

East Lothian Cycle Forum

Notes from the MS Teams meeting held on Wed 8th September 2021

Present: Cllr Norman Hampshire - Chair
 Iain Reid (IR) Note Taker East Lothian Council
 Mark Holling (DW) Cycle Forth North Berwick
 Fay Stanton - Dunbar
 Philippa Barbour (PB) ELC
 Mark James (MJ) Cycling groups Dunbar
 Gordon Webber – Cycling UK
 Grant Talac - ELC

Apologies: Nicola McNeill, Nick Morgan - ELC

		Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies: Councillor Hampshire welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first since September 2019 and the first in this MS Teams format	
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 Tarmac had approached East Lothian Council over road safety concerns on a section of the C122 road in close proximity to the Cement Factory. This has resulted in the submission of a report to ELC Cabinet to consider a ‘stopping up’ order request which if granted would allow Tarmac to have control over that section of road and implement their own road safety measures. Linked to that order request, Tarmac have also submitted a planning application to construct a new cycle path around the southern perimeter of the former quarry to connect with the A1087 road which will be the new NCN76 cycle route and the signing for the current route using the C122 road removed. NH asked IR to contact Tarmac to request assurances the new cycle path would be in place before any restrictions were placed on the C122 road.</p> <p><u>Sustrans Community Links Fund 2018-19 - Projects</u> IR reported that a request had been made to Sustrans Places for Everyone Fund 2021-22 to allow for further detailed designs options to be examined for the route at Drem Village. The application has not yet been approved as Sustrans had in early summer implemented a ‘pause’ on awarding all funding and that they had intimated the fund would re-open in September when the application would be considered.</p> <p><u>Sustrans, ‘Places for Everyone’ projects 2019-20</u> IR informed the members that following a report from the transport consultants AECOM in October 2018, which identified 7 strategic cycle routes in and around Musselburgh, this project had progressed and received additional support from Sustrans to take forward the report findings and the appointment of a Project Manager. The project, called Musselburgh Active Toun (MAT) is focused on three of the strategic Routes, Numbers 1, 2 and 5. Please see the link for more details: http://www.musselburghactivetoun.info/</p> <p>An on-line public consultation phase on these routes has recently finished with the results to be collated, shared and considered going forward. This project has a synergy with the Musselburgh Flood Protection with cycling infrastructure being considered at locations where both projects infrastructure is affected.</p> <p><u>Safer Routes to Schools and other locations Dunbar and North Berwick</u> IR reported since the last meeting the North Berwick report, with a focus on schools road safety, has been taken forward. The Dunbar report which focused on lack of footpath on the Back Road and junction concerns at Shore Road/ Beveridge Row received mixed responses from the community and with no consensus and some resistance has not moved forward.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>IR</p>

