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**EAST LOTHIAN CYCLE FORUM**

**Notes from the evening meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2016**

**Presen**t: Iain Reid (IR) Note Taker

Cllr Michel Veitch (MV) Chair

Martyn Pegg (MP)

Paul Ince (PI)

Alastair Seagroatt (AS)

Keith Burns (KB)

Nicola McNeill (NM)

Douglas Kirkham (DK)

Heather Cameron (HC)

John Gray (JG)

**Apologies:** Jason Rose, Robin MacEwen, Amber Moss, Jennifer Lothian, Mark James, Derek Williams, Mark Holling, Philippa Barbour, Fay Stanton

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|  |  | Action |
| **1.** | **Welcome & Apologies: MV** opened the meeting and welcomed new members to the meeting. |  |
| **2.** | **Note of Previous Meeting held on 9th June2015:** Accepted |  |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising:**  **Local Transport Strategy – IR** reported that the revised LTS was still being drafted and hopefully available by the end of March. One of the LTS supporting documents will be an Active Travel Improvement Plan which amongst other active travel modes will include cycling. The ‘East Lothian on the Move’ community engagement/consultations that took place in late 2015 within the 6 Local Area Partnerships, produced a ‘long list of actions’ and these are now being distilled by the AP’s to prioritise the list into short, medium and long term actions. Some of the AP’s have formed transport sub groups to assist in this process. These actions will be incorporated into the draft ATIP/LTS.  **Segregated Active Travel Corridor**  **IR** informed the meeting that the consultants, Ironside Farrar are continuing to work on this feasibility study report. He showed a map with a draft route proposals IF had submitted. In brief summary the draft route continues from the East Lothian boundary with Edinburgh City near the Queen Margaret University eastwards following existing sections of the NCN1 and continues adjacent or near to the East Coast rail line, to Meadowmill before heading south via the underpass to the to the north and east of Tranent, to rejoin the A199 road eastwards.  **IR** reported that the study was still exploring a range of different options to the suggested route, some of which involved sites of archaeological interest at Inveresk and also the need to connect to other transport hubs, such as Wallyford Park and Choose and the Rail Stations at Prestonpans and possibly a future rail station at Blindwells. He said that given the level of planned development in the west of East Lothian, there were a great deal of challenges to the transport infrastructure but these also presented significant opportunities, and the identification of a high quality SATC route at an early stage would be very important in future development plans. **KB** asked if the SATC would take priority over other cycle routes as there were cyclists who prefer cycling on roads.via the existing built environment through our towns, such as Musselburgh. He also asked if the study involved access agreements with the land owner on the ‘route’ as this could have a major impact on the project delivery. **IR** said that the SATC, would appeal to a particular type of cyclists but not all, and there will be many who will use the existing routes through our towns and improvements would be continue to be considered to make cycling safer on the roads in our communities. He added that no contact had been made with any landowners at this early stage. **MV** commented that there would be an opportunity to comment on the Feasibility Study report once it had been prepared.  **Community Links Funded Projects 2015-16**  **IR** reported that there are 5 projects in the 2015-16 works programme with supported funding from Sustrans Community Links fund:   * Phase 2 North Berwick – A198 Petrol Station to Dirleton junction * Gullane, Duncur Road A198 - Archerfield West Lodge * Tranent to Ormiston – Phase 2 * Elphinstone to Pencaitland Railway Walk * Section of the Pencaitland Railway East to Puddle Bridge for c. 1.7km   A consequence of receiving additional funding from Sustrans a further 2 projects will also be delivered this financial year:   * Section of the Pencaitland Railway Walk east of Puddle Bridge towards Pencaitland for c. 1.8km surface improvements * Gateside, Haddington – Longniddry Railway Walk, sections of path upgrade to tarmac with path lighting   These projects are programmed to be delivered before the end of the current financial year or in one instance by the beginning of May..  **PI** asked about previous surface works at Longniddry on the Rail Walk using a material called Toptrec and if there had been any public comment. **NM** commented that this surface improvement had been well received by users and continued to be in a good state of repair and looked forward to further sections being upgraded.    **Cycle Parking in Town Centres** – **IR** reported the installation of new cycle parking on or near Musselburgh High Street. These had been resulted in positive feedback correspondence by Forum members. He also reported that the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership had agreed to fund a number of cycle stands in Haddington Town centre, to be installed in this current financial year.    **Foxlake Sign – A199**  **IR** reported thatthis sign post will be relocated nearby that will not encroach the cycle path.  **Alternative Route to Becky’s Strip section on the John Muir Way cycle route**  **IR** reported that as a consequence of the poor condition of the surface on this section of the route he had held discussions with Scottish National Heritage, who how manage the route, signage and maintenance, and colleagues to consider alternative route options. The consensus is the existing route remains the preferred route choice however, it was agreed to provide additional signage at either end of the section providing users of advance notice of an uneven surface and this would also be on the SNH’s website which describes the route. The actual wording/information is being discussed with SNH and ELC. | **IR**  **IR**  **IR**  **IR**  **IR** |
