

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	30/05/23
Originator	Ian Lennox; Team Manager, Assets And Regulatory, Road Services
Originator's Ref (if any)	JCR
Document Title	Johnnie Copes Road, Tranent - Responses to Consultation

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Date	01/06/23

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Bulletin	Jun 23

**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Executive Director of Place

**SUBJECT:** Johnnie Copes Road, Tranent – Responses to Consultation

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This Members' Library Report is a supporting document to the Council Report on the same subject for the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to bring consultation responses to members' attention

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Elected Members:
  - i. note the content of the report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 Cabinet approved commencement of the statutory procedures necessary to close Johnnie Copes Road to vehicular traffic and redetermine as an active travel route
- 3.2 Statutory and public consultation took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- 3.3 No objections were received from statutory stakeholders. 152 responses were received during the public consultation of which 5 were supportive and 147 objecting. These are listed at Appendix 1 and 2 (attached).
- 3.4 A summary of the responses together with comments is contained within the Council report for the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 These proposals will contribute towards fulfilling the East Lothian Plan 2017-2027, in particular:

- Outcome 2.1: “East Lothian has strong resilient communities where people respect and support each other” and
- action (k) “we will make our roads safer, including a focus on making journeys safer for cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities

4.2 The proposed changes will promote and support safe, inclusive, active and sustainable travel in line with the following policies:

- National Transport Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy
- Climate Change Strategy

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial – All costs involved in connection with consultation, advertising, design and implementation associated with the making of these Orders can be accommodated within agreed budgets.

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other – None

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Report to Council on 27 June 2023.

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Ian Lennox
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Roads Asset and Regulatory Manager
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	01620 827297
<b>DATE</b>	30/05/2023

## APPENDIX 1:

### Supportive responses

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 08:29  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny copes road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to agree with the closure, over the past year there has been an increase in traffic at the junction at the Tranent end since Blindwells was built and drivers are trying to avoid the traffic there.

I have witnessed on main occasions, drivers getting impatient and taking risks, to get in and out of this junction. Its just by sheer luck that there have not been more accidents.

It would be good if it was open for pedestrians and cyclists

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@talktalk.net>  
**Sent:** 24 February 2023 17:34  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Redetermination of Johnny Cope Road Consultation

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To who it may concern,

I would make the following comments and observations on this consultation.

This is an unclassified road which should have been closed when it was first proposed around 1986 or so. The fact that it was wasn't was probably down to political expediency at the time more than anything else. It is now for our current elected members to decide whether to proceed with closure or not. I wish them well in their deliberations.

I ceased driving on this road many years ago as it is clearly not fit for purpose on the southern section (Tranent side). It is far safer to drive to Prestonpans by using the established route the B6371 or alternatively the A199 to Wallyford roundabout and the B1361 eastwards which puts negligible time on your journey.

Pedestrian use of the Johnny Cope road would be enhanced if its closure were to go ahead. It can hazardous, especially crossing the bridge straddling the A1. The existing footpaths also leave a lot to be desired.

There is evidence that much of the traffic driving to Tranent from Prestonpans on this road are using it to access the A1 dual carriageway at Dolphinstone junction thereby avoiding Wallyford. There is also the fact traffic turning right on to the road from the A199 heading to Prestonpans can be potentially a dangerous manoeuvre and needs to be negotiated with care.

It would be also interesting to hear how many reportable accidents have occurred since 1986 in respect of any case for closure.

I suggest the following options for the East Lothian council to consider.

Option A Status Quo

Option B Closure as proposed

Option C Full Upgrade of the existing road, footpaths and new traffic lights at the existing bridge over the A1.

Option D Consider making the road one way, either North to South or vice versa with appropriate safety measures put in place.

On balance and taking everything into consideration I support option B

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 15:49

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope's Rd

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the proposal to close Johnnie Cope's Road.

As a narrow road, with tight bends and with a pinch point on the A1 bridge, it is not especially attractive to walk or to cycle. Crossing the bridge can be a particular problem as the forward sightlines are poor and a cyclist meeting a vehicle will be tightly squeezed. If it was closed off to through traffic, it would become an attractive and safe rural lane for cycling and walking, giving connections to the paths to Meadowmill and the Brickworks Rd as well as a route through to the quiet road along Fa'aside Hill. It would also provide a safe connection to Prestonpans rail station.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Musselburgh

[REDACTED]

To:you [Details](#)

Hi there,

I'd like to message in support of the proposal to close the road to motorised traffic. I think it will provide a nice quiet route for walking cycling and horse riding and better accessibility to the battle of Prestonpans loop.

Currently the bridge limits visibility and it's used as a cut through. I would like to bring my horse to ride the loop from Meadowmill but the bridge puts me off.

I would however be interested in how it will be policed or enforced while still enabling farm and emergency vehicle access. If gates etc are considered then please also consider horse riders who may wish to access.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** 12 March 2023 18:02

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL (U226, JOHNNIE COPES ROAD)  
(REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER  
2023

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I support the closure.

I had not been going to comment on this, but then I walked up the road to Fa'side Hill the other day.

I don't think it should be a right of way for cars and vans. It is just a rat run which is not up to the job.

Wales was right. We don't need more roads. We need more sustainable transport.

I remember using it long ago when cars were not supposed to use this road.

Then it was a pleasant and safe cycle route up from the coast towards Fa'side and quieter roads south of Tranent.

Risking the walk up and down I counted 8 vans and 17 cars using a lane and bridge which were not wide enough for 2 way traffic.

Unmarked vans which I doubt where contributing much to the exchequer.

OAPs driving about around looking to do as little as possible to help the economy.

Walking past the couple of houses north of the bridge I see 2 protest signs attached to a wall.

Does mean everyone who lives in the street made a sign? That is not how we do democracy.

The suggestion that lives are at risk if the bridge is closed to traffic is laughable.

Far more likely there is a head-on collision.

At this current time lives are at a far greater risk from an NHS and Ambulance Service which are underfunded and staff that are overworked and underpaid.

[REDACTED]

## APPENDIX 2:

### Objections

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>  
Sent: 16 March 2023 11:05  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Closure of Johnnie cope road prestonpans

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I vehemently object to the closure of Johnnie cope road in prestonpans. This decision is a disgrace as it serves no purpose to close the road and will only increase congestion in the unfit road management system at meadowmill when the houses there are fully occupied. I feel this decision needs completely revisited.

[REDACTED]  
Resident Prestonpans

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 08 March 2023 20:44  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Redetermination of Johnnie Cope Road Prestonpans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Further to your recent notice posted in the East Lothian Courier regarding the above I wish to object to the redetermination of this road on the following grounds.

1) Emergency service vehicles access to residential properties at Bankton .

I find it very difficult to understand how such vehicles would have rapid access to these properties in the event of an emergency. There are quite a few high buildings around Bankton House and Steading which in the event of a fire would require the use of a high lift appliance to fight the fire. This would definitely put people's lives at risk!

I have been informed by a local paramedic that ambulances from outlying areas may need to cover Prestonpans area when local ambulances are attending elsewhere, would they have gate keys?

Have the emergency services been contacted to ascertain how such a system would operate?

2)If you are telling us that the road is being redetermined due to road safety where can I find the information that supports this case? ie road usage/ bridge weight restrictions/ accident statistics.

There are other (older)bridges in East Lothian which were not designed to carry modern vehicles and why have they not been closed?

3) Closing this road to vehicular traffic will prevent people on the south of this bridge (namely Tranent) from accessing the railway station. At the same time this traffic would need to use the Blindwells road thereby adding to increased traffic usage on this road.

4)Sceptic tanks at Bankton require emptying at regular intervals by tanker vehicles. How would the system operate to allow these vehicles to gain access in a timeous manner?

I would be obliged if you would take these points raised into consideration.

[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]@live.co.uk>

**Sent:** 09 March 2023 13:59

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Cc:** MinisterFT@gov.scot

**Subject:** The Johnnie Cope Road Prestonpans East Lothian

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### **Objection to the closure of The Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans East Lothian**

To all those that this concerns, East Lothian Councillors – ELC Council officers – ELC Council Legal department - Scottish secretary of state for Transport.

I herby object to the intended closure by ELC of The Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans – Tranent

The Councils officers stated reasons for closing this road have changed numerous times over the last few weeks and months - their original reason being that this was an administrative oversight from the mid 1980's is completely and utterly irrelevant from where we are today. They then change their stance on more than one occasion from (it's not a well-used road to - then it has too much traffic) you really can't make this nonsense up. to where we are now being fed the completely unsubstantiated "by which I mean they have given absolutely no evidence to back up this drivel that the bridge over the A1 was not intended to carry such volume of traffic as it does today". However, the council officers state that its original intended use as a farm access road for moving of agricultural equipment such as tractors and combine harvesters.(Again, it is irrelevant what the original use was for, as the fact is its used significantly by locals as a daily commuting access route.

So here are the dimensions and importantly the weight of a **claas Lexion 480 combine harvester**

**length: 10,25 m, width: 3,9 m (without header), height: 3,87 m (with cab), weight: 14000 kg (without header), drive wheels: 800/65R32 (front), swivel wheels: 600/55-26,5 (rear)**



So, the council officers are stating that the bridge isn't suitable for the average 1,200kg car of which you could only ever get three on the bridge at a time but is more than suitable for the 14,000kg combine Harvester to go back and forth on. I do hope whoever is reading this - clearly sees the point I'm making and the absurdity of the claim by said officers. The very notion that transport Scotland would have put a bridge over such an important main road as the A1 and somehow make it inferior to any other bridge over the A1 is frankly just nonsense just as is the claims of intended/unintended use, if you use their own figures.

With the council's own figures saying approximately 1153 use the road daily which is incidentally one of only 2 roads that link Prestonpans with Tranent something that seems to be being conveniently ignored, the majority of which is at peak traffic times, either to access the railway station from Tranent or to the A1 slip road on Brickworks Road from Prestonpans without going through the heavily congested Blindwells route or all the way through an ever expanding and busy Wallyford.

