

East Lothian Cycle Forum: Project updates

29TH FEBRUARY 2024



Staffing

Michael Naysmith left his role as East Lothian Council's Sustrans Embedded Officer in January and has been replaced by Niall Deans.

East Lothian Council also have a new Sustainability and Climate Change Officer. Cheyne Hamm joined in mid-February, replacing Hanna Lundstrom who moved on from her post in December.

Funding

East Lothian Council are awaiting further information on direct capital and revenue active travel funding awards for the financial year 2024/25.

Sustrans' Places for Everyone fund is being reduced with the expectation that Local Authorities will now bid to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) which can support the costs of delivering projects that are construction-ready. This fund was open in January 2024 and ELC submitted three separate applications for Dunbar Rail Station South Access; North Berwick High Street and Wallyford Toll Active Travel Improvements. The outcome of these applications will be decided by mid-March 2024.

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

Discussion with Wemyss & March Estates is ongoing, within initial permission to progress to a feasibility study in 2024. ELC and Sustrans will explore funding for this in the new financial year. The scope of this work could potentially be extended to assess the feasibility of connections to Port Seton and Ballencrieff, subject to funding agreement.

Barrier improvements

ELC have been awarded funding from Sustrans to redesign and improve physical barriers on or linking to the National Cycle Network, with the aim of enhancing accessibility for a variety of users, including those in wheelchairs and with cargo bikes. ELC currently anticipate improvements at the following locations before the end of March:

- Queen Margaret University – Monktonhall underpass
- Balcarres Road, Musselburgh
- Goose Green, Musselburgh
- Levenhall Links
- Link path from Appin Drive to B1348, Prestonpans

This fund will re-open for applications in 2024/25 and ELC anticipate making a further funding submission to redesign barriers in other locations around the county.

Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

A design has been agreed in principle, and ELC is currently awaiting finalised drawings from Hargreaves before the Roads Construction Consent can be issued, and construction can commence.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

Feedback on the earlier consultation, including comments from landowners, has been collated and is being considered as design work progresses.

A funding application has been submitted which, if approved, would allow the Haddington to Tranent phase to commence to construction. A consultation on arrangements through Macmerry and Gladsmuir will take place later this year, if funding is confirmed.

Designs for the overall project are progressing well, with an options appraisal still required for the Haddington section.

Dunbar, Belhaven area improvements

Discussions among senior ELC Officers are progressing, with construction designs to follow once approval is provided and public consultation is completed. Design and construction will be dependent on funding, although the nature of this project is that it can be built section at a time.

Dunbar, Countess Crescent

Five expressions of support were provided for this proposal alongside one objection. Receipt of this objection means that a report must be submitted to ELC Cabinet, which is being drafted.

Dunbar, Rail Station East access

Enabling works are taking place this month using some funding that is currently available to ELC. Further progress will be dependent on additional funding being identified and secured.

Dunbar, Summerfield Road

Construction works are under way and ELC anticipate these being completed by the end of March, weather permitting.

East Lothian Active Travel Network Action Plan

Ethos Consultant's continue to develop an Active Travel Infrastructure Plan for East Lothian, which ELC expect to review in March.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

This project has been awarded to AECOM thanks to funding from Sustrans Network Development team in January 2024. AECOM will begin work on initial options in February and March before progressing to complete a Road Safety Audit, Topographical Survey and Concept Design for the most appropriate option in the spring of 2024. Further information will be shared in due course.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

Stantec have completed an initial options report for this location, looking at a variety of different construction materials and structure-types that can offer a widened 4m crossing. ELC have submitted feedback on these options and we expect the most appropriate of those to progress to a concept design, which will be completed by the end of March.

