

East Lothian Cycle Forum

Notes from MS Teams meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022

Present: Cllr Norman Hampshire - Chair
 Iain Reid - East Lothian Council (Note taker)
 Mark Holling - Cycle Forth North Berwick
 Derek Williams – Musselburgh Area Partnership
 Chris Milne – ELC Behaviour Change Officer
 Hanna Lundstrom – ELC Climate Change Officer
 Kelly Thacker - Changes
 Ian Pryde – Fa’side Area Partnership
 Philippa Barbour (PB) ELC
 Mark James (MJ) Cycling groups Dunbar
 Gordon Webber – Cycling UK
 Grant Talac - ELC
 Nick Morgan - ELC
 Nicola McNeill – Longniddry

Apologies:

Jennifer Lothian – ELC
 Cllr John McMillan

		Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies: Councillor Hampshire welcomed everyone to the meeting including two new members, Hanna Lundstrom and Chris Milne both recently appointed to ELC. IR noted apologies received. NH intimated that future Forum meetings would be chaired by Cllr John McMillan	
2.	Notes of Previous Meeting held on 8th September 2021: 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 following agreement with Tarmac a new shared use cycle path was now in the final stages of construction, estimated to be completed and open for public use by the end of February. The new path will form a new realigned section of the NCN Route 76 which Sustrans is also contributing funding to. This shared use path and another footpath currently being considered around the quarry, are part of the former quarry’s Restoration Plan.</p> <p><u>Sustrans Places for Everyone Fund 2021-22</u> IR reported that at the time of the meeting ELC were awaiting the result of a funding application submitted to Sustrans that if successful would allow further road and crossing design option studies to take place for the Drem to Gullane path. These studies will focus on a key section of the proposed route for access/egress north of Drem Village. Note: Since the Forum meeting ELC have been informed by Sustrans that their application has been approved and this latest phase can now progress, commencing with the engagement of a transport consultants who will provide detailed reports in due course. The Drem to Gullane Campaign group will be kept informed along with other sections of the community including the ELC Forum members.</p> <p><u>Musselburgh Active Toun (MAT)</u> This project involving identifying and developing key strategic cycle routes in and around Musselburgh. The results of early community consultation and engagement along with traffic monitoring and data collection are still being analysed. The MAT project has a number of the routes around the River Esk that have a synergy with the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. NH informed the meeting that the Scottish Government has paused all these types of flood protection schemes across Scotland, and are currently conducting a review and ELC will have to await the outcome of that review and any future funding decisions.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>IR</p>

