



East Lothian Cycle Forum

Project updates

29th August 2025

Staffing

Niall Deans has moved on from his Sustrans role embedded within East Lothian Council. ELC are awaiting further update from Sustrans regarding a potential short-term replacement.

Access to bikes and cycle parking

Community cargo bike library partnerships

Sustaining Dunbar have been running their project for nearly a year and it has been very successful – with a substantial waiting list of families currently signed up. ELC and Cycling UK are working with Sustaining North Berwick to support the group to set up a similar project. They are working through governance requirements for the project but already have a significant number of interested families in their area signed up to a mailing list for the project. ELC are also working with Sustrans to make a cargo bike available for loans in the Haddington area this year.

Community cycle parking / public repair facilities

ELC will deliver a rolling programme of community cycle parking improvements, with an initial list of 10 locations being taken forward before the end of 2025. A further list of locations will be put forward for conservation area consent during that same period. If these applications are approved, they will be delivered early next year.

Public repair stand locations are under consideration, with the initial focus likely to be at Journey Hubs and major workplaces.

To suggest locations for community bike parking and public cycle repair facilities please email activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Folding bike hire pilot

All 4 library hire hub sites continue (Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh and Prestonpans) and have completed successful hires with the public. Our most successful location to date is Dunbar. Anyone who is interested can hire a Brompton for 24 hours for free by using the code 'eastlothian1' in the discount section of the Brompton app.

Residential cycle storage

ELC continue to explore potential locations in Dunbar and Musselburgh, in partnership with the Housing team.

The active travel team would welcome further suggestions for shared storage. Residents can express their interest by emailing activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Workplace cycle storage

ELC have received requests for secure workplace cycle storage at Fisherrow Centre, George Johnstone Centre and Dunbar Medical Centre, which are currently being assessed.

Organisations can express interest in Workplace cycle storage by emailing activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Behaviour change and communities

Centre Line removal pilot project

The study is complete, and results are being analysed by academics at the University of the West of England. They are planning to publish their findings later this year.

Cycling UK – Connecting Communities in East Lothian

Cycling UK Cycle Access Fund. Recent awards have been given to: -

- Dunbar Medical Practice – Shared Use (funding for 3 e- bikes)
- Belhaven Bikes – Recycle & Repair funding
- Sustaining Dunbar – Recycle funding

Further applications are being processed, and funding is still available in the SESTran area

Led rides: 16 rides, 56 participants

Adult Cycle Training: 19 sessions, 30 participants

Family training: 6 sessions, 32 participants

Dr Bike: 2 sessions (with Fraser Centre,) 15 participants

Learn to Pedal classes: 9 sessions, 83 participants

Bike & Trike Tuesdays: weekly e-bike/trike trials through the summer behind Musselburgh Racecourse on the grassed area opposite the Outdoor Learning Centre, and around the lagoons shared use paths. Fortnightly from now on.

10 sessions – 91 participants. Often weather dependent. Some weeks 20+, some weeks 3.

Cargo bikes: work with Sustaining North Berwick, who are in the process of setting up a cargo bike loan scheme similar to the one Sustaining Dunbar are operating. They have a list of 31 interested parties.

Cycling UK East Lothian is keen to assist by loaning out our cargo bikes / trikes to those on the waiting list in the interim. Sustaining Dunbar is also sign-posting those on their waiting list to Cycling UK East Lothian.

Of our cargo bikes, the [Tern GSD](#) is proving to be a popular choice and the style of cargo bike that folks are going on to buy, in that or other brands with similar long-tail cycles.

The cargo bikes are being used more for moving young children than for cargo. Only two of the loanees so far have used them to carry kit rather than kids.

“Just a wee bit of feedback on the bicycle loan.

Firstly, what a fantastic bit of kit. We would love to have one but at the moment the cost does seem prohibitive. We did however enjoy it very much.

If you wish to pass this on and upward within the organisation please do. I’m so grateful an organisation like cycling UK exists and the provision you provide.”

James, Dunbar – Dolly cargo bike loan

Bike loans

24 e-bike, 11 regular, some with cycling lessons where needed.

