey for children and young people which, in addition to being on our Consultation Hub, was also circulated widely and included on the Young Scot website. It is fantastic to hear from so many young people on what is most important to them in tackling climate change in East Lothian.</li> <li>• All consultation responses have been collated and categorised, and are being reviewed and considered. Further updates on this extremely important piece of work will be provided on the council's website and via social media.</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate Emergency declaration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the East Lothian Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> August, Elected Members unanimously agreed to declare a Climate Emergency that requires urgent action to make all our Council Services net Zero Carbon as soon as reasonably practicable or in any case by 2045 and to lobby, support and work with all relevant agencies, partners and communities to fulfil this commitment. The Council also committed to work with our communities and partners towards making East Lothian a carbon neutral county as well as enabling the county to deliver its part of wider national and international commitments.</li> </ul> <p><b>MH</b> commented that perhaps this was an opportunity missed not least because this consultation was in a period when there was no Cycle Forum meeting to allow a collective response, albeit details of the consultation had been circulated by <b>IR</b> to all Forum member. <b>IR</b> asked if <b>MH</b> could provide a response on behalf of the Forum which could be circulated to members for approval before forwarding to <b>JL</b> which could be noted.</p> <p><b>IR</b> was asked to invite <b>JL</b> to the next Forum meeting to provide an opportunity to discuss this subject further. <b>MH</b> asked to consider having more than two meetings* a year so that items such as this could be discussed. <b>IR</b> would confer with Cllr Hampshire to find accommodation in his diary.</p> <p>* Note: Future meetings will be annually in January, May and September, dates to be confirmed</p>	<p><b>MH</b></p> <p><b>IR</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>“How best can the Forum improve conditions for cyclists in East Lothian”</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Discuss</u></b></p> <p><b>MH</b>, who had tabled this item, asked if the Forum should not be more involved in influencing budgets and spend on cycle projects. He commented whilst It was good to get updates from the Forum Administrator (<b>IR</b>) on projects and cycle related subjects he thought the Forum could be more involved in influencing planning decisions on housing developments projects, cycle paths and decision making? The Forum could hold meetings more than twice a year which would help keep the members up to date and also having a local politician regularly attend Forum meetings and champion cycling in East Lothian to support and push for increases to the cycling budget allocation. There followed a discussion on what function the East Lothian Cycle Forum serves, as a non-constituted body. SPOKES was referenced as a successful cycle campaign organisation that did have influence, albeit in recent times this has been mainly focused in Edinburgh and contributing to the progress and improvements in that city. <b>IR</b> took the opportunity to highlight recent developments and the Forum's input with the publication of the Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Improvement Plan 2018-2014 both which set out a plan and actions to improve cycling and active travel. These documents had been widely shared and consulted on with presentations to Forum members. These documents have also been referenced to support and progress recent projects, attracting additional funding and resources with the latest a substantial financial commitment by Sustrans to developing the strategic routes in and around Musselburgh and increases to staff resources within ELC to take forward that project and other cycle related agendas.</p> <p>It was commented on that with the significant growth of building developments in East Lothian and the challenges and growing pressures to the transport infrastructure and environment and climate change, there were opportunities to promote and influence sustainable and active travel and cycling at the planning stages. The Forum is not on the list of statutory consultees for planning applications, and neither are the 6 Local Area Partnerships however the latter does provide a conduit for members to link with the Community Councils who are. Area Partnerships have identified active travel/cycling in their action plans and they provide an opportunity to influence and contribute to decisions making at a local level which feeds into the planning decision making process.</p> <p><b>IR</b> informed the members that coincidentally there was an East Lothian Partnership Autumn Forum Workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at Queen Margaret University with the heading of Town &amp; Country Placemaking which in view of the foregoing they may wish to attend. The themes for the workshop are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage people to actively engage with the communities they in</i></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Develop spaces for vibrant, healthy, connected communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Respond to climate change at a local level</i></li> <li>• <i>Support &amp; develop sustainable local economies</i></li> </ul> <p>Forum members are asked for their views on this item and the function of the Forum going forward to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	IR
6.	<p><b><u>Any other Business</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Cycling UK</u></b> AK said that there would soon be a new person appointed within Cycling UK with responsibility for East Lothian and she would circulate the details of the next Forum Meeting.</p> <p><b><u>East Lothian Local Access Forum – Cycling Representative</u></b> MJ informed the Forum that he would be taking over from Keith Burns, who is standing down, as the representative for cycling on the Local Access Forum.</p> <p><b><u>Rumble Strips</u></b> MJ asked if anything could be done to the recently installed rumble strips on the access road to Stenton, which he considered were quite high and impacted on cyclists. IR would check with colleagues in Transportation.</p>	IR
7.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting:</u></b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 1400hrs in The Town House, High Street, Haddington.</b></p>	

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