

East Lothian Cycle Forum: Project updates

30TH NOVEMBER 2023



Staffing

East Lothian Council are delighted to welcome Hedvig Ponten to the Active and Sustainable Travel Team. Hedvig will be supporting workforce mobility and school travel planning projects over the next year.

Each Area Partnership and Connected Communities Manager has been given a named contact within the Active and Sustainable Travel Team at ELC, who will support them with local enquiries and attend relevant 'On the Move' or Sustainability sub-group meetings. The named contacts for each area are:

- **Dunbar** – Morag Haddow
- **Fa'side** – Simon Law
- **Haddington & Lammermuir** – Richard Kerr
- **Musselburgh** – Liz Hunter
- **North Berwick Coastal** – Michael Naysmith
- **Preston Seton Gosford** – Chris Milne

General active travel enquiries should be submitted to the active travel mailbox – activetravel@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Route development

Aberlady to Longniddry

Exploratory discussions between East Lothian Council, Sustrans and Wemyss & March Estate were rescheduled and will take place before the end of the year. We will provide a further update at the next Cycle Forum.

Cross East Lothian Active Freeway (formerly SATC)

A second round of public consultation has now begun for this project. Members can participate in this using the following links:

An online survey, which is open until 21st December: [Cross East Lothian Active Freeway Survey \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com).

An online map containing cross-sectional drawings and the opportunity for Members to leave comments: [East Lothian Active Travel Route - Public Consultation \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

Feedback on these consultation links will inform the final construction drawings.

Dunbar, Belhaven area improvements

A report will be presented to members in the new year, before being published on ELC's website.

Dunbar, Countess Crescent

ELC intend to develop detailed designs for two junctions in the vicinity of Dunbar Primary School, with a view to improving walking and cycling routes to the town centre. ELC Officers are currently seeking quotes for this project, with a view to work taking place next year.

Dunbar, Rail Station access

Construction designs are likely to be finalised by the end of December. ELC Officers are still waiting on a response from Network Rail regarding their intention to complete the project on their side of the railway station. A timeline for construction will not be known until we receive an update from Network Rail.

Dunbar, Summerfield Road

ELC expect to construct a footway build-out here before the end of the financial year, weather permitting.

East Lothian Active Travel Network Action Plan

Ethos Consultant's have been commissioned to undertake a review of current and previous active travel documents alongside ELC's existing list of priority projects. This

will result in a costed action plan that can be delivered in the short-to-medium term, which will be integrated in to ELC's existing GIS system. This plan is likely to be completed by Spring 2024 and ELC currently anticipate Ethos attending the Cycle Forum on February 29th to discuss progress with members.

Elphinstone to Tranent, active travel options appraisal and concept design

Bids have been received and reviewed for this project, which will involve an options appraisal and initial concept design for a route to support active travel journeys between Elphinstone and Tranent. This work will also consider an active travel corridor for employees working at Charles River Laboratories near Elphinstone.

ELC anticipate work starting on this project by Spring 2024.

Haddington, Letham development

A new bridge has been constructed by ELC Structures and Countryside Services over the burn between the new Letham Development and Burnside, Haddington, which is a significant improvement on the previous narrow bridge.

Haddington, Riverside Footbridge

Work is under way on this project, with Stantec commissioned to carry out an initial concept design. East Lothian Council's brief is for this design to offer a widened crossing of the River Tyne which will meet [Cycling by Design](#) standards. Concept Design drawings will be shared as part of a public consultation exercise in early 2024. Further information can be found at [Replacement bridge at Riverside Drive, Haddington | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).

Haddington, Tynebank Road

Initial work has begun to develop final detailed designs [here](#), with a view to construction beginning in 2024. There is currently no footway on Tynebank Road, so it is ELC's intention is to develop a shared use path along the full extent of this road. Design drawings will be shared with the Cycle Forum once completed.

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

Work was expected to begin on this project in Autumn 2023, however it has been paused while ELC await a response from the NHS Legal Team on potential liability issues. ELC expect these legal negotiations to be completed by the end of this year, which would allow construction to begin early next year. Subject to the above, the estimated completion date for this project is September 2024.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway path – resurfacing

ELC are still waiting on final results from the recent consultation on this, which was carried out by Edinburgh and the Lothians Greenspace Trust. It has come to light that Ultitrek, which was the preferred surfacing option before the consultation opened, has become available again. The various partners to this project will consider what this change means for the recent consultation exercise.