Some have said they’d go on to purchase their own e-bike following the loan, others are unable to afford an e-bike at this time or there is difficulty charging/storing their e-bike at work.

“As I approach the halfway point of my loan, I Just wanted to say a huge thanks for the opportunity of the loan of the e-bike. It's an absolute dream to ride and its really encouraging me to ditch the bus and take the bike instead.” Clare, Musselburgh

“Thanks to loan of an e-bike from Cycling UK East Lothian I have been loving cycling to work! The loan was enough to inspire me to seriously look into investing in an e-bike myself so I can continue.” Katie, Musselburgh

Learn to Pedal classes

Since February, these classes have got over 35 children pedalling and they’ve also gone on to get more parents back onto bikes too. Some have borrowed a cargo bike, trailer, child seat or follow-me-tandem; others have got back onto a bike for the first time in years, (sometimes decades,) with our 1-1 Buddy Rides or Better Biking sessions.

“(My child) is absolutely loving being on the follow me and says it's 'amazing'!

“Jacqueline, Musselburgh – enquiring about buying a second-hand Follow-Me-Tandem.

“Thank you so much, I really enjoyed the lesson. I will definitely keep the momentum and practice the safe starts, raising my hands and the observations. I think my confidence will improve quite quickly.”

Jo – Musselburgh – parent of Learn to Pedal child



Community groups

Longniddry Cubs borrowed our side by side VanRaam trike so a cycle along the Haddington – Longniddry Railway would be inclusive.

Joined with Haddington Cubs to assist with their Cycling badge.

East Lothian Girl-Guiding Ranger Guides – we facilitated the loan of single wheel trailers from OLS & gave them training on use and relevant Level 3 Bikeability for their DoFE Gold practice expedition.

Scottish Autism regularly brings a couple of young people along on a Tuesday to make use of our side-by-side trike.

Planning continues with Stepping Out, Changes, The Space Dunbar and CAHMS for Autumn activities.

Public transport

Dunbar Rail Station access

Works are due to take place before the end of the year, funded by Transport Scotland.

Journey Hubs

ELC are in the process of assessing Journey Hub locations for potential improvement over the next 12 months. This will include the upgrade of facilities and wider accessibility improvements, where required.

North Berwick Rail Station improvements

ELC are awaiting a response from Scotrail regarding the potential for expanded cycle storage. Accessibility improvements were carried out earlier this year.

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

See Coastal Feasibility Study

Blindwells to Prestonpans Rail Station active travel link

Location / description: *a shared-use path from Blindwells to Prestonpans rail station along the B1361. See [Path from Blindwells to Prestonpans Station | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).*

A design has been agreed in principle. Timescales for delivery are now the responsibility of the Developer, Hargreaves.

Coastal Feasibility Study

ELC are awaiting the outcome of funding discussions between Transport Scotland and Sustrans, which will determine whether this feasibility study can be carried out in 2025-26.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

Location / description: *see [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway](#) / [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway](#) / [East Lothian Council](#)*

Construction of the East Linton section of this route is now complete. ELC continue to explore funding for further sections of this route.

Dalkeith Country Park

There are now 1.5-metre-wide pedestrian/cycle gates installed at the Monkton and Smeaton entrances to Dalkeith Country Park. These are open between 7am and 7pm and closed at night and can be opened from the inside. It is also possible to purchase a permit to allow access outside those times. Chris Milne and Nick Morgan met with employees of the estate earlier in the month because there are now concerns of cyclists speeding through the gates and alarming horses.

Dunbar NCN realignment

This study is formed of two parts, a technical feasibility to assess the potential for segregated cycling along the Edinburgh Road from West Barns to Beveridge Row and options to connect from Beveridge Row to the shared use path at Spott Row, improving connectivity to the railway station and the centre of Dunbar whilst providing a new alignment for NCN route 76.