So there has been no consultation with the community councils about whether this road should close there has been no consultation with the residents and businesses who live and work on The Johnnie Cope road to address their rightful concerns regarding access for Emergency vehicles (The Councils stated position of giving the emergency services a key for the intended gates either side of the bridge is utterly preposterous. One can only imagine the need for a fire engine with a high ladder that can only come in from Brickworks Road saying to one another – have you got the key – and the reply – naw I thought you had it—Seriously !

So, let's get to the crunch of why the Council are really wanting to close this road. **MONEY £**

The wilful neglect by the different Councils over many years to allow the road to become in the state that it is in now and therefore, the need to spend the relevant amount to properly bring this road up to standard is the real reason behind all this smoke and mirrors about this that and the other. A manipulation of the reasons given and the consequences of years neglect, do not make this look good on the present Council, they have been ill advised by officers that this is merely a administrative delay in the implementation of an order from 35 years ago.

Remember Councils/Councillors are elected to serve their communities interests and not their own.

The Council have stated that they want this to become a pedestrian/cycle route but we have one already in place running almost parallel to it, its called the Heugh.

Yes, the local community understands the councils tight fiscal responsibilities but we have just been given a 7% rise in council tax a reduction in refuse collection and new charges for brown bin collections as well as changes to other services. But here's the thing East Lothian is massively expanding - there are new developments going up all over the place including thousands between Tranent, Blindwells, Prestonpans and Wallyford and with them comes huge revenue for the coffers at the Council through taxation.

This consultation must result in this decision being brought back to a full Council meeting to review the status of this well used local road and review the funding for bringing this road and its improvements forward.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 08:32  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie. Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To close this road is a disgrace if a proper survey was done to see how many cars use this road. It relieves traffic from main road coming from bypass with all the new houses in prestonpans and Tranent. The residents staying on Johnnie Cope road will be affected hugely by this closure. Upgrade road with traffic lights at bridge is needed for access to station from Tranent is essential.

**From:** [REDACTED]@googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 06:53  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning

I am a resident at the Bankton House Steading and would like to formally lodge my objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Copes Road.

I believe this road is vital for managing access between Prestonpans and Tranent as is evident by the number of vehicles which use it every day and the resulting poor condition of the road. I hope that the proposed closure is not progressed and instead the road is re-surfaced so that it can continue to be a safe and useful road to both communities as well as the new community being built at Blindwells.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 21 February 2023 19:49  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

I'd like to register my objection to the closure of the above road. This road is a necessary and vital link between Tranent and Prestonpans. The excessive house building across East Lothian is making travel increasingly difficult in the area and this road provides a vital link to

Prestonpans train station which seems extremely short sighted at a time when the council is trying to get people onto public transport.

The councils reason of safety for the closing the road also makes no sense. If the bridge really is dangerous then why is it not closed already? What evidence/testing proves this safety concern? The closure of the road is a much bigger safety concern, particularly for any disabled passengers trying to reach the platform on the Tranent side of the station and for the people who live between the bridge and the station car park who would have no choice but to use the regularly flooded road under the train line which also has poor access/a blind corner.

I use the road at least 5 times a week and nearly always see other traffic on the road so it is very well used. If the purpose of the council is to serve the people who live here then I cannot see any argument for taking the road away and making peoples lives even harder.

The main issues with the road are the terrible state of the surface and the blind summit of the a1 bridge. The road could easily be fixed with proper resurfacing and maintenance and the bridge fixed with a set of traffic lights. Surely with the massive influx of council tax and developers funds arising from the thousands and thousands of new builds in the area the improvements to this vital link road are but a drop in the ocean.

I also think the council have handled this issue poorly. I have not been able to find any evidence of the safety concerns the council has or any details of traffic surveys carried out showing what the impact would be so therefore can only assume that these have not been carried out and that the council decision to close the road is based on nothing at all. That being the case I have to question the suitability of our council members for the position they hold if they don't even require facts to base decisions on.

I'd appreciate some common sense being applied to this process and the road to remain open and be improved for safer ongoing use.

Many Thanks

██████████

**From:** ██████████@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 09:22  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Keeping Johnny Cope Road Open.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I think Johnny Cope Road should be open to all traffic and pedestrians. As it has been for many, many, years. Allowing people and vehicles to move between Prestonpans, Tranent, and other villages, giving them access to the Railway station and an another way, if there are diversions on other routes around that area. All that needs done to get the road fully functional, is to relay the road with new tar, widening the pavement around the bridge area, and also putting up a set of traffic lights on both sides of the bridge.

**From:** ██████████@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 19:36  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to road closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object against the closure of the Johnny Cope Road. I have to use this road 3-4 times a day in order to get to my Father in law to provide his care as he is severely disabled following a stroke a few years ago. I often receive calls from the Community Alarms Team to say he has had a fall and therefore have to jump in the car and get to my Father in law ASAP. If this road were to close, it would take me at least an extra 8-10 mins to get to him, not to mention the additional mileage and fuel costs incurred having to go either via Strawberry Corner or Blindwells. My Wife plays golf at the Royal Musselburgh, we use the shops at the bottom of Johnnie Cope Road, we use the vets there and also the train station frequently-closing this road adds time and cost to our daily lives.

The bigger picture would mean more fuel emissions as people will be having to drive much further to get between the two towns, not to mention heavy traffic placed on either alternative route-especially at peak travel times. You simply have to look at what happened recently when temporary traffic lights were put at Blindwells-the queues were massive so many more people used JCR to alleviate the pressure.

It would appear to me that this proposal is merely a cost cutting exercise from ELC but may I suggest that rather than fund projects in more favourable areas (North Berwick, Gullane), invest the money in our community-do something that would help OUR residents as well as the environment. Invest in traffic lights at the bridge, insert passing places and maintain the road properly.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 21:59  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Cope road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to add my objections to the closure of johnnie Cope Road. In addition to encourage more traffic and decreasing the unnecessary traffic in Prestonpans and Wallyford i suggest adding traffic lights at the bridge.

Yours sincerely  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@talktalk.net>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 09:52  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closing Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposal to close the Johnnie Cope road to all vehicles. I have been I driving instructor living in Prestonpans for 17 years and use this road at least 10 times a week. The closing of this road Will personally affect me greatly and I will unfortunately stop teaching people from Ormiston and Tranent to drive only covering Prestonpans and Port Seton . This is a great shame because I have over the years taught so many wonderful people " up the hill". I think you should reconsider the proposal to close road also because I think the part of the

council job is to promote commerce between the towns of East Lothian not restrict it especially with all the development in the last few years in East Lothian!  
Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:28  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** JOHNNIE COPE ROAD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to strongly object to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road to all vehicles except for the emergency services.

This road is in constant use by all modes of vehicles to access the train station and going to and from Prestonpans and Tranent.

With all the new developments at both Blindwells and on Edinburgh Road in Prestonpans where the amount of congestion will cause utter chaos to the people who live travelling between the towns.

I would strongly urge you to reconsider this closure for the safety of all road users and with all the extra traffic and pollution being caused you may regret closing the only alternative route open to everyone.

The two towns have expanded and continue to expand on an unprecedented scale that our once small communities now don't have the proper infrastructure to cope with the amount of traffic on our neglected roads. Closing this road would just add to the congestion.

This road needs a flow system set of lights at the bridge and a total resurface with new footpaths to bring it up to a decent standard for all to continue to use this well loved road.

I look forward to your response

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 February 2023 10:01  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** B1349 - Johnnie Cope's Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sirs,

I object to the proposed plan to make part of this road suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and certain vehicles only.

While I'd normally be happy to support such a path, there is a perfectly good one less than a mile to the east linking Tranent and Prestonpans, and indeed beyond to Cockenzie. It's been there since 1722.

I have found it necessary to use Johnnie Cope's road on many occasions when the B6371 has been subject to serious delays because of roadworks around Blindwells, or the infamous hole in

the road further north on the road. But many others will have bought houses, relying on the road to take them north, or to the railway station for speedy access to Edinburgh. The B1349 needs to be repaired and upgraded, with traffic lights installed at the bridge over the A1.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>

Sent: 24 March 2023 16:48

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Johnnie Cope rd

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I just wanted to lodge my objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Rd , Prestonpans...

If re-surfaced and lights placed at the Bridge, it will be invaluable to alleviate traffic issues at new Blindwells.... And also it's a quick convenient route between Prestonpans and Tranent.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 23 March 2023 22:37

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Johnnie Copes Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to object to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope's Road.

The road is well used by local people. It is a vital link between two of East Lothian's largest towns: Tranent and Prestonpans. Closure would be a major inconvenience to many people who use the road, with safety implications for local people as well as emergency vehicles would need to make time consuming detours to Wallyford or Bankton junctions.

There would be an environmental implications to the extra distances that drivers would have to drive and consequent increased environmental pollution.

Johnnie Cope's Road links both Tranent and Prestonpans to the train station at Prestonpans. It is a vital link.

Since the original proposal to close the road in 1986 drivers have continued to use the road, and as the towns of Tranent and Prestonpans have grown the road has seen greater use.

The road needs the necessary investment for all traffic: it needs to be resurfaced, there needs to be passing places at strategic places, and there needs to be traffic lights on either side of the bridge over the A1.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 24 March 2023 16:22

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Cc: [REDACTED]@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road Closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to the redetermination and part closure of the Johnnie Cope Road to vehicles.

I feel it should remain open for all to use. I use it regularly to avoid the queues of traffic at Blindwells and Bankton roundabout and also to access the train station and the A1 as it is a direct link to the Bypass. If it was closed my journey would double adding to the congestion and cost me more in fuel and create more pollution.

Its an ancient right of way and by putting gates across the road is blocking access for emergency vehicles. I believe they are being given a key to open the gates which is an issue in an emergency and a concern for the residents who if trapped in a fire in a 4 storeys building; ie Bankton House their lives could be put at risk.

The Johnnie Cope Road is one of two direct roads between Prestonpans and Tranent. It is a vital link to both villages and therefore must remain open.

Originally ELC based the redetermination on paperwork from 1986 but this is now 2023 and the area has been developed greatly with housing and a new village. At a time when East Lothian is growing and developing all roads are required especially the Johnnie Cope Road and it would be very foolish of East Lothian Council to close the road based on statistics from 1986.

