

East Lothian Cycle Forum – Note of Meeting, 3rd December 2009

Present: East Lothian Council:

Paul Ince (PI)
Iain Reid (IR)
Helen Bruce (HB)

Mark James (MJ)
Alastair Seagroatt (AS)
Lesley Peebles-Brown (LP-B)
Stephen Boyle (SB)

- 1. Apologies:** Councillor Barry Turner, Kay Morrison, Nicola McNeil, Donald Smith, Katharine Taylor, Keith Burns, Andy Duff, Eliot Stark
- 2. Note of previous meeting:** Accepted.
- 3. Matters Arising:** Sally Harris has contacted Sustrans regarding the potential for a cycle link between Innerwick and Dunbar. Options for crossing the A1 were discussed but this needs to be formally raised with Transport Scotland as the Trunk Road Authority.
There are some issues regarding signing on the new A1 track which the Sustrans rangers will sort out.
LP-B raised the issue of the inconsistent width of the cycle lanes at traffic islands, in particular the ones on Linkfield Road in Musselburgh. She is still being passed by vehicles at the islands in Haddington despite the signs.
PI has updated an earlier draft strategy document which he has discussed with Barry Turner. A copy is attached for comment.
PI said that the Council was not keen on signing “Quiet Lanes” in the countryside, MJ said he would send in details of a sign he has seen elsewhere.
(**Note:** The Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006 are only applicable in England, these specify a sign to be used at the start and finish of a quiet lane.)
- 4. NSCR Study – Update:** PI reported that due to an unexpected absence from work in November, the deadline for the December meeting has been missed. It will be reported to the Council in the New Year.
- 5. “Electric Bridge”, Musselburgh:** IR reported on his meeting with the manager of Cockenzie power station. He confirmed that Scottish Power is the owner of the bridge and it will continue to be open on race days only. The adjacent Goose Green footbridge has recently been repainted and upgraded and provides a crossing for cyclists. In addition, local residents do not wish to see the electric bridge re-opened to traffic.
- 6. Tracks around Lafarge Cement Works:** PI and IR reported on their meeting with Nigel Blair (NB), the manager of the cement works. They started off by updating him on the progress of the NSCR study and the construction of the A1 cycletrack. He confirmed that Lafarge will continue to maintain the cycle track alongside the railway and would check the signage and condition of the crossing point. The restoration plan for the north-west quarry shows a footpath/cycletrack running from the north side of the railway bridge westwards to the A1087. This will not be constructed for some 10 years as the final layout has not been decided and work is still continuing spreading topsoil

and landscaping. The possibility of constructing a temporary link close to the railway was raised and NB said he would consult colleagues to see if this was possible. He was generally supportive of the proposals to promote cycling in the area.

- 7. Scottish Parliament Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee Inquiry into Active Travel:** PI had sent the link to the questions with agenda, the deadline for responses is 11th December. IR mentioned that the committee proceedings have been recorded and can be seen at http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/scotland/newsid_8290000/8290658.stm. Early responses can be seen on the website and there is a common thread relating to lack of funding. The responses to the CAPS consultation have been called in by the Government for scrutiny. The committee will be making recommendations to the Government.
- 8. Provision of off-road cycle facility:** SB had met with the NTS rangers at Newhailes during the consultation into access arrangements and had been told that there was no chance of a "Sacrificial" site being provided for cyclists. There is currently an issue with tracks being dug amongst the trees and causing damage. It was suggested that the new BMX facility at the lagoons in Musselburgh be suggested as an alternative.
- 9. A O B:** Sustaining Dunbar has recently been awarded funding from the Climate Challenge Fund for 1.5 posts to work on walking/cycling/public transport issues in Dunbar. Morag Haddow has started a Google map for suggestions for cycle facilities to be highlighted. PI and IR reported on a meeting at SEStran regarding next years Megacycle event from Penicuik to Prestongrange. SEStran are to sponsor the event and are looking for support from the 2 councils for promoting the event on 2nd May 2010. IR tabled a leaflet from West Lothian Council which sets out landowners' responsibilities with regard to hedge cutting, mud on the road, land drainage etc. and suggested ELC could produce something similar. (Both MJ and LP-B recommended Schwalbe Marathon Plus tyres as being highly puncture resistant). LP-B commented on the temporary traffic lights in Macmerry, she had been caught in the middle facing oncoming traffic as the green time was not sufficient for her to cycle through. SB said he would like to give a presentation to the forum at the next meeting on the Cycle to Work Scheme if bid from the Volunteer Centre is successful. Following on from Barry Turner's mention of bikes on buses at the last forum, MJ said that one of the winning bids in Spokes' summer competition had suggested this, details can be seen at <http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/downloads/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/competitions/2009-competition/>.
- 10. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th March 2010 at 7.00pm in the Buffet Room, 1st floor, Town House, Haddington.