

EAST LoTHIAN CYCLE FORUM

Notes from meeting held on Thursday 22nd August 2024

18.00 – 20.00

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cllr Shona McIntosh (SMc) – Chair
 Chris Milne (CM) – ELC Active Travel Infrastructure Officer (Note taker)
 Nick Morgan (NM) – ELC Access Officer
 Richard Kerr (RK) – ELC Active Travel Behaviour Change Projects Officer
 Brett Walker (BW) – North Berwick Coastal On the Move
 Mark James (MJ) – Sustaining Dunbar
 Philippa Barber (PB) – ELC Associate Instructor Outdoor Learning / Bikeability Scotland lead
 Ralph Averbuch (RA) – Pencaitland area member
 Beth Harley-Jepson (BHJ) – SEStran
 Steve Wands (SW) – ELC Club & Community Sports Development Officer
 Angie Kinghorn (AK) – Cycling UK Development Officer East Lothian
 Gordon Webber (GW) – Cycling UK
 Nicola McNeill (NMc) – Longniddry area
 Donald Smith (DS) – Haddington area
 Rebecca Smith (RS) – SEStran
 Fiona Crombie – (FC) – Preston Seton Gosford area

Apologies:

Liz Hunter, Niall Deans, Paul Ince, Gordon Hall, Cheyne Hamm, Mark Holling, Derek Williams

		Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies Councillor McIntosh welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Notes of Previous Meeting held on 23rd May 2024 Meeting notes had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were accepted as an accurate record.	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>CM provides updates on matters from the previous meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding LDP an update was provided in the previously issued written project updates, noting that the Evidence Report would be presented to Council on August 27th before progressing to the Gate Check process. East Lothian Council have also issued a Call for Sites to help develop proposals for the Spatial Strategy, with responses required by 6th September. Further information can be found at East Lothian LDP2 Call for Sites - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space (eastlothianconsultations.co.uk). • CM is waiting on a confirmed figure regarding ELC's own budget towards Active Travel in 2024-25, but is aware that some of this budget is being used as a 30% match-funding contribution towards the construction of the new path at Tynebank Road, Haddington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>It has been confirmed since the meeting that ELC's budget for Traffic & Safety in 2024-25 is £950,000. This covers a range of works supporting active travel, including cycleways, footway construction, lowered kerbs, road safety, crossings and junction improvements. £100,000 of this budget is being put towards the path improvement works at Tynebank Road, Haddington.</i> • CM is waiting to have a discussion with procurement regarding the purchase of bike hangars for communities and will keep in touch with RA about this once he has further information. • Active Travel maps – the reason for these being removed from ELC's website isn't clear, however CM suggests that another member of the Active Travel team look into this and potentially discuss the development of maps with Scottish Borders Council. • Women Don't Cycle events – CM notes that this will be discussed under item 7 – Events. <p>SMc asks if there is a broader role for the Cycle Forum regarding the type of mapping required. RK is going to explore this.</p>	ELC