The recent reason is now seemingly the Bridge over the A1 is unsafe.

This bridge is owned by Transport Scotland so why is East Lothian Council making a decision without a discussion with transport Scotland and without a structural engineers report or any evidence to say the bridge is unsafe. Transport Scotland would not build a unsafe bridge over the A1, I fear this is an excuse to close the road.

East Lothian council have neglected this road for years and have made it clear that it will cost them too much money to repair , this seems to be the real reason they want to close the road

The Johnnie Cope road does requires resurfacing and an upgrade with traffic lights at the bridge over the A1, but ALL roads need maintenance and upgrading at some point why should the Johnnie Cope road be any different?

There already is an active travel route linking the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent do we need a second? It would make sense to keep it open for everyone to use it is possible with funding and common sense it CAN be achieved.

The road under the railway bridge floods and if it does vehicles will get trapped if the road is closed. There are businesses on the road that require to be able to access the road when they need to, instead East Lothian insist they have to give advance notice if they need access. In this day and age you cannot know when a delivery is going to arrive or when a client needs the gates open for their horse box this is why the road must remain open.

What about access for emergency services? Have they been consulted?.no.....

The gates ..what happens if they become vandalised and are unable to be opened for emergency services or access to the houses at Bankton..

There has been no consultation with the community or the residents of the Johnnie Cope road surely East Lothian council should be working with the community to find out their concerns

There really is no reason to close this road ,it is well used and needed and as East Lothian grows and develops it needs our roads to remain open and used.

I strongly implore that Transport Scotland should be directly involved with this decision making and the Transport Minister..as well as taking on board the wishes of the local communities ,after all this affects local people who actually use this route and not just some pen pushing decision.

Yours  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 07 March 2023 11:25  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I understand that East Lothian Council plan to close part of Johnnie Copes Road to most vehicles and although I live in West Lothian I visit Bankton House regularly.

If the only access to Bankton House is to be under the railway bridge I am concerned that large vehicles like Fire engines and furniture removal vans and horse boxes will not be able to get access.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 16:13  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Service manager,  
Legal and Procurement ,  
John Muir House,  
HADDINGTON,  
EH41 3HA.

Dear Sir/Madam.

I wish to make it clear that I totally oppose the closure of Johnnie Cope Road, between Prestonpans Railway station and Tranent.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 12:49  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Keep the Johnnie Cope Road open

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.



To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Prestonpans and use the Johnnie Cope Road on a daily basis for taking my daughter to swim training in Tranent and for access to the A1. Please do not close this road to any traffic, it's an essential access point for our community.

The road definitely needs better maintained; possibly widening parts, resurfacing and lights at the single track bridge. It would be a significant loss to us to lose this access, keep the road open.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 27 February 2023 13:27  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road Proposed Road Closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposal by East Lothian Council to close the Johnny Cope Road to vehicular access.

This road between Prestonpans and Tranent enables vehicles to travel between the 2 towns and is popular for local people especially when the Meadowmill and Bankton roundabouts are busy during peak periods.

As a local resident I would like to see East Lothian Council resurface this road, introduce safe pedestrian/cyclist access and install traffic lights on the narrow bridge over the A1.

kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 09 March 2023 14:57  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope's Road - public consultation

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am contacting you on behalf of the Preston Seton Gosford Labour Party who wish to make the following comment in relation to the proposed closure of the Johnny Cope's Road.

"The PSG Labour Party branch calls on East Lothian Council to explore all options to upgrade the Johnny Cope's Road and call on Transport Scotland to install traffic lights on the bridge over the A1".

regards,

[REDACTED]

Chairperson

PSG Labour Party Branch

From: [REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 17:29  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Objection to the road closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

My husband and I strongly object to the road closure of Johnnie Cope's road. Time and time and time again residents in Prestonpans have been overlooked. The small town has grown and no consideration given to the road network and its maintenance.

We have been caught out several times by road closures, road works, marathons etc and this road is well used and respected. It is not a rat run but a wheel used local road.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 22 March 2023 07:44  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Proposed Closure of Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I strongly object to the above proposal by East Lothian Council. The road has been allowed to fall into an unacceptable state of neglect and disrepair by the local authority and only having reached its current condition does the authority consider its reinstatement to be unviable.

1. The road provides access from both ends to parking at the railway station. Restrictions would cause significant inconvenience in the event 1 of the car parks was full or unavailable
2. The road provides a link between the major roads Wallyford to Tranent and Wallyford to Prestonpans. Recent accidents at Blindwells have highlighted the necessity for alternative routes such as this
3. The road is of local historic significance to residents and provides much freedom of movement in the area
4. Developments in Prestonpans, Wallyford, Tranent and Blindwells have not been accompanied by the required new traffic infrastructures to ensure free movement of traffic in the area
5. Council revenue receipts are increasing with new build developments investment in Johnnie Cope Road do not reflect this
6. Recent closure of railway station access in Wallyford has resulted in increased traffic and congestion at its south end which is controlled by traffic signals. No re-programming of the light has taken place to account for traffic approaching from the east and turning right to the station.
7. Proposed closure of the road will result in increased traffic at Wallyford Roundabout, through the new development in Wallyford, in Church Street, Tranent and at the new Blindwells and Meadowmill junction.
8. Closure of the road is an unpopular and unnecessary reduction in amenities for the area.

Grateful for you adding my views and opposition to your consultation

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 18:08  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Fwd: JOHNNIE COPE ROAD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I sent this objection email a few weeks ago and I never had a reply! Can you confirm you have it please?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 10:52  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection of the redetermination of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning, to whom it may concern,

I would like to object to the closure (redetermination) of Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans, connecting Tranent.. & A1 slip roads. Below are some of the reasons why I feel the road should remain open.

This named road is valued to myself living in Prestonpans using the A1 & Edinburgh city bypass to access employment. My partner also who is working in Tranent as a key holder at The Loch Centre Tranent. The road leads directly to Prestonpans train station & carpark with good access to disabled users coming from the A1 side of Johnnie Cope Road.

This is a valued road to many residents living in Prestonpans Tranent. However the road does need urgent maintenance & updating. With a slight widening of the road at the bridge and traffic lights installed at the bridge.

Road infrastructure needs of the community should reflect the current growth of housing developments within the area of Prestonpans. To close Johnnie Cope Road would impact other roads further, local residents using the road to access homes & businesses on the surrounding land & those using the lower-level car park at Prestonpans train station.

With the new traffic lights in operating at Blindwells. Peak time traffic is often backed up considerably now in both directions, just a small indication of why keeping all roads open now is of vital importance. With the volume of traffic and with new resident's and commuters from Blindwells, this only reinforces the demand to keep this road Johnnie Cope open & invest in the

adaption and maintenance required, to support the transport infrastructure one would expect in 2023.

I believe there is some confusion as to whether the bridge is unsafe for public traffic users, walkers or cyclists but is deemed safe for heavy farm vehicles. There's barely any paving/pathway to be suitable for walking or indeed cycling as the road is in such disrepair and is unsuitable for cyclists in its current state.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@msn.com>

Sent: 08 March 2023 19:31

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection of Closure of Johnny Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object against the closure of the Johnny Cope Road. I have to use this road 3-4 times a day in order to get to my Dad to provide his care as he is severely disabled following a stroke a few years ago. I often receive calls from the Community Alarms Team to say he has had a fall and therefore have to jump in the car and get to my Dad ASAP. If this road were to close, it would take me at least an extra 8-10 mins to get to him, not to mention the additional mileage and fuel costs incurred having to go either via Strawberry Corner or Blindwells. My husband plays golf at the Royal Musselburgh, we use the shops at the bottom of Johnnie Cope Road, we use the vets there and also the train station frequently-closing this road adds time and cost to our daily lives.

The bigger picture would mean more fuel emissions as people will be having to drive much further to get between the two towns, not to mention heavy traffic placed on either alternative route-especially at peak travel times. You simply have to look at what happened recently when temporary traffic lights were put at Blindwells-the queues were massive so many more people used JCR to alleviate the pressure.

It would appear to me that this proposal is merely a cost cutting exercise from ELC but may I suggest that rather than fund projects in more favourable areas (North Berwick, Gullane), invest the money in our community-do something that would help OUR residents as well as the environment. Invest in traffic lights at the bridge, insert passing places and maintain the road properly.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 07 March 2023 18:54

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Closing of Johnny cope road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I object to the closing of this road, I grew up round this area and this road was called Birsley Brae. I have found memories of helping with the horses at Bankton House, training in the fields doing hill runs and as I got older using this road frequently. I work in Tranent and I use this road most days to visit my mother. This is a well used road and like Fishers Road in Port Seton should be resurfaced and continue to be used. People live on this road and also at Bankton what are they supposed to do when it floods at the tunnel? This road should stay open.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 20:10  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am emailing in regarding the closure of the Johnnie Cope Road to vehicles. I would like to state my objection, I think it should remain open as it's needed as an alternative route as has been shown in the past month or two with accidents and road closures which will no doubt be a more regular occurrence with the increase in traffic when Blindwell is complete.

I live in Bankpark, Tranent I use that road at least once a week and more recently when Church Street, Tranent was closed for a week, also when there was an accident at the bottom of Church Street and when there's been road closures and problems with the traffic lights around Blindwells and the coal road.

I use the road to get to Prestonpans station and the pizza shop near by. I work in Port Seton and I suffer from chronic pain so the less time I spend driving the better, I also try to avoid using the A1 and sitting in traffic queues as my back and shoulder muscles get stiff and painful, so I use the road as a short cut. Also there are no buses from Tranent to Port Seton so I have to drive.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 08:59  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I'd like to join the campaign against closing Johnnie Cope Road. I use this Road quite a bit as it cuts down on my time and mileage when I want to go to Tranent. It's also very handy when there's roadworks and/or congestion going on at Bankton Roundabout.

I think this road is a great asset to the community

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 19:45

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Copes Road closure.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there.

I would like to object to the closing of the above mentioned road. This road provides excellent access to the rail station at a time when all the roads round about the Tranent/Prestonpans area seem to be getting busier. If it is a safety issue then may I suggest making this road one way from Tranent down as this seems like a logical option.

