

East Lothian Cycle Forum

Notes from the afternoon meeting held on Thurs 16th January 2020

Present: Cllr Norman Hampshire - Chair
 Iain Reid - Note Taker – East Lothian Council (ELC)
 Jennifer Lothian - ELC
 Gordon Webber - Cycling UK
 Mark Holling - Cycle Forth
 Ian Pryde Fa'side Area Partnership
 Philippa Barbour ELC/Preston Seton Gosford Area Partnership
 Neil Malone - Sustrans
 Fay Stanton
 Angie Kinghorn - Play on Pedals
 Gordon Hall - Sustrans & Scottish Railway Ramblers

Apologies: Anne Lyall, Nicola McNeill, Paul Ince, Alastair Seagrott, Derek Williams

		Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies: NM welcomed the members and apologies noted.	
2.	Notes of Previous Meeting held on 19th September 2019: Meeting notes were circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as an accurate record.	
3.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p><u>NCN 76 Route at Tarmac (Cement Works, Dunbar)</u> IR reported that since the last meeting there had been no change and discussions are still ongoing with the quarry owners Tarmac over a proposed new route for the NCN76 to the north of the railway line that would address many of the route maintenance issues.</p> <p><u>Sustrans, 'Places for Everyone' projects 2019-20</u> IR informed the members that ELC had been successful in a funding application to the Sustrans Places for Everyone 2019-20 fund and as a consequence this has allowed the recruitment of a Project Manager whose remit is to take forward the development of the identified 7 strategic cycle routes in and around Musselburgh. This major project will be programmed and phased over a number of years involving significant consultation opportunities with the public and stakeholders. The Project Manager will be working closely with the Musselburgh Flood Protection Team, as there is a synergy with that project to develop and improved active travel infrastructure in the identified River Esk flood risk area. The Council are exploring how best to keep the public informed and up to date as these projects develop. PB/IP asked if the Project Manager can meet with them to discuss how their respective Area Partnership areas can link into these Musselburgh routes. IR to facilitate a meeting with the Area Partnership Active Travel Groups, Chair persons.</p> <p>The improvements to the NCN76 between Broxburn to Dunbar have been given approval and construction works are programmed to commence in April 2020. Discussions are continuing regarding improvements at Hospital Road, Haddington.</p> <p><u>Safer Routes to Schools and other locations Dunbar and North Berwick</u> IR said these study reports had been received from the consultants and after consideration are being progressed as follows:</p> <p>North Berwick – a further roads engineering study is being commissioned that will provide ELC with detailed designs and costs at 4 key locations near the schools. Relevant stakeholders will be involved and consulted with during this further study period with the final report available by the end of May.</p> <p>Dunbar Primary School – ELC was considering the report for this location and how to take forward the recommendations for the pedestrian/cycle crossing at Countess Road. NH commented that this was a particularly busy location with hundreds of pupil movements, walking and cycling/scooting daily to both the primary and secondary schools, the latter seeing an increase in senior pupils choosing to cycle to school.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p>