Longniddry to Haddington Railway path – resurfacing of the entrance area at Longniddry

This project has been in ELC's programme of works for 2023-24, however the scheduling of this work is tied in to resurfacing of the path itself, noted above. Depending on the outcome of those discussions this project may be delayed until the next financial year 2024-25.

Longniddry Village, link to Railway Station and Railway Path

ELC Roads and Estates teams are currently discussing the creation of a servitude right to allow this link to be designed and constructed. A further update will be provided at the next Cycle Forum meeting.

Meadowmill A1 Underpass

Lighting has been installed by BEAR Scotland, however a new power supply is required to come from Meadowmill Sports Centre. ELC and Scottish Power are currently in discussion regarding the power supply.

Musselburgh, A199 / Pinkie Playing Fields

ELC expects to install a new refuge island crossing point at this location by the end of the current financial year, weather permitting.

Musselburgh Active Toun

ELC received funding from Places for Everyone in 2022 to develop concept designs for four routes into detailed designs and also to produce concept designs for Routes 4 and 6.

In June 2023 the MAT team attended Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme (MFPS) consultations at the Eskmills Venue where we gathered further comments on the sections of Routes 3 and 5 that lie within the Flood Protection Scheme footprint.

After an extensive and detailed procurement process ELC appointed an external consultant AECOM to assist with all of the design work. AECOM worked with ELC for all of the previous stages so were able to get off to a running start at the beginning of October.

AECOM will be developing designs for all of the routes outside the footprint of the MFPS (Routes 1,2,4,6 and part of Route 5) and producing other essential deliverables for all of the Routes. The MFPS designer, Jacobs will be producing designs for Route 3 and the section of Route 5 within the Scheme.

An online consultation seeking views on designs for Routes outside the MFPS opened on Monday 13th November and will run for 6 weeks. The consultation is available here: <https://musselburghactivetoun>.

ELC will be holding face to face events for stakeholders, community and accessibility groups and members of the public in December 2023 with dates and venues to be advised.

North Berwick Coastal Ward – Active and Sustainable Travel Plan

This project is being led by Erin Fulton of Planning Aid Scotland on behalf of the North Berwick Coastal community. Erin provided the following update for members:

‘Our initiative, focused on promoting Active and Sustainable Travel, has been making steady progress toward creating a solid evidence base for interventions in the area.

Recent activities include engagement opportunities held in Gullane, Aberlady, and Dirleton Village Association, along with dedicated youth engagement workshops in North Berwick. Additionally, a survey is currently open for participation until the end of November. Members can complete it here: <https://forms.office.com/e/G9p1ae8dAR>

Looking ahead, PAS are planning a final engagement workshop slated for January/early February. During this session, we aim to solidify the next steps and priorities for forthcoming initiatives. We expect the final action plan to be released in late February or March’.

For more information, please contact erin@pas.org.uk.

Prestonpans, Cemetery Park path and barrier improvements

A brief has been written to commission design work at this location, next to Preston Lodge High School. This work will focus on:

- Widening and upgrading the surface of existing paths through the park.
- Designing new path solutions to provide better connectivity through the park and to a proposed pump track.
- Re-designing three existing barriers to improve accessibility.
- New wayfinding and shared-use signage.

ELC expect to award this project in early 2024, with design work under way by Spring.

Prestonpans to Levenhall and Musselburgh Goose Green

Bids have been received and reviewed for this project, which will involve an options appraisal, preliminary ecological assessment and initial concept design for cycle route improvements along the B1348 and through Levenhall Links, incorporating travel to Prestongrange Museum.

ELC currently anticipate work starting on this project by Spring 2024.

Preston Tower Primary School, access from East Loan

ELC will commence construction work in the February holidays to provide a ramp over the existing step 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. The output of this work has been provided by Stantec and is being reviewed by ELC Officers. Further information will be published at [Routes4Communities | Active Travel strategy | East Lothian Council](#) in due course.

Wallyford, Bing Path

Construction will commence in January 2024, weather permitting. A full layout for this route is available to download via [Wallyford Bing Path | Projects | East Lothian Council](#).

Wallyford Toll roundabout

Final construction designs should be finished by the end of December, based on the preferred option outlined at [Phase 7: Wallyford Toll Roundabout | Cross East Lothian Active Freeway | East Lothian Council](#). The next phase of this work will be to seek funding for construction in 2024.