<p><u>Safer Routes to Schools North Berwick & Shore Road, Belhaven Traffic Study</u> IR reported that following detailed design works by a consultant on behalf of ELC a number of interventions had been identified that would improve walking and cycling infrastructure making it easier and safer for the journey to North Berwick High and Primary schools, and soon to be built new Nursery . An application for funding for these interventions was submitted to Sustrans who after a review requested further details once that is received from the consultants the application will be re-submitted. It is anticipated that if successful, any construction works are likely to be in Summer 2022 to avoid any impact on the school community.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p><u>Belhaven Village/Back Road</u> NH Reported that in view of the range of road network issues around Beveridge Row, Shore Road, Back Road and Belhaven Village in he had requested that a transport consultant is commissioned to conduct a traffic study in this area to provide a report and plan on what can be done to address them including improvements to walking and cycling to include the lack of a footpath on Back Road. MJ mentioned that the gradient on Back Road was quite steep and that to address that a zig zag path design may be required.</p>	<p>NH</p>
<p><u>Cycle Links – Prestonpans to Musselburgh</u> IR reported that he was still awaiting a report and recommendations from Sustrans Officers following their audit of cycle routes in 2021.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p><u>Sustrans, ‘Places for Everyone ‘ projects 2021-22</u> The Hospital Road, Haddington project for a new shared use path is in ELC’s roads programme with construction to commence late January 2022. Once completed this will connect to the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk (NCN76) – Community Hospital section which NM reported will now be funded from the Sustrans Cycle Network Fund which provides 100% funding to projects in this category. A planning application for this new section will be submitted soon and once approved construction could commence in late Summer this year.</p>	<p>IR NM</p>
<p><u>E-Bikes at Musselburgh</u> CM reported that with the restrictions posed by the pandemic he is now looking at ways to promote these bikes as we head towards Spring. To date, without any focused promotion there has been over 1000 individual hires, mainly from the Musselburgh Stations at the Rail Station and Brunton Hall. He is looking at ways and options to expand and promote the stations and has been discussing this with SEStran and Bewegen. Additional funding has been secured from Sustrans and European Share North Fund to expand the network around Musselburgh initially to make more point to point journeys. Currently discussion ongoing with Eskmills Business Park, Tesco and Musselburgh Sports Centre to locate a new type of docking station at their locations which are easier to install and have an element of security included. Other locations are being considered in the county including proposed Journey Hubs. Presently awaiting the outcome of a funding bid to the Energy Savings Trust that would provide a further 20 ebikes and 2 e cargo bikes. DW asked if there was plans to have bikes to spread around Musselburgh. CM said he is in discussion with Queen Margaret University and using the new docking station it may be possible if successful for more stations to be created that will provide a wider geographic spread. HL asked if there was any data on who and what the bikes are being used? CM said that unfortunately other than ‘point to point’ no other data is currently available but he has raised this with Bewegen as it would be useful to know more about the type of journey, commute, leisure etc. which could also inform the locations for future docking stations. NH asked if a docking station could be at Wallyford Rail Station that would allow cycle hire connectivity to Newcraighall Stations which operate separate rail line routes. CM reported that there are plans ongoing to develop the Wallyford ‘Park and Choose’ into a Journey Hub and ebikes can be included.as one of the transport modes. Replying to a question from MJ, CM reported that the bikes maintenance ‘re-balancing’ is provided via Sustran by a company based in Stirling and whilst efforts have been made to identify a more locally based company to undertake those duties, to date this has been unsuccessful. NH commented that as the scheme expands there may opportunities for that company to have a base in East Lothian.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p><u>Local Development Plan 2</u> Details on the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) will be published in the coming months and details will be shared with Forum members allowing them to contribute on future developments. Following a suggestion from a member the Meeting Notes from the Forum are now available on East Lothian Council’s website which will also include dates and venue for the future meetings. It is hoped that this will widen the awareness of the Forum in the county. This is the link to ELC’s website: Notes from past East Lothian Cycle Forum meetings East Lothian Council</p>	<p>IR</p>