The study is currently in draft form and designs will be updated based on ELC feedback. The intention is for the study to be published once the concept designs and options for connecting from Beveridge Row to Spott Row are finalised.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

Location / description: *development of an improved cycling and walking route between Elphinstone and Tranent, incorporating the Charles River Research Centre.*

A preferred option and concept design has been prepared, which will be shared in due course. ELC are awaiting funding confirmation from Sustrans to allow this project to move to technical design.

Fa'side Right of Way

Work is underway and should be finished by the time of the meeting to restore this path. Because of the steep slope and drainage issues an upland path specialist has been doing the work. The work focuses on drainage, with a ditch down one side with retention ponds. The path has a series of water bars and cross drains and is primarily a walking route, but will be accessible for horses and adventurous cyclists.

Haddington Community Hospital - extension of railway path

After many years' work and having overcome so many obstacles, work was due to start on the extension of the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk this year, through the Community Hospital grounds in Haddington. Sadly, Transport Scotland cannot fund this project this year, having supported it up until now. It therefore looks as though this project now won't go ahead.

Haddington to Longniddry railway path

ELC are planning to do some work on the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk to improve drainage this winter. We are also going to have some of the sleepers replaced on the two bridges.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

Location / description: development of designs for a new 4m wide replacement crossing of the structure [here](#).

Detailed design works continue to progress, covering the structure itself as well as connecting paths on the north and south. Recent focus has been on the various technical elements, including structural, geotechnical and ecological. Further information will be shared with the local community in due course.

Construction of this project is entirely reliant on ELC securing grant funding in future.

John Muir Way

There is a meeting planned next month to discuss the future management of the John Muir Way. The Green Action Trust handed this to the John Muir Trust two years ago, but the JMT found itself in financial difficulties, so everything has been on hold since then.

Musselburgh Active Toun

- Routes 1, 2 & 5 outwith the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme footprint – internal discussions to be held regarding the detail of materials, finishes, street furniture, potential impacts on existing trees and proposals for new trees.
- Three draft Traffic Regulation Orders to enable the designs for Routes 1, 2 & 5 were published on 30th June 2025 with the consultation running until 28th July. The three Orders covered new and amended waiting and loading restrictions on various roads, a speed limit change from 40mph to 30mph on Haddington Road and permitting two-way cycling on Shorthope Street.
 - Eleven people responded to the consultation.
 - The responses contained 3 objections to the proposed waiting and loading restrictions, 2 statements of support for and 3 objections to the speed limit change and 4 objections to two-way cycling on Shorthope Street.
 - Objectors have all been responded to.
 - Cabinet report will be drafted summarising the process – likely to be presented at November Cabinet meeting.
- MFPS team continue to progress designs for the Eskside section of Route 5 and Route 3.
- Planning applications being developed for sections of MAT route within the general footprint of the MFPS but which are not covered by the Scheme's consenting process.
 - Prior to submission of each application, stakeholder and public consultations will be held.
 - Stakeholder consultation on the first application is underway; public consultation is scheduled for Autumn/Winter 2025.

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- Funding:
 - Bids to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund to progress detailed designs for Routes 4&6 were submitted in February 2025. As of 15/08/2025, no response has been received.
 - Advised 14/08/2025 that funding for continued work on the remaining routes will now move from Sustrans Places for Everyone to Transport Scotland's Active Travel Infrastructure Fund. Funding confirmation not yet received.
 - Uncertainty over funding has, to date, delayed any significant work being undertaken by 5 months.

Musselburgh Levenhall Links

ELC have tarmacked a section of the access road into Levenhall Links Boating Pond to form a cycle route. This connects between the cycle path built two years ago north of the racecourse and at the other end connects to the tarmac access road. There is a gate to prevent vehicular access, with a 1.5 metre-wide gap. Blue badge holders and those who have booked an event at the boating pond will be allowed to drive along the route, but the route has been signposted to give priority to walkers and cyclists.

Prestonpans to Levenhall

Location / description: development of an improved active travel connection between Prestonpans and Musselburgh along the B1348. See [Levenhall to Prestonpans / Projects / East Lothian Council](#).

Public consultation on the initial design option for this project closed in March, having received around 180 responses. A consultation report is currently being finalized and will be published shortly.