Haddington, Tynebank Road

Work continues on the preparation of detailed design drawings for this route, with an application expected to be submitted to the Iain Findlay Path Fund for construction costs by the end of February. Planning permission will be required, with an application likely to be submitted in the coming weeks. Further information, including design drawings, will be shared in due course.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway Path – extension through East Lothian Community Hospital Grounds

Legal negotiations around potential liability issues are progressing but are not yet complete. ELC hope that these will be concluded soon to allow construction to begin early this year. Subject to the above, the estimated completion date for this project is September 2024.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway path – resurfacing

A review of responses to the public consultation was delayed due to a change of Sustrans personnel. ELC and Sustrans will review these results in the coming weeks, with a further update to be provided at May's Cycle Forum meeting.

Meadowmill A1 Underpass

East Lothian Council's Roads Engineering team are still awaiting information from SP Energy Networks which would allow a lighting connection to be made. The lighting units are now installed.

Musselburgh, A199 / Pinkie Playing Fields

A new refuge island crossing point will be installed at this location by the end of the current financial year, weather permitting.

Musselburgh Active Toun

A consultation seeking views on designs for Routes outside the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS) opened on Monday 13th November and ran until 15th January 2024. This included an online platform with feedback areas and a survey, face to face events for stakeholders, community groups, accessibility groups & members of the public and meetings with Community Councils. ELC are also engaging with schools, emergency services, public transport operators, landowners and key local businesses such as Musselburgh Racecourse.

Feedback has been reviewed and actions identified for consideration as designs are progressed. A consultation report will be published shortly.

Detailed designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 and concept designs for Routes 4 & 6 are progressing. MFPS team continue to progress designs for Routes 3 and Eskside section of Route 5.

ELC aim to publish draft Traffic Regulation Orders for some Routes in early summer 2024. A bid for construction funding could be submitted during FY 2024/2025 to enable construction works to commence during FY 2025/2026.

National Cycle Network Development

Sustrans Scotland, working in partnership with East Lothian Council, have introduced a new 'quiet way' route along the existing National Cycle Network Route 76 from Haddington to Brae Heads Loan.

This quiet way was created by reducing the speed limit to 40mph and providing 'Shared Space' signage to encourage considerate behaviour between road users. The 40-mph

speed limit came into force on the 8th January 2024 under an Experimental Regulation Traffic Order ('ETRO'), issued by East Lothian Council.

Consideration is being given to further extension of this quiet way from east of Amisfield Walled Garden to Haddington town centre, with negotiations under way to determine a suitable solution.

North Berwick Coastal Ward – Active and Sustainable Travel Plan

A draft Active Travel and Sustainable Transport Plan has been prepared by Planning Aid Scotland and was subsequently approved by the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and On the Move sub-group. The final plan will be published on the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership pages of ELC's website in the coming weeks.

North Berwick High Street

Phase 1 - a raised speed table at the junction of High Street and Quality Street - will commence construction on 4th March and will be complete in 4 weeks. Phases 2 and 3 - widening of the pavements / narrowing of the carriageway and a raised table at the junction of High Street and market Place - are about to be awarded for detailed design. As noted above, a bid for construction funding has been submitted to Transport Scotland which, if successful, will see work will take place in the financial year 2024/25.

Prestonpans to Levenhall and Musselburgh Goose Green

AECOM have been appointed to carry out some initial work on this project after a funding award from Sustrans Network Development team in December 2023. Initial optioneering work is under way to look at improvements for cyclists and pedestrians along the B1348 and through Levenhall Links, incorporating travel to Prestongrange Heritage Park. This will lead to concept design for the most appropriate options, which ELC plan to consult on later this year.

Preston Tower Primary School, access from East Loan

Works were completed in February 2024 to remove a step and provide an access ramp at the gated East Loan entrance to the school. This will improve access for wheelchair, cycle and scooter users.

Routes4Communities

ELC wishes to thank members who participated on the consultation exercises for this project. Stantec's output from this work is currently being reviewed and ELC anticipate the results being published in late spring 2024. Further information will can be found at [Routes4Communities | Active Travel strategy | East Lothian Council](#).

Wallyford, Bing Path

Construction has commenced and works are progressing well. We anticipate this path being complete by the end of March 2024. A full layout for this route is available to download via [Wallyford Bing Path | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).