Regards,

**Dave Cormack**

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 12:59  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to formally object to your proposal to close Johnny Cope Road which links Tranent to Prestonpans.

This route is an essential short cut between Tranent and Prestonpans which avoids the need to enter Tranent and navigate Church Street, the Meadowmill Roundabout and Gardiner Terrace in Prestonpans. East Lothian Council claim to be concerned about the climate emergency yet are determined to force all traffic from the west side of Tranent to have to head east to Church Street along an already busy and congested road thus adding more pollution and congestion where it is not required. This is manufactured by ELC and wholly unnecessary. The road may be narrow but I am unaware of any accidents or injuries occurring on it over the years, can you provide statistics of accidents and injuries on the Johnny Cope Road in the last 25 years to back up your claim that it requires to be closed ?

From reading local papers and social media it would appear that ELC has "moved the goalposts" and changed their story about why the road should be closed to suit their agenda. This would not be the first time this has happened as a further example of this was the introduction of the 1way system being implemented in Haddington when the road was narrowed to 1 lane at the town house before the consultation period had even finished into the implementation for the 1 way system.

Reducing the number of options people have for travelling from "A to B" can only create congestion (see Haddington town centre as a prime example of congestion created by ELC), pollution and making people spend more time in their vehicles.

I wish my objection to be formally recorded for this consultation on the above grounds.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 11:18  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

I wish to OBJECT to the ludicrous plan currently proposed by East Lothian Council to close the Johnnie Cope Road to mechanised traffic, one of only two direct routes between the growing populations of Prestonpans and Tranent.

I need spend little time on the original intention to close the route in 1986, as this 37 year old proposal was not carried out at the time and subjected to the due legally defined processes defined in the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. Accordingly, original intentions to close and any reasons or justifications the officers of a now defunct local authority might have had for doing so, that cannot now be tested, explored or validated, are utterly immaterial to current considerations and completely irrelevant to the current proposal.

Despite regular requests to your officers for the research data that would prove that this **new** proposal to close this ancient right of way is an evidence-driven proposal, very little data has been provided. So far, the only work that appears to have been done to arrive at this significant decision before your consultation opened was an informal sight survey by your Council engineer of the bridge, owned by Transport Scotland, and a single week of monitoring of winter usage on Johnnie Cope Road in November.

Where is the full engineering study of the bridge, carried out in collaboration with its owners? Where are the traffic studies of current usage and projected impacts on other roads? Where are the carbon impacts of the thousands of increased weekly journey times caused by forcing current users to take longer routes? What assessment on taxi usage and impacts, an integral part of the local public transport network, has been carried out? Where are the formal risk assessments outlining the delays to emergency responders, forced to fumble with keys on either side of a bridge, en route to situations where every extra second could cost a life? Where are the studies exploring alternatives to closure?

I believe this road should be repaired and upgraded to accommodate all users. Speed-calming measures and pavements should be introduced, where appropriate, and traffic lights put in place on either side of the bridge.

There is already a segregated active travel route between Prestonpans and Tranent just a few hundred yards to the east, in desperate need of further investment to make it safer and more appealing. The idea that a local authority can simply close a section of B-road, that it has failed to adequately invest in for decades, and simply rebrand it as an active travel route is simply unacceptable and quite outrageous.

With Blindwells growing rapidly, the adjacent section of the A198 can barely cope now accommodating users to and from Prestonpans, Cockenzie & Port Seton, Longniddry, North Berwick, Aberlady, Drem and Gullane. Two recent problems along this overburdened stretch (roadworks and a serious RTA) caused immense chaos to local communities, including massive tailbacks lasting up to an hour at peak times and severe bus service disruption.

There is simply no justification for closing a road that services such significant population densities and I will continue to object in the strongest possible terms until East Lothian Council makes a convincing case to persuade me that this is anything other than a cynical attempt to save money on road repairs.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 08:15

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I object strongly to the proposal to close Johnny Cope Road, it is a vital route between Tranent and Prestonpans especially with all the developments going on all around the two towns.

- Inch Cape have planning permission for building a substation and onshore transmission works. They have finalised and secured their plans with ELC. They have stated that there will be an increase in HGV traffic using the coal road to Cockenzie.

This means there will be an increase of HGVs and construction traffic and machinery as well as employees vehicles on the A1 Bypass, Bankton Roundabout and the A198 to access the Power Station site. These roads are already congested add to this the traffic listed and it will increase greatly adding to congestion and pollution which will all increase. The Power Station site will be worked from 7am to 7pm, 5 and a half days a week with a continuous stream of vehicles using these junctions and roads. ELC have the opportunity to keep the JCR open by doing this it will help ease congestion at the Bankton Junction, the roundabout at the B1361 and at Blindwells.

- As well as this SeaGreen has in principle permission to build a substation on the site. More HGVs and more works traffic using these roads

- There is also to be a battery energy storage development built at the south of the substation. More HGVs and works traffic using these roads

The basis of the 11.3 million is to undertake site preparation and remediation works, to allow for future employment development. These works include: removal of the earthwork bunds surrounding the coal store and regrading that site to increase its developable area; using the bund material to infill the void where the power station stood; works to the underground cooling water tunnels; repair of the sea wall and improvement works to the John Muir Way.

It is quite clear that the power station site will be hugely developed which will increase the vehicles using these roads making them even more congested in the hot spot areas of Bankton Roundabout and Blindwells. By keeping the JCR open ELC can help reduce the congestion and pollution that will ensue.

- Add to this at the same time the creation of a cycle and pedestrian path on the B1361 and the traffic works and lights and closure of part of the road as this is created

- Add to this the housing development of a few hundred houses opposite Charles Phillips and son, Drummorie House on the B1361 with the road works and traffic management systems and part closure that will ensue during the build. This will add to the congestion and queues of traffic.

it makes absolute sense to keep the JCR open to alleviate the mayhem that will ensue. Do ELC really think closing the JCR road will help alleviate what will be the most congested roads in East Lothian. Absolutely not we need to keep it open, in this way, it will help alleviate the gridlock, congestion and pollution that is about to ensue.



Regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 16:54  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Consultation on Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sir/madam

I am contacting you regarding the consultation on closing the Johnnie Cope Road. I live in Tranent and use the road to get to Prestonpans railway station a few times each week. If the road was shut then it would significantly increase the time for people like me to get to the station. As Tranent has grown in size in recent years then the road is important and it would not be good for the environment of the journey time too and from the station was greatly increased.

I appreciate that the road is narrow and some drivers drive too fast. I've had a number of near misses (not my fault of course) so I understand the concerns over the road. However there do not appear to be many accidents on the road and maybe some traffic calming or speed reduction measures would be appropriate. Another possibility is to make the road one way (except for emergency vehicles) so the journey is only increased for users on one leg of the journey.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss my views.

Thanks

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@talktalk.net>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 14:37  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road Closure objection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing with objection to the proposed closure of the Johnny Cope Road, linking Prestonpans and Tranent.

My objections and concerns are:

1. This road, now more than ever, provides a vital link between the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. The constant house building between Tranent, Prestonpans and Wallyford, as well as the new town of Blindwells, have increased traffic to the point that none of the road infrastructure in the area is adequate for the amount of traffic having to use it. Most recently we have seen our bus service suspended between

Prestonpans and Tranent because of traffic. 40-60 minute delays at the Bankton Roundabout which, had the Johnny Cope Road been closed, would have resulted in delays of more than an hour.

2. There is no good reason to close the road, I accept that there must have been a few bumps, but never in my 57 years have I heard of people being killed or badly injured. The reason for these bumps lies with East Lothian Council. Had you implemented traffic lights at the bridge, mirrors on the corners, or maintained the road in any way there is no reason for accidents other than driver error.
3. People from Tranent use this road to access the Train Station south car park. Closing the road will mean a large increase of traffic from the Prestonpans side, going under the narrow bridge, and possibly causing gridlock in the area. The entrance under the bridge to the south platform is already congested at busy times, especially when I need to go to work. As a wheelchair user, who does not drive, I already need to compete with cars on the **road** since there are no adequate or safe pavements. A good bit of the pavement is too narrow for a wheelchair, the remainder of the pavement is blocked by street furniture (ELC bin and new cable boxes) It's hard enough getting to the south platform as things are, but doubling the traffic will make it impossible. I currently can sit waiting up to 10 minutes, breathing in car emissions, before its safe to proceed. I ask you not to take away my right to live independently, I'm pretty sure there's legislation to cover that.
4. I object to you changing the goalposts regarding the closure of the Johnny Cope Road. Initially you told the Community Council that you were implementing an order where the road was found to be **unnecessary** (based on a 35+ year old order that you've completely ignored for longer than some of our councillors have been alive.) . When you declined the invitation to the Community Council Meeting, you stated that the road was to be closed on **Road Safety**, you also told Martin Whitfield MP in a letter that the reasons were **Road Safety**. Now that the issue is Road Safety, does that not mean you need to begin the process again as your reasons to close the road have changed. Indeed if you do intent to proceed using Road Safety as an excuse, then it should be a requirement to improve the road for pedestrians.
5. Even if you close the road to traffic, it will still need to remain open for pedestrians. As far as I can see, this road has been used by residents for more than 250 years. If people are allowed to use the road (without vehicles), then it will **STILL** need extensive repairs. I demand my right as a wheelchair user to be given the same opportunities as pedestrians, and as it stands today, I could not possibly access that road in its entirety because of the lack of pavements, broken pavements, roads and paving covered in YEARS worth of leaves and litter. I can't use the road past the south platform opening because of the number of potholes, and hidden potholes (the ones that fill up with leaves and water). This will need to be remediated, as well as leaving open access for wheelchairs, prams, scooters etc. Should you go ahead with a locked gate on the bridge, then you will need to provide access for prams, scooters and wheelchairs too.
6. Closing this road will increase vehicular emissions. People from Tranent will still need to use the train station in Prestonpans, so they'll drive somewhere between 2-4 extra miles per day to get there, increasing emissions, polluting Prestonpans as they drive through it, lucky us again, we get rid of a lung killing power station, then you increase the traffic pollution, its simply unacceptable. How does this fit in with East Lothian Council's goals for climate change and sustainability?