Revised concept design options will be presented to key stakeholders, including Cycle Forum members, for initial feedback in the coming weeks.

Prestonpans Cemetery Park

Design work has been completed, focusing on improving the path networks connecting to and running through the park. This has included additional landscape architecture input, to explore biodiversity and natural play opportunities which would enhance the space.

Community feedback on these proposals has been overwhelmingly positive to date, with an initial phase of construction works planned for later this year.

Town Centre audits

The purpose of these audits is to identify minor improvements that could be made to accessibility, including works such as dropped kerbs, tactile paving, consolidation of signage, footway repair and the rearrangement of bollards or guardrails.

A GIS database of issues has been compiled for Haddington, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent, with plans for further audits in Musselburgh and Dunbar over the next year. This work will then be expanded to cover villages.

If members would like to support this work, we would welcome participation on our walk arounds. Please email cmilne@eastlothian.gov.uk if interested in doing so.

Funding has been secured for improvements to be delivered in 2025-26, which will be spread around various locations, with a focus on Musselburgh, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent.

Wallyford Toll active travel improvements

Transport Scotland have awarded ELC funding to deliver these works. A timescale for works has still to be confirmed, however they could take place between December to March.

Further information on this project can be found [here](#).

Schools

Cycle and scooter storage

A small amount of grant funding is available to ELC for school improvements in 2025-26, which is likely to be focused on Pinkie St Peters Primary School and Pencaitland Primary School.

I Bike (Sustrans)

There were **64 activities**, with **2112 pupil engagements** across **6 I Bike Schools** in the last term.

Big Walk and Wheel winning celebrations - this term saw events for both the 2024 school winners and 2025, we used a different approach, and celebrated the winning class in every school. We hope this incentivises all the kids for more wheelie fun!

We also have a new place-based and journey mapping programme inspired by Indigenous Australian songlines that can be used across your class, year level or even school! It is cross-curricula and links to various topics. We have so far linked it curriculum wise with John Muir, conservation, mapping/ navigation, ancient civilizations. It can cover art, religious belief, my neighbourhood, plenty more! We can offer this as a one-off session or develop a weekly shared task for the whole household to complete on their way to school, bringing this together as a class story/ map/ tour/ scavenger hunt/ led walk or scoot to all explore together.

We have a limited number of E-bikes available for staff at I Bike schools to loan for roughly 8 weeks. This enables staff to try commuting by e-bike to see if it is feasible and to lead by example. During the months of April - mid July, these '**teacher bikes**' covered **4098 km**, rode **1135 trips** and contributed a **C02 saving of 738kg**. Well done teachers and school staff!

**These stats are for all 7 Local Authorities with I Bike schools programs in*

Scotland.

To find out more and request a loan, email louise.hastie@sustrans.org.uk.

Our volunteers this term have led on activities, from fixing kids' bikes to arranging led rides. We have had volunteer support to enable the Haddington wheelie playground, led rides and many more activities that simply could not happen without those extra helping hands. This includes the parents in West Barns who have been working with students to prioritise their active travel support - and even started their own bike bus! Volunteering with I Bike can be extremely rewarding, especially for any carers, parents or grandparents who love to help out their school. If you would like to recruit more volunteers to help with I Bike activities with your school, please get in touch and we'll help you out. We're happy to provide materials and speak to parents.

Volunteers who are linked specifically to your school can access all the training and support that we provide to our registered Sustrans volunteers. The most popular courses are Cycle Ride Leader, Bike maintenance and Bikeability Scotland Instructor. These can be organised to up-skill school staff as well as parent volunteers.

School Travel Planning

Over 30 primary schools in East Lothian now have travel plans. 3 of the 6 High Schools in the county have also submitted their own travel plans, using the template to support our work with primary schools. ELC have started using all submitted plans to help identify gaps in the walking and/or cycling infrastructure that may be preventing families from using active travel for the school run. We are also using the plans as a vehicle to encourage schools to commit to taking part in active travel challenges such as the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and the Living Streets Walk to School week.

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