	<p><u>QMU to Old Craighall Cycle Route - SATC</u> IR reported that there are three rail underpass sections where resurfacing requires to be completed and discussions are ongoing with Network Rail who control any works underneath the railway line with their consent required before any works can commence. This includes a power supply connection for the path lighting and progress is being made to make that connection. DW asked how the path connects at Old Craighall and IR reported that as part of the path works a new path would be constructed to connect to Monktonhall Place and the existing NCN1 route, NH added that a similar issue with Network Rail at Dunbar at the Dunbear site and an underpass which has resulted in that underpass recently being resurfaced however there remains an issue of path lighting to be resolved.</p> <p><u>The Drift Path cycle route – connection to Pinkie</u> IR reported that the final connecting section of The Drift cycle path was now almost fully constructed and DW asked if signage could be put in place to make the public aware of where it connects to and that it is for shared use and asked if there were any plans to make a new path connection southwards from the underpass to Crookston. IR said he will request new signs and currently there are no plans at this time for any path improvement south from the underpass, however transport planners are aware of a need for that connection and when that site is being developed path improvements are included as part of any planning conditions.</p> <p><u>De-signed section of the NCN routes in East Lothian</u> IR reported that the council are waiting for a report from Sustrans Officers following which there will be further discussions with them to explore options how best to address the issues and progress to have them reinstated.</p> <p><u>Pump Tracks</u> 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 with officers looking at ideas for Tranent and Musselburgh. He asked the Forum members to give their support for them in their local area. They are very popular with young people with many travelling to access them and a desire to have one closer to where they live. There have been reports from the Ormiston Track with so many young people using them there has been an improvement in the behaviour of some of the young people using their energy there rather than in other ways in the community. Pump Tracks can be a gateway activity to skateboarding and BMX and cycling. The council are very keen to spread these facilities across the county and officers are working with Sports Scotland on funding and identification of potential sites with any site proposals need to be supported by the communities to allow them to be developed.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p> <p>IR</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>East Lothian’s Sustainability & Climate Change Officer</u> HL informed the meeting that she had recently taken over this role from Jennifer Lothian and she is responsible in the council for carbon reporting to the Scottish Government. In relation to the Forum she is responsible for updating the Council’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which contains a number of cycle related actions. Very soon it will be possible to view online how ELC is performing in relation to these actions, examples include delivering Bikeability courses* see item 7. https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13283/climate_change_strategy_2020-25</p> <p>DW asked if we had any data on cycle levels in East Lothian to measure if cycling numbers are increasing which from his own experience he is seeing more cyclists in the Musselburgh area and it would be good to capture any formal data especially with all the new infrastructure being put in place. HL said that Bikeability does give an indication not only for young people at schools but also for some adults. IR reported that whilst there are monitoring equipment on path locations many are old and not reliable and needing upgrading. A new walking/cycling counter has been installed on the new SATC at the QMU. There has been a number of sites in towns across the country where temporary traffic monitors, including video have been installed which informs transport planning. CM added that there will be an additional 8 multi modal traffic counters installed in the coming months two of which will be at the Journey Hub at the Brunton Hall and Wallyford Park and Choose with other locations still to be confirmed. These will add to the existing data information along with the annual National Hands Up Survey for schools and provide more accurate data on cycling numbers across the county.</p> <p>DW asked if there was an opportunity to have volunteers conduct face to face surveys at key locations perhaps once or twice a year. NH suggested this could be done via social media and also include the local Area Partnerships.</p>	

	<p>been recently cut and who was responsible to remove the cuttings. NH suggested that the responsibility should lie with the landowner and if they fail to clear up after any hedge cutting/pruning a complaint can be lodged with the council who would try to resolve the problem by contacting the landowner. You can register a complaint on the council website using the following link:</p> <p>Roads and transport East Lothian Council where you will see how to register a complaint about a range of services. There are also details of a Roads Helpline telephone number at the end of these notes.</p> <p><u>Sustran Draft Regional Transport Strategy 2035</u></p> <p>MH asked if the link to this draft strategy document can be circulated to Forum Members for perusal and comment. The closing date for this consultation is 11th February.</p> <p>https://sestran.gov.uk/projects/draft-regional-transport-strategy-sestran-2035-statutory-consultation/</p> <p>IR will circulate this to members and a senior ELC roads officer will be providing a response from the Council to Sustran.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Bikeability Update</u></p> <p>Following the meeting PB supplied a summary report on Bikeability activity in East Lothian –</p> <p>Funding received by East Lothian Council Outdoor Learning Service from national cycling charity Cycling Scotland, has supported over 600 primary children through on road cycle training, Bikeability Scotland Level 2, in five months. Another 700 pupils will complete before Easter. More will complete during the summer term, supporting 28 of 34 ELC primary schools. This provides the majority of P7s, and many P6s with quality on road cycle training. Connected Communities in Tranent support cycle training in the cluster, including targeted projects and learner cycling. An iBike Officer role in Musselburgh, funded by Sustrans, has introduced a range of active travel projects, including cycling and scooting skills sessions in schools. Working alongside the Outdoor Learning team, Bikeability Scotland Level 2 was delivered in Campie and Wallyford, with more plans developing across the cluster to embed Bikeability Scotland and active travel programmes.</p>	
	<p><u>Date of next meeting:</u></p> <p>NH said the next meeting is planned for May, which coincides with the local elections therefore the next meeting will be after their conclusion with the Forum Chair subject to potential change as a consequence of the election results.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting for diaries is 12th May, 2022 at 1400hrs and with the current uncertainty over meetings a MS Teams Invite will be circulated however that may be subject to change in the interim period and an indoor meeting may be a possibility in May with The Town House, Haddington the likely venue.</p>	

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