7. Increasing traffic through Prestonpans at already busy times will likely cause more harm and accidents, only it won't be damage to cars, it will be risking people's lives. There are two primary schools in this area, a lot of children walking to school, crossing roads etc, the increase in traffic along the B1361 from both the Wallyford and Tranent ends of the road will, I fear, be dangerous for the children. Has a traffic study been done on this road to evaluate the risks?
8. There is a Scottish Ambulance Service Station at Mid-Road, Prestonpans. This serves, amongst other places, Tranent. Any delay in getting an emergency vehicle to Tranent may result in a life or death situation. When the road is blocked by extra traffic trying to get to and from the south platform, will the council take responsibility for the deaths it may cause? I hope this scenario is recorded in your risk assessment from now, the ambulance station was not there 37 years ago.
9. I note from your published accounts that the bridge over the A1 was never meant for heavy traffic or vehicles. Who was responsible for this error? I'm considering the weight of the farm vehicles you say this bridge was built for. The bridge may no longer be suitable for farm vehicles, has this been checked? Farm vehicles have drastically increased in size and weight over the last 10 years (Farm Advisory Service Scotland), and from further research I found that farm vehicles have increased in weight and size by 40% in the last 40 years. If the bridge is not built to deal with this, then I suggest you stop these ultra-heavy machines using our road, and leave it open to locals, or you could have the bridge replaced with something more suitable for general and farm use.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 28 February 2023 19:23  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road - potential Closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

We live in Prestonpans and have a child where there is shared care with a parent in Tranent. The child also goes to Ross High School.

This road provides an exceptionally important alternative to meadowmill/blindwells/church street route. That route can be very congested and has been closed or has had numerous times in recent months where there has been temporary traffic lights.

I strongly feel the road should remain open, but the council also have a duty of care to the residents of Prestonpans and Tranent that it should be properly maintained.

[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 11:00  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed closure of Johnnie Cope's Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I would like to record my formal objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope's Road to vehicular traffic.

It forms a useful direct link between the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. The issue at the narrow bridge over the A1 could be addressed through the installation of traffic signals as at the railway bridge at the north end of the road.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 06:44  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:**

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road. I am secretary of Prestonpans Community Council and have sat in disbelief at several meetings listening to local councillors tie themselves in knots over the ownership of the road. In fact, it's only in the last month or so that they admitted that the council are responsible for maintaining the road, Transport Scotland the bridge.

I am old enough to remember Prestonpans before the new A1, indeed, JCR was a vital link between the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent at a time when those communities were a fraction of the size they are now.

I walk there most days with the dog, and the road is a well used road which contradicts your original reason for its closure.

On Thursday 16th March there was an accident at the roundabout at the Meadowmill junction of the A1 which closed the road. The traffic on JCR was treble the usual amount and had JCR been closed to cars, the diversion would have been via Wallyford, adding a significant amount of time to a journey.

Which brings me to my next point. How are the emergency services supposed to navigate whatever barrier is put up? No-one has been able to answer this, and considering council officers declined our invitation to attend CC meetings, we are still in the dark.

Bankton house residents whose businesses rely on access from the south have no idea what will happen to their businesses and fear for their lives should an ambulance or fire engine be delayed by looking for a key and opening a barrier.

The access from the north, under the bridge is in a terrible state - the part you claim to maintain. Should access to the station close from the south, that unsafe and impractical junction will see a significant rise in the number of cars and taxis using it. Can you guarantee the safety of pedestrians and wheelchair users?

My final point is that nowhere else in the whole county would the council close a vital road linking two of the biggest communities in East Lothian. Prestonpans and Tranent have endured

mass house building without improved infrastructure, Prestonpans is having our grassy verges pulled up to lay a concrete path from Blindwells to the train station. This path is not needed. It is environmental vandalism imposed on our communities by a council who only think about us when it's to, quite frankly, shaft us.

Prestonpans and Tranent have at least doubled in size since the new A1 was built in 1986 and the council decided to close the road which of course didn't happen. Then in 2020 you tried again claiming that the road was unnecessary. Fast forward to 2022/3 and again, the goalposts have changed to 'unsafe' - despite allowing vehicles of varying size and weight to continue to use it. When Blindwells is complete the amount of traffic is going to significantly increase further, and your solution is to close roads to cars. This is ridiculous. Congestion will increase at both Meadowmill and Wallyford as folk drive to the train station. The environmental damage to those communities could be severe.

It is abundantly clear that this is a cost saving exercise without a second thought for the people for whom the closure would be extremely detrimental. It's extremely disappointing for me as someone who has watched their hometown increase in population and decrease in investment. A poor show.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 08:27  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning. I am writing to object to the closure of Johnny cope road. This road has been used for many many years. Just because the council failed in its duties to maintain the road doesn't mean you should close it. People lives will be put at risk who stay in the area. The reasons have changed and goal posts have been moved numerous times by ELC. However the last I checked you're not working for profit but for the people who elected you to be in the positions you now hold. The people have repeatedly asked for this road to remain open and the council have continuously ignored this. I will personally insure I don't vote anyone who wants to close this road in any election in the future.

You have already brought major disruptions to East Lothian by the way house are being thrown up and no infrastructure is being put in place. Leave this road open. You are turning east Lothian from a beautiful county to a miniature Edinburgh. How are locals meant to get around with all the Edinburgh Marathons, Bike races you hold in our county. We can't move on these days and this road is one of many that's valuable to us.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 06 March 2023 22:03  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I write to object against the closure of Johnnie Cope road between Tranent and Prestonpans. This road is integral to residents of Prestonpans gaining access to the A1 to Edinburgh without them having to go via Wallyford.

Wallyford is congested enough with its narrow main road which has to endure lorries and buses without additional traffic. Wallyford main road is also a main thoroughfare for school children heading to the new schools. Therefore the Main Street should not be made busier or more polluted from extra vehicle fumes.

The 100s of new houses at Wallyford already adding to the congestion in the area without it being made worse.

Closing the road would also force people to head towards Bankton and with the new houses at Blindwells this area is getting more and more congested.

Forcing people to take longer routes to get to the A1 or Tranent will also add more miles therefore more fuel and more pollution.

The Johnnie Cope road should be upgraded and made better for all road users and remain open to all.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 12:46

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnny cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to comment on the issues regarding the closure of Johnny cope road  
This is absolutely unacceptable and East Lothian council have failed both the communities of Tranent and prestonpans , East Lothian council have a statutory obligation to maintain roads that they own and this much loved and well used road has been neglected for years  
My mother in law is unable to walk but we have purchased a wheelchair for her as she enjoyed this route as she has used it since she was a kid  
I object to the closure of this road.

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>

**Sent:** 20 February 2023 15:17

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnny cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am hereby writing to you to object to the closure of Johnny cope road . This is a well used and much loved road between Tranent and prestonpans , by closing this road it will endanger the safety of people and animals residing in that area and will cause yet more traffic congestion onto surrounding roads making this issue worse than it currently is , also the lower section of the road leading to the disabled car park is inadequate for people who use a mobility scooter trying to get a train because when the tunnel under the bridge floods you cannot safely get a motorised mobility scooter past that flooded area and even when not flooded people who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters or wheelchairs have to drive towards oncoming traffic which I'm sure you agree is highly dangerous , another problem is if there is an incident at the residential properties or railway station fire engines cannot fit under the railway bridge putting lives at high risk of not getting help in time , and it's also dividing communities between Tranent and prestonpans and is highly historic and part of the much loved prestonpans and Tranent past history . So I highly object to this plan to close it .

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 08 March 2023 20:59  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Closure of the Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to make you aware of my objection to the closure of the above road. This road has been in use for many many years and provides an alternative route for vehicles to gain access to the a1 bypass thus saving time and energy from going the longer route via Meadowmill or alternatively Strawberry corner/Wallyford. There have been several occasions recently when road works have caused long delays on these routes which in turns causes the drivers distress.

I hope you reconsider your decision to make sure this road is repaired and upgraded so the community can continue to use the road for many years to come.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 23 March 2023 19:46  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my concerns about the potential addition of locked gates to the Johnnie Cope Road from Tranent to Prestonpans. I strongly disagree with the proposed plans for the following reasons:

- Cost to locals incurred by extra travel - price of fuel, by taking away this shortcut.
- Impeding the access of emergency vehicles in potential accidents/ emergency situations.
- Added travel time for locals who commute by train.
- Increased traffic

Please reconsider this decision,  
Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
Sent: 26 March 2023 21:10  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

This road takes 10-15 mins off my commute in the morning. Which is a big help to me as a full time working mum. I have to drop my son off at breakfast club in the morning. I have literally 20 mins to get to work in the morning due to the opening times of the club.

I find it to be very useful especially when there seems to be such a back up near blind wells. I have tried using the route towards strawberry corner and through Tranent a few times instead of the Johnny cope road because the amount of pot holes on the road was too much and the condition of the road can be dreadful. I pay road taxes and believe that the road should be fixed appropriately and the road kept open. It is a very convenient and accessible route to my work and a lot of people use it.

I think if you were to keep the road open there should be a signalled light system on the bridge or a priority sign put in place, as the sign saying vehicles on middle of the bridge is not working.

There are times where I have witnessed cars playing Russian roulette on the middle of the bridge until someone reverses and gives in and gives access to the other side of the bridge.

The road majourly needs an upgrade. The road just after the train station needs to be widened and lines put in place for two way traffic and desperately needs to be tarmaced.

Instead of road closures in that area , it should be upgraded as it's a great commuting link.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 13 March 2023 12:19  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road Proposed Raod Closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposal by East Lothian Council to close the Johnny Cope Road to vehicular access.

This road between Prestonpans and Tranent enables vehicles to travel between the 2 towns and is popular for local people especially when the Meadowmill and Bankton roundabouts are busy during peak periods.