	<p>BW asks for an update on proposed changes to speed limits on the A199, as was previously discussed under East Lothian Active Freeway. CM confirms that this will be looked at when further design work has been completed for relevant stretches of the route. SMc asks that there is further consultation when this happens.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Cycling UK update</p> <p>AK provides the following update on Cycling UK’s recent work in East Lothian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling UK have moved some bikes, including trikes and cargo bikes, from a project in the Scottish Borders to support try-outs in East Lothian. Loans have since been provided across various towns and villages in the county. • Meetings have been taking place with key organisations such as Changes and Stepping Out. • A family event took place at Ormiston Park. • Adult Learn to Ride and Confidence Building sessions have been taking place. • AK has been liaising with ELC’s Outdoor Learning team to co-ordinate Dr Bike sessions before Bikeability lessons take place. This will free up ELC resource to focus on delivery of Bikeability. • Meetings have been held to explore the potential for tandem bikes and a tandem club, with hopes that a pilot will run soon. • A Facebook page is now live - Cycling UK East Lothian Facebook. • During Autumn the project will work with local organisations to explore fleet loans. <p>GW then provides an update on Cycling UK’s Cycle Access Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling UK’s new funding streams represent an amalgamation of previous funds, plus one new fund. • The focus is getting bikes to people who could not ordinarily access one. • One of the key aims is to tackle transport poverty, particularly in rural area. • Funding is provided to organisations, based on the following streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals (over 18’s only) ○ Shared ○ Repair ○ Recycle • GW notes that Belhaven Bikes in Dunbar are on the Recycle scheme. • The shared programme represents the biggest pot of funding. <p>CM encourages members to share details of these funds in their local area and notes previous interest during a meeting of Sustainable Preston Seton Gosford, which he will pass on to GW.</p> <p>MJ recommends the scheme having had a good experience with it in the past. He notes that local back-up support is important, on top of the access to bikes. GW seconds this and notes that East Lothian has AK in post who can provide support. A small amount of funding can also be provided for training.</p> <p>RA comments that storage is important and often in short supply, asking whether there are ELC premises that could support short-term storage of cargo bikes. RK is not aware of anywhere with space, but does suggest local hall in Pencaitland.</p> <p>SMc asks for more information about the Cycling UK bikes available for loan. AK confirms that bikes generally go out for 1 month at a time, with child seats now available for some to encourage people back in to cycling after having children.</p> <p>RK asks if people need to live in East Lothian to access Cycling UK training, giving an example of a Midlothian resident who regularly commutes to East Lothian. AK confirms that people do not necessarily need to live in the county to participate in training.</p> <p>SMc notes that East Lothian’s Poverty Plan will shortly be going to Council and asks what organisations in East Lothian Cycling UK have already worked with. Can we link up with others in ELC to spread the word about Cycling UK’s work? GW will be in touch separately with a note of East Lothian organisations.</p>	<p>CM</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Cargo bikes</p> <p>RK shares details of ELC’s new web page for organisations interested in borrowing an eCargo bike: Cargobike loans East Lothian on the Move East Lothian Council. ELC have four models of eCargo bike available and are keen to hear from organisations of any type operating in the county who wish to loan them.</p> <p>ELC have partnered up with Edinburgh-based Cargo Bike Movement, who are providing training and familiarisation sessions.</p> <p>This work has supported the Haddstock Festival who used the bikes to ferry equipment around between venues. An XYZ Cargo has been loaned to North Berwick in Bloom, while the Company Bakery, based in Musselburgh, has received both XYZ and Bullitt models. ELC has been in discussion with Sustaining Dunbar regarding the use of a Tern model with a compatible trailer, which will be subject to insurance agreement. This could potentially be available for households.</p> <p>Members are asked to reach out to ELC’s Active Travel team via activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk if interested in more information on Cargo Bikes.</p> <p>RA notes that Pencaitland Community Council found insurance to be a real challenge when exploring this, even more so because they are a smaller community organisation. RA wonders if ELC’s buying power could be used to negotiate deals on insurance for communities. ELC will look into this and update the Cycle Forum.</p> <p>MJ talks about the Tern model being a useful alternative where storage is constrained as it is a similar size to a standard ebike.</p>	<p>ELC</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>ELC Projects 2024-25</p> <p>CM outlines delays in decision making for a number of key external grant funds and explains that these have had an impact on ELC’s ability to procure and confirm works in the current financial year. The following projects have been confirmed to date and will progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tynebank Road path, Haddington (construction) • Improvements to the crossing of the Pencaitland Railway Path at the A6093 (construction) • Bing Path, Wallyford fencing and landscaping (construction) • New community cycle parking at locations including Aberlady, Dunbar, Gullane, Haddington, Macmerry, Musselburgh, North Berwick, Ormiston and West Barns • Accessibility improvements on the National Cycle Network at Haddington, Musselburgh and West Barns. • Further accessibility improvements around Tranent. • New or improved lining for cyclists at Refuge Islands (locations tbc but will be based in part on Sustrans Network Planning Tool) • Wallyford Primary School to Albert Place (Design) • Law Path North Berwick (Design – being led by Law Primary Parent Council) • North Berwick School and Station Links (Design) • New secure workplace cycle storage 2-3 sites • School bike storage improvements • Shared residential cycle storage <p>A number of other projects, including construction on part of the Active Freeway and a feasibility study for improvements between Prestonpans and Aberlady are subject to an ongoing wait for grant funding decisions.</p> <p>SMc asks about Sustrans Network Planning Tool, querying what information that is based on. CM will ask if Sustrans can come along to talk about it at a future meeting.</p> <p>SMc raises the issue of the A1 underpass near Meadowmill, which is not lit. CM confirms that ELC were waiting for SPEN but that the lighting has now been turned on there.</p> <p>RA asks if the current cycle parking list includes Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland. CM confirms that it does not but that this will be added to the list.</p>	