Wallyford Toll roundabout

Final construction designs have been completed, based on the preferred option outlined at [Phase 7: Wallyford Toll Roundabout | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#). As noted above, ELC have applied to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund for construction costs of this project.

Behaviour Change initiatives

Centre Line removal pilot project

ELC is continuing to work in partnership with the University of West of England (UWE) to study potential for the removal of centre lines to bring down speeds and make the carriageway safer for all road users, in particular walkers, wheelers and cyclists. Our partners at UWE have begun to analyse our first round of data and we hope to update the forum soon on some of the preliminary findings.

The initial report submitted to ELC’s Member’s Library can be found [here](#).

East Lothian Council Bike User’s Group (BUG)

The East Lothian Council staff Bike User Group has grown to more than 60 members since its launch in August of last year. The BUG steering group has recently developed a Bike User Guide for all staff at John Muir House and this is currently with members for comment. With support of our partners at Love to Ride, the BUG will go on its second led ride in March – a lunchtime ride from Haddington to East Linton, via the NCN 76 and the Hailes Castle Quietway. The group will meet colleagues from ELC’s Active Travel team in East Linton to take feedback on proposals for the Haddington to East Linton leg of the Active Freeway.

East Lothian Council Travel Plan

ELC is working in partnership with consultants TravelKnowHow Scotland on an updated Travel Plan. This will review and reset our emissions targets and update the strategy for achieving these.

Love to Ride

2023 Statistics:

Category	2023
Participants 🧑	188
New User Accounts 🚲	218
App Users 📱	22
Workplaces 🏢	21
New Rider	10%
Female Participation ♀	37%
Trips Logged % for Transport	9,650 26%
Health - 150 minutes ❤️🩹	60%

2024 highlights so far:

- Love to Ride participated in the 'Freedom Machine' event organised by Sustaining Dunbar introducing the platform and inviting the community to participate. Information about Love to Ride will be shared in SD's next newsletter.
- Contact made with all Community Councils in East Lothian.
- More than 100 workplaces were contacted to update them on our 2024 Ride 365 programme.
- Improvements made to local website including the local page updated with Heavy Sound and SD Dr. Bike Sessions, workshops, etc. **CTA for the forum, we would like to have the local initiatives page as complete as possible, so any information from events, activities and cycling services, will be appreciated.*
- Industrial Estates and Business Parks were contacted with Ride 365 Info.
- Love to Ride to participate in the Fa'Side Active Climate first meeting (Travel and Sustainability Sub-Group).
- Day Centres and Clubs were reached out to with 365 Ride information.
- A strategy for increasing female participation in the area is being developed.
- Focus in 2024 will be on large employers'

Ride into Spring

- When is it? Feb 22nd - 31st March
- Everyone can take part - focus on setting small goals coming out of winter. Weekly prizes for all trips / trips for transport. App specific prizes for both of those categories.
- Promotional Pack - on the [website](#)

2024 plans

- **Marketing** - PR to reach local media outlets and spread the word | Boosted Facebook Ads in particular promoting the App
- **App Launch** - promotional materials are ready and the full public facing launch will go live in April

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- **Campaigns** - Bike Month - May 2024 | Cycle September 2024

Workplaces

ELC is working in partnership with a local consultant to develop a behaviour change web platform to encourage employers and employees to make the necessary changes to reduce carbon emissions from commuting. After a successful pilot in February the platform will be rolled out across ELC in the Spring before supporting Queen Margaret University and Charles River Laboratories to do the same.

Access to bikes and cycle parking

Cargo Bikes

ELC are currently drafting a User Agreement and finalising the equipment and insurance requirements necessary for up to 6 eCargo bikes to go out to local organisations in 2024. Some early engagement has already begun with organisations that previously expressed interest in trialling an eCargo bike. Any organisations that wish to express interest in trying one in future should email activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Community cycle parking

New cycle parking has been installed at the following locations in the current financial year:

- Castle Inn, Dirleton
- Cuthill Park, Prestonpans
- Dunbar Harbour
- Dunbar Leisure Centre (phase 1 = 3 stands)
- Gullane Library
- Halhill Sports Centre, Dunbar (at 3G pitches)
- Longniddry Inn