<p>NH said that with the increase in vehicle movements in Shore Road and the Beveridge Row junction there was still a focus for change to improve the junction and access. An option being considered for Back Road was, where the road narrows to use a strip of land from the golf Course to form a path which would still allow two way flow of vehicles. He added that a Masterplan of the cycling network in Dunbar was in the process of being created which would include these routes and other proposed new cycle paths to the west of the primary school with connections to Belhaven and exploring the possibility of re-opening a blocked-up rail underpass for walking/cycling near Ashgrove.</p> <p>In respect of North Berwick, transport consultants have been working with ELC to identify interventions around the schools and Sports Centre involving traffic signals and traffic calming interventions. This project is in the process of moving to a final design/ securing funding phase with some of the interventions likely to be implemented in 2022.</p> <p><u>Cycle Links – Prestonpans to Musselburgh</u> IR reported that recently he and Sustrans staff had conducted a cycle route audit of the cycle route between Musselburgh to Dunbar, taking in this area. Sustrans are compiling a report of the findings which will include potential actions and improvements to improve the cycle route. PB asked for the Area Partnerships to be involved in this process and IR would share the finding of the report and seek their input.</p> <p><u>Sustrans, ‘Places for Everyone ‘ projects 2019-20</u> IR reported that since the last report a new share use path had been constructed between Dunbar to Broxburn and was now being well used. The Hospital Road, Haddington proposed new shared use path was in the final design stages and is planned to be constructed in this financial year. This new shared use path will connect from West Road to Hospital road to a planned new cycle path at the East Lothian Community Hospital which will form a section of the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk (NCN76) – see item 6.</p> <p><u>E-Bikes at Musselburgh</u> IR reported that these bikes went into operation in early Summer this year at Brunton Hall and Musselburgh Rail Station with a ‘soft launch’ and were are now being well used, albeit there had been some impact due to vandalism and antisocial behaviour. That has resulted in the duration of hire being temporarily restricted for overnight use and a higher deposit for users. A third smaller ‘virtual’ docking station at Cockenzie had been created at East Lorimer Place, Cockenzie and there are now plans to relocate and make that a full 10 bike docking station, the same as Musselburgh’s at a new location further east next to a bus stop opposite Cockenzie House and the Memorial Park.</p> <p><u>Response to East Lothian Council Climate Change Strategy</u> IR reported that Jennifer Lothian, ELC’s Climate Change Officer had since moved to another post within ELC and her former post is being advertised and once filled he would invite that person to the Forum’s next meeting.</p> <p><u>“How best can the Forum improve conditions for cyclists in East Lothian”</u> MH had tabled this question at the previous meeting asking for suggestions. NH highlighted that with East Lothian Council soon to embark on a new iteration process of the Local Development Plan (LDP2) in 2022 this created the opportunity to identify and include what and where the aspirational cycle route map of East Lothian could look like in the future. He highlighted that if these routes were shown, even on land not currently owned by the council, and included in the LDP2 when it came to developmental approval these routes became integral to the application and any decision or Section 75 conditions. It also protected the land for future developments not yet identified. The Cycle Forum members and the local Area Partnerships knowledge can contribute to the content with their local knowledge. Forum members to be kept aware of the commencement of the LDP2 in 2022. It was commented that there are occasions developers seeking to save money do not fulfil their obligations with sub-standard or poor infrastructure. An example is the connecting cycle path at DunBear Park which has right hand turns making the route difficult to cycle safely. This has still to be resolved and in the interim this route is not widely known and currently not signed and NH said he would request that the route is signed.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>NH</p>
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4.	<p>Spaces for People – Covid -19 Interventions 2020</p> <p>IR provided a summary of the interventions implemented utilising this funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of 20mph speed limits in numerous towns and villages built areas across the county – this is now being reviewed and the public to be consulted and a report submitted to ELC Cabinet with recommendations. • New cycle path constructed between Prestonpans to Cockenzie, next to the former Cockenzie Power Station. • <i>Just East</i> -Public Hire Bikes x 2 Hire Stations introduced into Musselburgh in September 2020 for 12 months year. ELC’s contract with Transport for Edinburgh to supply the equipment has now come to an end and will not be continued as Edinburgh’s contract is also not to be renewed. ELC will continue to seek opportunities in the future to reinstate public hire bikes in the county. • Additional ‘Virtual’ E-bike Station at Cockenzie.(see E-bikes at Musselburgh) • There were temporary path widening introduced many have since reverted to the original width. In Countess Road, Dunbar it has been agreed to continue this intervention and make permanent along with vehicle restrictions on Countess Crescent. • Cycle parking has been installed at numerous location across the county, at the coastal car park and other locations that had experienced significant increase in public patronage... 	IR
5.	<p>QMU to Old Craighall Cycle Route</p> <p>A new cycle path is in the final stages of construction between Queen Margaret University and Old Craighall. The route, a section of the Segregated Active Travel Corridor (SATC) will connect with the housing site currently under development by Persimmon Homes and beyond to the cycle routes NCN1 and NCN196. There are three rail underpass sections where resurfacing is still to be completed and also lighting to be connected however at this time the public are starting to use it before it is officially completed, which is expected within this financial year.</p> <p>East Lothian Community Hospital – connecting cycle path</p>	
6.	<p>IR reported that his colleague Nick Morgan was continuing to work with NHS Lothian and Sustrans to create a new shared use path within the new East Lothian Hospital. This path will connect to the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Path and also the new shared use path to be constructed on Hospital Road. It anticipated construction could take place in 2022 – see Matters Arising</p>	NM
7.	<p>The Drift Path cycle route – connection to Pinkie</p> <p>NH said that this connecting path to the west of Wallyford, originally to be delivered by the housing developer under a S75 would now be delivered by ELC with a contribution from the developer.</p>	IR/NH
8.	<p>De-signed section of the NCN routes in East Lothian</p> <p>The National Cycle Network was identified and signed by Sustans a number of years ago when the roads environment was different from today. They have recently completed an up to date ‘fit for purpose’ audit of the route. Focused on safety and segregation from vehicles they identified sections of the network that did not meet their new criteria and until these sections are upgraded or criteria met they will lose their NCN route number and be de-signed. In East Lothian there are sections of the NCN76 that fall into this category at Seton Sands and Longniddry. ELC has been in discussion how to address these locations and a recent joint audit was conducted and a report will be provided to identify how to move forward to meet the new criteria.</p>	IR
9	<p>Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme</p> <p>ELC has commissioned consultants to provide and implement a plan to protect areas of Musselburgh against the impact of the River Esk flooding into key risk areas. .This scheme will have elements of new infrastructure that will proved new walking and cycling paths and bridges and as such there is a synergy with the MAT project – see Matters Arising. For more details please go to this link: Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme East Lothian Council</p>	
10.	<p><u>Any other Business</u></p> <p>Pump Tracks</p> <p>NH said there was a lot of growing interest in Pump Tracks in East Lothian with the most recent one opened at Ormiston Park and with others being considered for North Berwick Dunbar and Haddington and asked the Forum members to give their support for them in their local area.</p> <p>Quiet Roads</p> <p>MH asked if there could be a discussion for the next meeting on how to designate Quiet Roads in East Lothian similar to the West Fenton Road. GT added that there may be physical measures required for changes to the road to allow it to be signed as a Quiet Road. The 20mph measures which is being</p>	

	consulted on will have an impact on this subject and enforcement. MJ said that he could raise this at the Local Access Forum. MN said Sustrans are currently looking at the Route 76 east of Haddington and the Hailes Road as perhaps a 'demonstrator' route for a quiet road. NH asked for this to be the next meeting agenda	All
11.	<u>Date of next meeting:</u> 19th January 2022 at 1400hrs in The Town House, High Street, Haddington. This will be a MS Teams Meeting unless circumstances change	

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