<p>North Road/Back Road, Dunbar – The transport consultants had identified a number of options to improve walking/cycling for this location. No decisions have been made pending other road developments on Edinburgh Road, Belhaven.</p> <p><u>E-Bikes at Musselburgh</u> IR reported that the projected date for installation of these electric bicycles has been extended with the operational date moving to February/March 2020. At that time there will be media promotion of these facilities at Brunton Hall and Musselburgh Rail Station. A discussion took place about the ‘Just Eat’ hire bikes in Edinburgh and whether they could be introduced in East Lothian? IR informed the members that he had been in regular contact with his counterpart in Edinburgh, monitoring their progress as there are financial and appropriate locations to consider. Edinburgh has experienced some issues over security and having to relocate hire stations and East Lothian could learn from those. The E-bike hire will provide an insight into the public interests in these hire schemes and help any future decisions on expansion.</p> <p>E-bikes were loaned to East Lothian Council to allow staff the opportunity to have a free trial in Autumn 2019. This Scottish Government scheme, managed by Home Energy Scotland proved very popular with council staff, many indicating they would consider buying an e-bike after their electric experience. A discussion ensued over the many opportunities that e-bikes present and in connection with young persons the subject of education and bike mechanic training to attain relevant qualifications to be attained whilst at secondary school. IR said he was aware that there were City & Guilds qualifications NVQ available. NH said he would contact Education to see what is being offered to students and if electric bikes are included.</p> <p><u>Response to East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy</u> JL thanked the Forum for inviting her to the meeting and proceeded to update the Forum on the progress of the Council’s Climate Change Strategy. The proposed strategy will be going to Cabinet on 21st January for approval. You can view the proposed strategy among the papers for the Cabinet meeting on the Council’s website here: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16442/cabinet She looked forward to working together on this important agenda going forward.</p> <p><u>“How best can the Forum improve conditions for cyclists in East Lothian”</u></p> <p>This item tabled at the previous meeting, formed the opportunity for further discussion. Listed below are some of the suggestions from the meeting.</p> <p>“To promote East Lothian as a cycling destination similar to Scottish Borders Council and to liaise with them how to improve joint working”. IR commented that in the past he had collaborated with SBC in particular around mutual benefit of promotion and signing of routes/maps in the cross boundary areas in the south east of the county.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the attraction/selling point key to Scottish Border’s success was off road mountain biking which East Lothian did not have and we should focus on our ‘quieter rural roads’ which could be signed and with additional routes?</p> <p>“Signing of ‘commuter routes’” was also suggested and whilst this could appeal to the competent, confident cyclist who would be comfortable in town centre traffic routes sharing space on occasions with large vehicles, other cyclists would find these routes unappealing and daunting. Any routes would have to carry sufficient information to allow informed choices to be made.</p> <p>IR will contact SBC and discuss these suggestions with colleagues to identify how they can be taken forward.</p> <p>NH made the members aware of a draft document supporting <i>East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 - Proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance – Design Standards for New Housing SPG (2019)</i>. This document which closed for consultation on 20th December 2019, expands upon existing policies and proposals and is used to support the LDP and has numerous references to cycling and active travel for new developments. Forum members can access this on the Council’s website:</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR/NH</p>
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	<p>https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/ldp-design-standards-2019-spg/</p> <p><u>New 'Cycling UK' Officer</u></p> <p>Gordon Webber introduced himself as Esmond's Sage's replacement as Big Bike Revival Development Officer for the Lothians and Scottish Borders. Gordon can be contacted at gordon.webber@cyclingsuk.org</p> <p><u>Rumble Strips</u></p> <p>IR had passed on Mark James concerns to colleagues over the height of the rumble strips on the access road to Stenton and it should be possible to 'burn off' a section to allow a gap for cyclists to use. Apparently there are plans to install rumble strips on the main road into Gifford and this issue will be borne in mind for cycles and accommodation made.</p>	IR
4.	<p><u>East Lothian Council Policy for Road Inspections</u></p> <p>Paul Ince had asked that this item be put on the agenda for the information of members in relation to a new policy on potholes for East Lothian Council. This document can be viewed on the council's website – https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16441/cabinet</p> <p>See item 03.</p> <p>NH commented that the recent weather patterns, resulting in increases amounts of surface water on the roads network causing damage was challenging but the Council were focused on maintaining the road network standard, addressing the damage to the road surface issues especially at this time of the year. He said a meeting is planned with landowners to discuss how they can help in particular in retaining water and reduce the run-off on to the roads.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p> <p><u>Safety issues on the cycle route at Hedderwick Farm Junction</u></p> <p>IR had been contacted by cyclists informing him that there had been a number of accidents with cyclists accessing the off road cycle route (NCN76) at the Hedderwick Farm junction as they travelled east. The cause appeared to be the very low kerb which is not obvious, and cyclists coming from the road to access the cycle path at that location, at an acute angle, creating an issue similar to trams/railway lines. IR has passed this on to his engineering colleagues to identify a solution.</p> <p><u>Funding for Spott to Dunbar Active Travel Link</u></p> <p>Forum member Anne Lyall informed the meeting that Spott Community Council have secured funding from Sustrans to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a walking cycle route connecting the village to Dunbar. A presentation launch event will take place on Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm in Spott Village Hall and all interested parties are welcome to attend.</p> <p>An invite article has created on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/1487981788156556/posts/2514450538843004/</p> <p>FS commented that Innerwick also suffers from the lack of active travel connections, which were 'severed' in the past with the various junction/lane improvements to the A1 trunk road with no provision made to provide alternatives to allow for walking and cycling from the village to Dunbar and to the coast.</p>	IR
6.	<p><u>Date of next meeting:</u> 21st May 2020 at 1900hrs in The Town House, High Street, Haddington</p>	

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