	<p>PB asks if refuge island lining in Prestonpans can be widened. CM confirms that new works should be to the standard previously agreed by the Cycle Forum.</p>	
7.	<p>Events</p> <p>CM notes that there is an intention to carry out some community screenings of Women Don't Cycle, with MJ looking at this in Dunbar, although in that case it will need to wait until he returns from time away on a cycling trip. RK notes that the plan was for a main screening with further follow-ups, taking it round different Area Partnerships. ELC have a small budget and can look in to making a small contribution towards the costs of venue hire or screening licenses where communities would like to take this forward.</p> <p>SMc talks about an exhibition on cycling and activism that has been taking place in Edinburgh, with the curator potentially looking to take this on tour further afield. SMc is waiting to hear back from the curator regarding the potential of bringing the exhibition to any venues in East Lothian.</p> <p>RK talks about Cycle September which will include a led ride for ELC staff on 3rd September, from Brunton Hall to Cockenzie House. Two Dr Bike sessions are also scheduled for ELC staff during September.</p> <p>DS talks about Haddington Goes Dutch, which he is hoping will become a monthly event, taking place on the first Saturday of each month. This is an informal get together, where people meet up between 9.30am and 10am to have some cake and chat. The idea behind the event is to make bikes more visible around Haddington. SMc asks if it is an opportunity to promote the Cycle Forum if a QR code could be provided for attendees to scan. CM confirms that he will share details and asks for further information on the venue, which DS confirms is outside the Corn Exchange.</p>	<p>CM</p>
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>RS talks about the Brompton hire locker which has just been installed at Queen Margaret University (next to the bus shelter) and will be launched during the week of 9th September. RS asks if any members would like to attend a launch event. Members wishing to do so can contact CM.</p> <p>PB talks about the planning of new schools the need to connect active travel routes to the local communities. SM agrees that this needs to be emphasised as part of LDP2.</p> <p>DS talks about the impact of 20mph speed limits in East Lothian towns and how these have been impactful for the safety of cyclists. DS wants to see crossings be more immediately responsive to pedestrians.</p> <p>PB talks about some traffic lights not being activated by cyclists and says that this issue has been raised before with no response. CM and RK confirm that it has been raised with Roads Engineering who did not appear to think there was a current problem. This will be looked in to.</p> <p>SW talks about East Fortune racing club and asks whether members have an experience of working with the club or cycling at their facility. It would be good to see cycling clubs access this facility. SMc knows that it was previously used for a half-marathon. SMc and NM both offer to share contact details for the club and landowner.</p> <p>SW confirms that a planning submission has been for a new pump track facility in North Berwick, with Musselburgh next in line.</p>	<p>ELC</p>
9.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in person on Thursday November 28th with the time and venue to be confirmed. CM suggests that in-person meetings are rotated around the towns, with Dunbar and North Berwick being explored for the November meeting.</p>	