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- Musselburgh Library
 - North Berwick Library
 - Open Arms Hotel, Dirleton
 - Port Seton Community Centre
 - Winterfield Golf Club, Dunbar

ELC anticipate completing installation of racks at the following additional locations by the end of April 2024:

- Dunbar Leisure Centre (phase 2 = 6 further stands)
- Fisherrow Centre, Musselburgh
- Haddington Athletic Football Club facilities at Whittingehame Drive
- Loch Centre, Tranent
- Musselburgh Leisure Centre
- New Street Playpark, Musselburgh
- North Berwick Tennis Club
- Ormiston Playpark
- West Barns Village Hall

eBikes for East Lothian Council staff

ELC is currently undertaking a 5 week trial of an ebike pool scheme, using a fleet of ebikes borrowed from the West Lothian Bike Library. This pilot will run for 5 weeks to test the demand for business travel via eBike from John Muir House, with a view to reducing grey fleet mileage claims and easing pressure on our EV pool cars.

Folding bike hire pilot

A pilot will launch with Brompton in March that will see a mix of folding push-bike and folding e-bikes made available for public hire from partner organisations in North Berwick, Prestonpans and Dunbar. ELC is placing the bikes close to public transport interchanges that make up our new Journey Hub network, and hope that this partnership will present an opportunity for more people to make multi-modal trips within the county and beyond.

Schools

Bikeability Scotland

A majority of primary schools will take part in Bikeability Scotland, primary school cycle training, this academic year 23-24, though this is unlikely to reach the record 100% achieved in 2022-23

Bikeability Scotland programmes are almost fully funded by Transport Scotland in East Lothian. Funding changes for the academic year 2024-25 will mean that ELC Outdoor Learning Service has a lower grant available to deliver cycle training in schools.

Bike bus project / IBike

The Haddington Bike Bus will be restarting again this year after a successful trial in 2023. ELC would like to support bike buses at other schools where possible and ELC's Sustrans IBike officer is on hand to support with this. IBike continue to deliver support for active travel at primary schools in Haddington, West Barns, Prestonpans and Tranent, while ELC's Active Travel Officers provide further with travel planning and encouraging a modal shift for school travel.

Cycle Storage improvements

Procurement of cycle storage goods and works for 19 school campuses is progressing and all contracts will be awarded by the end of February 2024. ELC anticipate the majority of improvement works taking place during April, July and August to avoid core school hours, with potential for some sites to be completed earlier than this. The full list of sites that will receive improvements is as follows:

New sheltered cycle storage: Cockenzie Primary School; Dunbar Grammar School; Dunbar Primary School (Lochend Campus); East Linton Primary School; Gullane Primary School; Haddington Primary School; Macmerry Primary School; Musselburgh Burgh Primary School; Pencaitland Primary School; Preston Tower Primary School (Preston Rd

Campus); St Martin's RC Primary School; Wallyford Primary School; West Barns Primary School and Windygoul Primary School.

New unsheltered cycle racks: Elphinstone Primary School; Knox Academy; Longniddry Primary School; Preston Tower Primary School (West Loan campus) and Sanderson's Wynd Primary School.

Repairs to existing cycle shelters: East Linton Primary School and Sanderson's Wynd Primary School.

Improved scooter storage: Cockenzie Primary School; East Linton Primary School; Elphinstone Primary School; Gullane Primary School; Haddington Primary School; Musselburgh Burgh Primary School; Sanderson's Wynd Primary School; St Martin's RC Primary School; West Barns Primary School and Windygoul Primary School.

Public transport integration

Journey Hubs

ELC consulted on the development of [Journey Hubs](#) in September and October, with this exercise highlighting 40 potential locations. Atkins are preparing a final report, which they will submit to ELC in March.

Rail stations

ELC met with Scotrail in December to highlight the need for improved cycle storage at East Lothian stations, particularly North Berwick. This has been noted by Scotrail who will consider it as part of any capital improvement plans in 2024/25.

END