As a local resident I would like to see East Lothian Council resurface this road, introduce safe pedestrian/cyclist access and install traffic lights on the narrow bridge over the A1.

kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@metronet.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:57  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Jonny Cope's Close



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear ELC ,

As a resident of East Lothian I strong object to this road closure which is not in the public interest.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 15:45

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection letter Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

I am writing to inform you that **I wish to object** to the order by ELC to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians, cyclists and authorised vehicles, **for the following reasons:**

**This road is a vital road** linking the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. It is one of two roads linking these villages the other is congested with traffic and pollution. Only a couple of days ago there was a traffic accident at Bankton roundabout, and the A1 was closed at the slip road and cars were all diverted down the Johnnie Cope Road showing one of the reasons why this vital road should and must remain open.

**Changing the reason for the closure/ redetermination during the consultation process.** East Lothian Council decided to firstly use the original reason for closing it under section 68 (1) of the roads Scotland act 1984 which stated the road will become unnecessary and is unnecessary for the local population. Prestonpans Community Council asked for the community's comments and we all trustingly responded to this reason. The community council then replied formally with our objections and comments which they included. How were we the community to know that when it came to the public consultation a few weeks later ELC would change this original reason after reading all our comments. They instead read them and sought legal advice before changing the reason now quoting section 1 (1) and 152(2). This means that all our objections based on the first reason would not be considered.... surely this is illegal. How can the goal posts be changed in this way. ELC seemingly apologised for the misleading information contained in the original notification but would not consider starting the whole process again. This is just simply wrong I know of no other councils that would change the criteria during a consultation its totally immoral.

The original consultation included horse riders but after my comments horse riders were removed from the list of who would have access.

The original consultation led us to believe there would be 2 gates at each end of the bridge, but the public consultation shows a plan with the access closed further north of the bridge and no mention of how this would be done. I find ELC have not been transparent their mission has been to close this road and they have made it very clear this is what they will do no matter what the community thinks.

**There has been no consultation or discussion** with the residents who live on JCR or Bankton House or with the businesses who use this road or with the community council. Instead ELC chose not to attend an open invitation to the community council meeting to discuss this redetermination. It would be in everyone's interests if instead of closing the road ELC looked at ways of working with the community to keep it open and come up with solutions. The road is vital for people's businesses. At a time when ELC should be supporting local businesses they shut them down by closing a vital road.

**It is an ancient right of way** which cannot be closed and therefore must remain open for all to use.

**This consultation should never have been made** as ELC have not reported how the locked gate system will operate. The paperwork is therefore incomplete, and more information is required.

(Since writing this Martin Whitfield contacted ELC who confirmed emergency services would be given a key to unlock the gates and if a resident required access, they would have to give ELC advanced notice.)

Why was this not addressed in the consultation? Where are the plans? Where is the information on how the gate system will operate? Where is the emergency services report on this? Where is the consultation with residents? Where is the structural report from Transport Scotland? Where is Transport Scotland's statement saying the road is unsafe? Surely this closure should have been discussed with the residents who live on the road and use it every day. This will affect their lives and businesses. This gate and key system are not a workable solution. Is every emergency vehicle going to be given a key? This is an impracticable and antiquated idea. The road must remain open for all to use.

**For ELC to state because the paperwork wasn't completed in 1986 is not a reason to close this well used vital road.**

Since 1986 this area has been developed greatly with large housing estates all over East Lothian particularly Prestonpans, Tranent, Blindwells, Longniddry, Cockenzie and Port Seton and Wallyford resulting in a vast increase in the population, and in the number of vehicles on these roads. Housing developers are in the process of meeting their target of 10,000 houses being built in East Lothian this includes a new settlement at Blindwells. This is not a time to be closing roads but to keeping them open and improving them.

With these new developments brings a great deal of additional cars the result has been queues of traffic and congestion at Wallyford, Church Street in Tranent, Blindwells, Bankton roundabout and slip roads to the A1 bypass resulting in more accidents, more pollution and going against ELC's targets to improve air quality by 2033. You can sit for 45 minutes in queues of traffic polluting the environment. Only a few days ago there was a serious accident with queues of traffic backed up on the slip road and bypass. This resulted in vehicles being directed down the Johnnie Cope Road.... what would happen if it was closed! It is one of two direct routes between the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent. It is a well-used popular route and many commuters use it to access the train station car park. Instead ELC want to send these commuters a further distance to congest our villages and roads by closing the JCR it is ludicrous.

By closing the JCR the traffic that would normally use it will have to travel further adding miles to their journey and by using roads they would not normally use ie Bankton

Roundabout, Church Street, Blindwells or Wallyford and Longniddry roads instead which will add to congestion, pollution and thus add to climate change. So, by closing the JCR ELC will be adding thousands of cars to drive through our congested villages every day adding to air pollution!!

The JCR gives direct access to the A1 Bypass why on earth would you close it. It is ludicrous to base the closing of a road in 2023 on paperwork from 1986. 37 years ago!

Blindwells is a new village which is still to reach its capacity. There are already queues of traffic at the roundabout, slip road and access road to the A1. Closing the JCR pushes extra traffic onto this hotspot. It makes absolutely no sense that as EL grows and develops with so much housing the council want to close a road. Tranent High Street and Church Street can barely cope with the number of vehicles using it. By closing the JCR, the traffic at Church Street will become gridlocked as vehicles travel to Prestonpans Train Station via the only road you will leave them with to access the station and that's via Church Street Tranent, Bankton Roundabout, Blindwells, and Gardiner Terrace in Prestonpans. ELC will be increasing the amount of cars on Gardiner Terrace which is to become an active travel route with a pedestrian and cycle path right next to a busy congested road caused by the closure of JCR. It must be kept open to reduce the congestion and pollution. Why would you close it and cause vehicles to divert for miles through our villages?

Vehicles using the bypass filter off at the Bankton Junction to reach all the villages I have listed as well as to follow the coastal route and access our coastal villages ie Cockenzie and Port Seton, Longniddry, Aberlady, North Berwick, Gullane, Direlton etc It is busy, over populated with cars, junctions and roundabouts. Why would you close the JCR as it helps alleviate this problem and the likelihood of accidents.

It is therefore not feasible by any means to base a closure / redetermination on an opinion or reason from 38 years ago when I can assure you EL did not have half the amount of traffic or housing it has now.

### **The Bridge over the A1 bypass**

ELC state the bridge on the JCR was intended only for local farm access. This is incorrect when it was built all vehicles used it as I remember when it was built.

At one point ELC erected gates illegally without any consultation and they were removed. However, it is irrelevant what the original use for the bridge was as it has been used since it was built and currently is still being used regularly by locals as a daily commuting access route.

The bridge is owned and maintained by Transport Scotland however ELC appear to have decided with no consultation with Transport Scotland, with no structural report and no evidence to support their claim that it is not safe for vehicles to use but fine for farm vehicles to use!

To think that Transport Scotland would have built a bridge over such an important main road as the A1 bypass and built it inferior to any other bridge over the A1 is ludicrous.

There are bridges all over the country including East Lothian that are used by all types of traffic today that they were certainly not built for. Some were built for horse and carts and are being used heavily by vehicles. They are not being closed.

The bridge at Drem Train Station is a single bridge with bad bends making it impossible to see oncoming traffic. Based on the above assumption will it close?

The bridge at East Linton and Musselburgh date back hundreds of years. Based on the above assumption will they close?

The bridge at Ormiston has priority arrows and is very old will it close?

There are several bridges without proper pavements ie drem bridge. Based on the above assumption will it close?

There are bridges identical to the Johnnie Cope Road bridge in East Lothian, one crosses the A1 a few miles away connecting Macmerry to St Germain's the other a few miles

further on, connecting the houses around the Biel Water to the A199. Does this mean ELC will close these bridges as well?

I question why they can close one bridge on the assumption it is unsafe for cars but fine for combine harvesters and tractors and trailers but not another which is of the same construction and used by both commuting cars and vans as well as farm vehicles. Surely, they would have to close them all!!

ELC state the JCR bridge is safe for combine harvesters and other farm machinery, fire engines, tractors, and trailers to use but not cars or vehicles commuting to the train station and back.

Are ELC aware the weight of the listed vehicles they are allowing to access the road once its closed are a great deal more than a car or van or multiple cars and vans ? It makes no sense to close this road.

If ELC were concerned about the safety of the bridge surely they would have contacted Transport Scotland the owners and closed the road and had a structural engineer investigate it and write a report but again Im afraid there is no evidence to back this up. If they were that concerned the bridge should have been repaired but there is nothing to repair. The only real reason seems to be that ELC just want to close the road to save repairing it and are looking for any excuse to do this.

### **Neglect of Road**

The JCR has been neglected by the different Councils over many years which has resulted in the road falling into extreme disrepair. While other roads all over East Lothian are resurfaced and repaired the JCR has been ignored. Ive been told by the roads department and councillors that there just simply is no money to upgrade and repair the JCR which I find unbelievable when ELC is benefitting from the amount of development in the area and funding is found to the value of 11.3million pounds to regenerate the power station site. What about the regeneration of the JCR? All over East Lothian roads are being resurfaced and repaired why not the JCR ? You can't even report potholes etc on the JCR as they are removed by ELC as soon as they are reported, Im sure this is illegal. By allowing the road to fall into such disrepair it will cost more to bring it up to standard but that is not the communities fault it is ELCs fault for neglecting it.

**The Train Station** Many vehicles use the JCR to access the car park to travel to Edinburgh via train or to travel to Prestonpans, or Tranent. This is part of Active Travel using the train but by closing the road it may dissuade people to use the train due to the congestion and queues of traffic. By closing the road more vehicles will cause real congestion at the traffic lights on the lower part of the road and just after Bankton House opening, traffic will be forced to turn in the private drive and the amount of vehicles entering and leaving from the Prestonpans end of the road will increase greatly making it extremely dangerous. Large vehicles will be unable to access the cottages and Bankton House as the Railway bridge is low and the turns on the road too tight. The road needs to remain open to allow traffic to flow up and down the road safely.

### **ELC originally stated that they wished for the JCR to be used by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and emergency vehicles who will all be given access.**

Then once they read the communities objections from Prestonpans Community Council the reason for closure was changed and horse riders were removed from the list of who would have access.