| **4.** | **Drem to Gullane** – **IR** informed the members that he was aware fellow council officers had spent considerable time and resources over a long period of time to progress a cycle route linking Drem to Gullane. This had involved liaising with landowners, campaigners and other interested parties, including referral to the East Lothian Local Access Forum to identify a way forward. The ELLAF and council officers have explored and exhausted all available options with no progress to date. **IR** asked that this item be removed from the agenda until such time as the circumstances change. **KB** in supporting this request added that he was fully aware of the circumstances as he is also a member of the ELLAF and that they had recently communicated with the Drem to Gullane campaign group inviting them to attend an ELLAF meeting and he had also invited the campaign group to attend the East Lothian Cycle Forum meeting to address the members, however the campaign group had declined both offers. **MV** agreed that this item be removed at this time. |  |
| **5.** | **Lighting at the underpass Longniddry Railway Path**  **IR** reported that the improved lighting works at this location are contracted to be installed this March. | **IR** |
| **6.** | **Potential Projects for Sustrans Funding 2016-17**  **NM** had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for Forum members to consider potential projects to be considered when applying for Sustrans Community Links 2016-17 funding. **IR** reported that subject to available funding two project would be submitted to the Sustrans CLF 2016-17 for financial support:   * **Tranent to Ormiston Phase 3** which involves the final connecting shared use path section to Ormiston and includes a new footway and footbridge adjacent to the Puddle Bridge. * **Gullane to Luffness New Golf Club**  footway adjacent to the A198 upgrade to shared use width   The funding applications to be submitted by Friday 12th February 2016 | **IR** |
| **7.** | **Central Islands Audit Report**  **NM** along with Sustrans Volunteers had conducted a repeat audit of the traffic/central islands within East Lothian. The Report had been submitted prior to the meeting and shared with members. **NM** talked through the main findings of the report and **IR** confirmed that it had been shared with council colleagues who are responsible for these items of road infrastructure. **MV** thanked **NM** for the Report and the contribution to improving road safety. **MV** asked if the council officer with responsibility for road safety could be asked to attend the next Forum meeting in June, to provide members with the opportunity to talk in general about the report and how the findings can be progressed for existing and future road improvements. | **IR** |
| **8.** | **NCN 76 Route at La Farge – ongoing maintenance** – **MV reported** that the cement factory is now under new ownership, with the former owner, Blue Circle and he will be making contact with the new management on the subject of current and future maintenance of the route and will liaise with Council officers to progress this item. | **MV** |
| **9.** | **Surfacing and Lighting Improvements to NCN76 & at Gateside Haddington**  See Matters Arising – Community Links Funded Projects 2015-16 | **IR** |
| **10.** | **Bikeability Instructor Conferences**  **IR** had received email correspondence from Cycling Scotland regarding regional conferences for Bikeability instructors, which were also open volunteers who don’t hold a Cycling Scotland qualification. The conferences will be held in:  Glasgow 8th March  Edinburgh 10th March  Aberdeen 16th March  Perth 17th March  **IR** to circulate email to all Forum members (*circulated on 11th February*) |  |
| **11.** | **Any other Business**  **A199 - Cycle Path junction concerns and maintenance**  **JG** asked that similar to last year’s cycle path maintenance works at Abbey Toll cottages, could the cycle path between Monksmuir to Abbeymains be pared of vegetation, detritus material. Also the cycle path at Amisfield farm road end. .  **JG** also has concerns that when cycling on the cycle path adjacent to the A199 between Haddington to Dunbar cyclists have to negotiate several junctions by using the dropped kerbs which are located into the connecting road. He feels that vehicle drivers on the A199 approaching the junctions intent on turning into these junctions often cannot see the cyclist if they are at the dropped kerb locations until they are carrying out their manoeuvre. **JG** was of the opinion that it would be safer if the dropped kerbs were aligned with the cycle path route directly across the junction bell mouth which would make the cyclist more visible to vehicle drivers. The junction locations on the A199 are at the:  B1347, Beanston Mains, and the A198. **JG** also asked if additional cycle route signs be located along this cycle route.  **MV** asked **IR** to speak to colleagues regarding route maintenance and the junction crossings and the additional signage.  **Longniddry Railway Path – Access and drainage issues/St Germains Crossing**  **NM** said there was surface water at the underpass on the NCN76 at Longniddry Railway Path. **IR** would contact colleagues to examine the drainage gullies at this location which may be blocked.  **PI** commented that there is signage on the grass verge of the footpath adjacent to the B1377, directing walkers/cyclists across the road to the Longniddry Railway Path opposite Old Kiln Cottages. There is a section of grass verge that walkers/cyclists have to cross and could this be removed and surfaced with tarmac to facilitate easier passage? A similar situation exists at St Germains Crossing on the north side where there is a grass verge. **MV** asked **IR** to investigate both these items.  **Novel lighting on bike wheels**  **JG** had recently seen a novel way of illuminating bicycle wheels with coloured LED lighting on the rims and spokes. He thought this would be a good product to promote to cyclists and in particular young people as they were very bright and colourful. **IR** agreed that they could contribute to the autumn dark night road safety promotion in schools and would highlight the product closer to that time. The product can be found at:  <http://www.lightinthebox.com/bicycle-spokelit-led-safety-light-for-bike-wheels-32-patterns_p400814.html> | **IR**  **IR** |
|  | **Dates of next meetings: Tuesday 7th June 2016 (1400 hrs) & Tuesday 11th October at 1900hrs, both at The Buffet Room, Haddington Town House, Haddington** |  |

**Roads Helpline – 01875 824305**

**To report all road and street lighting defects**