Behaviour Change projects

East Lothian Council Bicycle User's Group (BUG)

This group is planning another led ride for January and continues to grow in membership, with over 50 staff members now signed up.

Love to Ride

Participation data from April to November 2023 is as follows:

- **Trip Metrics:** 7,078 Trips (27% for transport) | 102,601 miles (12% for transport)
- **Active Participants:** 215 User Accounts | 23 Workplaces
- **Rider Type:** 25% New | 33% Occasional | 42% Regular

The next campaign will be Winter Wheelers, which takes place Dec 1-25. Everyone can take part, with the focus on education for riders to support them through the winter months with small goal setting. Daily prize draws and individual leaderboards will be used to motivate participants.

Other infrastructure projects

Cargo Bikes

ELC have purchased three XYZ Cargo Bikes and are in the process of procuring one Tern with Carla Cargo Trailer as well as two Bullitt Larry vs Harry models. These will be added to an eCargo Bike 'fleet' alongside one Urban Arrow, which is currently operated by Dunbar Community Carrot. We expect to make these available as part of a pilot for local organisations from Spring 2024, with timing and usage subject to the outcome of ongoing insurance discussions and available storage in each Area Partnership.

Further information will be provided at the February Cycle Forum meeting.

Community cycle parking

Since the last Cycle Forum meeting new cycle parking has been installed at the following locations:

- Castle Inn, Dirleton
- Cuthill Park, Prestonpans
- Dunbar Harbour
- Dunbar Leisure Centre (phase 1 = 3 stands)
- Gullane Library
- Longniddry Inn
- 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 March 2024:

- Dunbar Leisure Centre (phase 2 = 6 further stands)
- Fisherrow Centre, Musselburgh (subject to approval from Fisherrow management)
- Haddington Athletic Football Club facilities at Whittingehame Drive
- Hallhill Sports Centre, Dunbar (at the 3G pitches)
- Loch Centre, Tranent
- Longniddry Community Centre and Library
- Longniddry Park and Playpark
- Musselburgh Leisure Centre
- New Street Playpark, Musselburgh
- North Berwick Leisure Centre
- North Berwick Tennis Club
- Ormiston Playpark
- Ross High School, Tranent
- Macmerry Village Shop
- West Barns, ELC car park area

Go eBike scheme infrastructure

ELC have arranged for scheme infrastructure and signage to be removed from the Tesco and Eskmills locations in Musselburgh, with viable equipment in the process of being donated to an alternative scheme in Inverness.

SEStran own the assets at Brunton Hall and Musselburgh Rail Station and are currently in the process of arranging their removal.

Pump Tracks

Velosolutions have been asked to provide pre-planning information for all 6 proposed new tracks at Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Tranent. Further information on some of these locations can be found at [Pump Tracks | East Lothian Council](#).

A consultation is currently live seeking feedback on the impact of the existing Ormiston Pump Track at [Ormiston Community Pump Track - East Lothian Council - Citizen Space \(eastlothianconsultations.co.uk\)](#). This closes on December 22nd.

Schools

Bike bus project

The Haddington Bike Bus continues to operate and gains more momentum each week.

ELC are currently updating the Bike Bus guidance available to schools on EduHub to make them more engaging.

Cycle Storage improvements

Thanks to a grant award from Cycling Scotland in January of this year ELC are progressing with storage improvements at 19 school campuses. The Goods elements of this contract have been awarded to [Broxap](#) and [Cyclepods](#), with further contracts

expected to be issued for bids on the groundwork and installation elements in December. ELC anticipate works starting from February.

The level of improvement work will vary by school, including new Sheffield Racks, shelters and scooter storage. A small allocation of funding has been provided to Dunbar Grammar School to explore the possibility of developing and delivering a bike maintenance qualification to pupils.

Public transport integration

Journey Hubs

ELC consulted on the development of [Journey Hubs](#) in September and October, with work under way now to assess responses. ELC expect to report back on the outcome of this work in the new year.

Rail stations

ELC are meeting with Scotrail in December, focused on future opportunities to integrate cycling and walking with journeys on the Scotrail network here in East Lothian. As part of this discussion ELC will raise cycle storage capacity at selected stations, including North Berwick, which is over capacity during the summer months.

If members wish to flag up issues at an East Lothian station they should email Chris Milne with details by Tuesday 5th December.

END