The road will still require to be repaired no matter who has access. I am a cyclist and car driver and horse owner, and I can assure the council that the road would need to be repaired before cyclists, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and prams etc could use it. I will continue to campaign for the road to be repaired and upgraded until it is.

ELC cannot give some people access and not others its discrimination and it's a public right of way for all to use.

By putting gates across the bridge how do you expect mobility scooters, horse riders, cyclists and combine harvesters to gain access. You cannot narrow this bridge. The farmer requires unrestricted access to his fields. The council have not thought this through. If installing gates with some sort of locking system how will horse riders, mobility scooters, cyclists and pedestrians use the bridge as you cannot put two lanes on the bridge, one for combine harvesters, emergency services, hgvs and one for horse riders, cyclists etc the bridge is too narrow for this. If you put gates up, you are restricting access for everyone.

Does the council expect a horse rider to dismount to open the gate hold a horse and shut the gate walk and lead the horse over the bridge, what happens if it bolts, it would be trapped between two gates and the consequence could be life threatening (I am a horse owner and was an instructor) so can speak from experience. Then the rider must walk across the bridge leading the horse and open the second gate. What type of gates will be installed, there is no description, depending on how they open ie if it's just a barrier as in an arm that goes up in the air or an automatic gate both systems may cause a horse to bolt and with no rider on board the consequence would be fatal. We haven't even discussed how the council would expect the rider to mount the horse again. Would they have to stand on the said gate to mount there horse again no thought has been given to this. There must be no barriers, or gates on this road it's far too dangerous for the people who will be opening and closing them. Bollards cannot be put up as emergency services would be unable to get through resulting in loss of lives and motorbikes would be able to drive through them. The road must remain open for its full length.

**Deliveries** ELC have stated that if the residents require the gates to be open for a delivery or a horse lorry that cannot get under or round the bridge, they can book the gates to be unlocked by giving advanced notice. In this day and age, we do not know when delivery drivers etc will deliver and slots can be all day so how will this work especially in the winter will ELC employees be expected to stand at the gate for hours, days waiting to unlock them for a delivery?

**Emergency Vehicles, Fire Engines, Ambulances, Horse Lorries and trailers, Combine Harvesters, Tractors, JCBs, Removal Lorries, HGVs to empty septic tanks all need access on a daily basis.**

These vehicles will be unable to access the housing on JCR or at Bankton House as the road under the railway bridge is too narrow, with tight bends and the bridge is low. If the road is closed, the Prestonpans end of the road would be the only entrance and exit to the Railway car park it is highly likely an accident would happen as the number of vehicles will double and an HGV would not get around or under the bridge.

**No thought has been given to the fact that wheelchair and mobility scooters have to use the road** if they wish to travel to Edinburgh, they have no choice but to use the road as the pavement is narrow at the Prestonpans end of the road to the railway bridge. By closing the JCR to all vehicles and erecting gates the road will have more traffic on it as vehicles will have to enter and leave on the Prestonpans end of the road making others vulnerable. The road must remain open for its full length.

**ELC have not considered the businesses that are on this road.** The animal physiotherapist and her horses and customers require unrestricted access from the top of the road and the bottom. They drive HGV horse lorries which cannot fit under the railway bridge or around the corners. The residents have had no discussion or consultation on this. By closing the road to all vehicles except emergency and farm vehicles it will affect her business! If she wants the gate open she has to book this in advance. This is not practical and is unachievable and unrealistic. Does ELC expect the horse lorries to enter from the top of the road and park blocking the road while they lead

their horses over the bridge. These horses and other animals require a physio so could be lame. They would then have to reverse back up the JCR . I just do not see how this would work. The road needs to remain open as it will cause great danger if closed.

The farmer must get his combine harvester, Tractors etc in and out of his fields. If the gates are locked do you expect him to jump off his combine harvester from a height to open a gate climb back on , climb off, shut the gate, drive on the bridge, climb off on the bridge above the height of the bridge barrier ( health & safety issue) open the gate climb back on, drive through, climb off, shut the gate, climb back on etc etc etc...that will not happen and it's a danger for him and his employees. Again, no thought has been given to the implication for businesses and other vehicles who use this road daily. The road must remain open for its full length.

**The emergency services, fire service police and ambulance.** They would all require the road to be open it's a vital quick route to the residents at bankton house and the residents in the cottages on JCR. There is an ambulance base at the bottom of the JCR in Prestonpans and the JCR is a direct access to the A1 without any queues of traffic. If you close the JCR they will have to find a key then find the lock and open the gates locking them behind themselves causing precious time to be lost while someone could be dying.

The JCR is a vital link to the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent in an emergency. If the gates were vandalised, how would the emergency services gain access. ELC are putting people's lives at risk by closing the road. It is paramount that emergency services, police, ambulances, and fire service can continue to safely use the whole road with no obstacles in their way therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response times to either Tranent or Prestonpans or outlying villages and the bypass as at the top of JCR you can enter the bypass without travelling through any villages.

The police and ambulances use the road frequently. In the event of a fire, from what I believe, there is only one fire engine small enough to fit under the rail bridge. I am not sure if this has an extendable ladder, as the houses are all between 3 & 5 storeys high with the exception of a 1, 2 storey house. By putting gates on this road, you are putting lives at risk. The road must remain open for its full length.

Where is the emergency services consultation report have, they been out to Bankton House and assessed the situation if there was a fire? Have they been out to check their fire engines with ladders can manoeuvre under the bridge and around the corner? Has ELC invited them to attend a meeting with the residents to discuss access? ....No they haven't I have seen no reports etc so why are ELC putting peoples lives at risk? The JCR must remain open its entire length.

**Local Taxi firms** as well as the public need a road with no barriers as they use it regularly otherwise, they will be diverted for several miles adding to pollution and congestion.

**No traffic survey or management has been carried out by ELC** where are the statistics? I have seen none therefore they are choosing to close a road without any evidence to back it up. There is absolutely no reason to close it. It is a well-used vital road for the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. My family and I use it regularly. You cannot close a road to all vehicles without having completed a traffic management survey of the area and the road itself.

**By upgrading the road and keeping the road open** it ensures current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services, removal trucks and horse lorries without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened. The residents of JCR deserve a road and pavement that is maintained, An easy solution would be to put traffic lights on the bridge or right of way arrows after all Ormiston Bridge has this and the top of fishers road is narrow and vehicles use it without any issues. This road has been neglected by ELC for as many years as I care to remember and there have

been no accidents on it or the bridge. The road can easily be improved with traffic signals or priority signs, road repairs and resurfacing and a shared pedestrian and cyclist path. ELC repair and resurface other roads in EL I do not understand why they are not repairing this vital link between our communities and it's a direct access point from and to the A1. The road must remain open for its full length.

**The road has been neglected for years.** The JCR should be upgraded and repaired like any other road in ELC. Not being able to afford to repair it, as I have been informed by the roads department is no excuse not to repair and upgrade it. If it is closed it will still require upgrading and resurfacing. There is absolutely no reason to close this well used vital road. Only recently ELC resurfaced Gullane main street and a large section of road near Merryhatton and part of Fishers Road in Port Seton and a road in Longniddry and the road at the side of Chalmers Church Port Seton and numerous others so why not the JCR I have never seen such an appalling state of a road anywhere in Scotland in my life its shocking and ELC should be held accountable. Don't put up barriers instead repair and upgrade the road and keep it open.

**The Road is bordered by farmland, making it easy to widen.** The bridge over the A1 would benefit from Traffic Lights for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to use. With the County swarming with developers, money should be available to upgrade the existing infrastructure. Only recently 11.3 million has been obtained for the Power Station site why are ELC not funding or finding funding to repair and upgrade the Johnnie Cope Road.

**Active Travel.** ELC are promoting Active travel but by closing the JCR vehicles will be forced to travel further adding to pollution and climate change. Commuters who would normally travel by train will be caught up in the congestion at Church Street and Blindwells adding to it and causing delays of 40minutes or more. Many will miss trains and resort back to travelling by car. This is not encouraging active travel. I regularly use the road and leave the bypass to venture straight down JCR, if the barriers /gates are installed I will have to leave at Wallyford adding to the pollution, queues and congestion or drive further to Blindwells then back on myself. Waiting and travelling longer and further while my vehicle pollutes the air. There is already an Active Travel Route linking Prestonpans to Tranent called the Heugh. By closing the JCR you will be increasing and doubling in places the amount of cars travelling through our villages which goes against the concept of active travel. You will instead achieve poorer Air Quality within our local villages as you force vehicles to increase their journeys and create and add to congestion.

**Traffic lights on the bridge and speed control measures (bumps)** and resurfacing the road would make a huge difference to current safety issues. Pushing all the station traffic into accessing only from the Prestonpans side will increase the likelihood of accidents due to the sharp bend at the entrance to the JCR. Money should be spent on improving the road rather than closing it! Does ELC think by closing the road they would not have to repair it or is it that if they make it an active travel route they will receive funding. Personally I do not see why it cant remain open and incorporate all of these upgrades.

**The road under the railway bridge regularly floods.** We currently live in a world with climate change one of the results of this is flash floods and more rain. If the road floods as it has done how will the cars parked in the car park get out and what about people in mobility scooters and wheelchairs they will be trapped. By erecting barricades across this road, the implications are vast and ELC will be held to account if anyone is trapped or injured due to this decision. The JCR must remain open with no barriers so if there is flooding vehicles, mobility scooters, and wheelchairs are not trapped as they have no other way to get out except to phone ELC and wait for someone to arrive with a key to unlock the gates and I wonder realistically how long that would take. This idea is an antiquated one which will cost lives.

**The Power Station Site** It is important to remember that with the 11.3 million levelling fund, the Power Station site will be developed over the next two and a half years starting this spring.

- Inch Cape have planning permission for building a substation and onshore transmission works. They have finalised and secured their plans with ELC. They have stated that there will be an increase in HGV traffic using the coal road to Cockenzie.

This means there will be an increase of HGVs and construction traffic and machinery as well as employees vehicles on the A1 Bypass, Bankton Roundabout and the A198 to access the Power Station site. These roads are already congested add to this the traffic listed and it will increase greatly adding to congestion and pollution which will all increase. The Power Station site will be worked from 7am to 7pm, 5 and a half days a week with a continuous stream of vehicles using these junctions and roads. ELC have the opportunity to keep the JCR open by doing this it will help ease congestion at the Bankton Junction, the roundabout at the B1361 and at Blindwells.

- As well as this SeaGreen has in principle permission to build a substation on the site. More HGVs and more works traffic using these roads

- There is also to be a battery energy storage development built at the south of the substation. More HGVs and works traffic using these roads

The basis of the 11.3 million is to undertake site preparation and remediation works, to allow for future employment development. These works include: removal of the earthwork bunds surrounding the coal store and regrading that site to increase its developable area; using the bund material to infill the void where the power station stood; works to the underground cooling water tunnels; repair of the sea wall and improvement works to the John Muir Way.

It is quite clear that the power station site will be hugely developed which will increase the vehicles using these roads making them even more congested in the hot spot areas of Bankton Roundabout and Blindwells. By keeping the JCR open ELC can help reduce the congestion and pollution that will ensue.

- Add to this at the same time the creation of a cycle and pedestrian path on the B1361 and the traffic works and lights and closure of part of the road as this is created

- Add to this the housing development of a few hundred houses opposite Charles Phillips and son, Drummore House on the B1361 with the road works and traffic management systems and part closure that will ensue during the build. This will add to the congestion and queues of traffic.

ELC need to look at the bigger picture to see how the JCR road is absolutely vital to our communities. ELC have developed this area greatly with huge housing developments and a new village add to this the power station site and the amount of work and development happening there as well as the additional work to our roads to create a cycle pedestrian path an additional 300 houses at Drummore and it makes absolute sense to keep the JCR open to alleviate the mayhem that will ensue.

Do ELC really think closing the JCR road will help alleviate what will be the most congested roads in East Lothian. Absolutely not we need to keep it open, in this way, it will help alleviate the gridlock, congestion and pollution that is about to ensue.



All in all, this is not a well thought out proposal and just because a process was started and never completed is not a reason to close this road, which as I have said is a vital road for our communities and the residents and businesses who use it. The JCR is one of two direct routes linking the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent and must remain open for all to use. It is also a direct link to the A1 with an exit and entrance road within metres of the JCR. By keeping it open it also helps to alleviate the congestion at other hotspots in the area. (blindwells, Bankton Roundabout, the A198, Church Street, Gardiner Terrace, the B1361 etc)

**THE SOLUTION**

There is a solution....KEEP IT OPEN.....HOW?

There are ways to fund the work required on the JCR to keep it open and create a pedestrian and cycle path as well as giving access to all vehicles at the same time. Other villages have done this ie gullane to drem path, Beckys strip near North Berwick, the cycle path from blindwells to the train station, the improvements to dean woods in Longniddry, the resurfacing of the Longniddry to Haddington railway walk. All mainly achieved from funding. (Sustrans, community funds etc) There is a diverse range of people in our community who all want to see this road remain open for all to enjoy. The road just requires widening, resurfacing, some street lights and traffic lights installed at the bridge. ELC state it is too far and costly to run power to the bridge for traffic lights however with funding and the money created from all the new developments this can be achieved. Cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles can all share the road and if more land is required a portion can be purchased from the farmer although it is possible to use the grass verges which are large in themselves.

With the amount of resurfacing that has happened this month in East Lothian the JCR could have been resurfaced twice over.

Prestonpans should not be neglected in this way. If the road was in North Berwick, Dunbar, Gullane or Haddington I'm sure I would not be having to write a letter to object and justify why in this day and age a well-used road linking to the A1 should remain open. I hope you will make the right decision for the communities you serve.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

*Abbreviations  
JCR Johnnie Cope's Road  
ELC East Lothian Council*

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

**From:** [Redacted]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 15:49  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed closure of Jonny Copes Road, Prestonpans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear East Lothian Council,

I write to register my objection to closing this road to general traffic. It is a useful (albeit very poorly maintained) road that links Tranent and Prestonpans providing quick and easy access to the train station from Tranent and to the swimming pool. Closing it would increase the number of miles needed to travel between the two towns, increasing congestion on surrounding roads and increasing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint which is against all policy.

I trust you will see sense and not close this road

Yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 18 March 2023 22:58  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Jonnie copes road closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear east lothian council

I would like to put in my objections to the closure of jonnie copes road.

As a resident of bankton house the closure of this road will not only cause a incredibly large inconvenience to me, my family and other residents of bankton and the larger prestonpans/tranent area. It will impact the safety and lives of the residents of bankton house and the local area.

This is because the highest floor of bankton house cannot be reached by normal fire equipment and it must come from north berwick closing the road would greatly increase the time it takes for the correct equipment to arrive. As I'm sure you highly aware that in situations involving fire minutes means lives.

Another safety concern is I have seen many ambulances and fire engines going along jonnie copes road closing this would endanger the lives of people living in prestonpans/tranent.

A final thing is closing the road will increase the already congested road near blindwells is will increase journey times by up to a hour creating more traffic and increasing emissions. Which is going against the scottish governments net zero ambitions causing environmental damage

As a teenager without a driving licence closing this road would negatively impact my life.

However if this road is kept open as there are 13 homes in the bankton area paying the same council tax as other people adding streetlight would increase safety for me, other road users and everyone in the local area

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@live.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:14  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Johnnie Cope road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I write to you to note my objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road. This is a vital link between both our towns of Prestonpans and Tranent. It's clearly evident from a large scale lack of maintenance that the road has deteriorated into such a state the council feel it's easier to close it than repair/ rebuild it.

Has everything been considered, the people who live in this road, the commuters going to the train station, the emergency services who use this quick link to get between the towns.

I trust if we were in North Berwick, Dunbar or Haddington, then this wouldn't even get considered. However we are in the other end of the county, the part where every space available seems to be destroyed and developed for housing.

We have large scale developments going on all around Prestonpans & Tranent, notably all the strawberry corner houses and the new town of Blindwells.

It's hard to put into words the ludicrous ideas we have heard about gates/ barriers and keys, maybe though if a council officer or official would have taken the time to attend a community council meeting then it may be a bit easier to understand. Keys and barriers in this locus I trust will undoubtedly get vandalised and this could potentially lead to emergency vehicles being impeded from attending to whatever the incident may be.

The residents who live at Bankton haven't even been consulted, this I believe is unreasonable. I certainly wouldn't want to come off the bypass at Dolphinstone and have to pass my road end to go on a large detour via Tranent, towards Blindwells and back through Prestonpans just to get under the railway bridge to my home. If this is the route folk need to take it not only will make Gardiner terrace busier, there is a school entrance within a short walking distance of the end of this road, this could impact on the school children.

East Lothian council speak about climate emergency. Well adding additional journey times and volumes of traffic to these adjoining roads, will certainly do nothing for the local environment or the air quality.

Will the council be held responsible if a fire engine cannot attend to the houses at Bankton house due to being unable to get through the gates/barriers. Every second counts in a fire and this could mean the difference in life or death.

Come on East Lothian where is the logical thinking, very clearly evident that those who support this closure are not interested as it's not in their back yard!! I always thought the councillors were elected to work for your town and for the good of your community.

For the ever growing towns of Prestonpans and Tranent please keep this vital link open. Let's see it resurfaced/rebuilt, new traffic lights at the bridge over the A1 and some street lighting between Bankton house and the railway station.

One again I will reiterate I Object to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Prestonpans Resident & community councillor

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>

**Sent:** 07 March 2023 23:51

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Closure of Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to object to the closure of Johnny Cope Road. This is a road that is very useful for getting to the Prestonpans Railway Station. If the road is closed the journey is twice as long and adds to the congestion on the road past the new Blindwells Estate.

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 March 2023 15:13  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

I strongly object to the closure of JCR. My route on to the A1 would be through Wallyford or Strawberry Corner then back towards Tranent. Either way has significant disadvantages, either increasing congestion through Wallyford or turning right across oncoming traffic from Tranent. Please keep the road open to ALL traffic.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED].

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 22 March 2023 15:17  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnny cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am against this for reasons including  
For the residents who live there  
To use when the bypass is closed in other areas or I am going to Tranent and the road to transit via Meadowmill is closed

Please use some of our council tax to make this road fit for purpose for generations to come.  
Don't close it

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@sky.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 21:07  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objections to Johnnie cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Evening.

I would like to register my objection to the propose council of closing the Johnnie cope road. This is a relief road to support our access to get out of prestonpans in event of mayhems at Blindwells and wallyford due to no proper road infrastructure by the council who allowing new housing building before roads and drainages sizes etc lack of widen roads on main truck roads.

Council have neglected the Johnnie cope road on purpose no street lightening for people walking across or up and down the roads, not safe for cyclist due to excessive pot holes being patched up in bits and bobs instead stripping the whole road and redo them properly and taking out the wild bushes to make pavenment in it place.

We pay council taxes and we want to keep this open!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@live.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 08:38  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Point for keeping road open and upgrading

Link between communities and families

Reduction in traffic congestion

Access to Railway for Tranent

Less pollution due to less traffic build up.

Taking traffic away from Blindwells and Strawberry Corner where the new School opens soon.

For everyone that wants to save the Earth

This road reduces pollution and fuel consumption for local East Lothian residents who the council serve on their behalf. Not for them to get ideas and carryout without consulting the people they serve. This is not Edinburgh Council who do whatever they like and do not care about who they serve.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 07 March 2023 19:09  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear East Lothian Council

I write to express my objection to the planned closure of the Johnny Cope Road linking Prestonpans and Tranent.

Given the new houses being built that in Prestonpans and wallyford this road is the easiest and safest access to the A1.

I use this road on a regular basis and given the delays at blind wells and the busy village of wallyford I feel this a catastrophic closure for the residents of Prestonpans. I have lived in Prestonpans for many years and used this road all my driving life.

For the proposal of emergency services having s key is down right disposable these services save life's.

East Lothian council should consider this people who have elected them and listen to the residents voice

With thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
Sent: 08 March 2023 20:01  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Objection to Closure of Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I write to register my objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans. This is a much needed, essential thoroughfare for many local residents and has continued to be so for decades. The plans by ELC appear to be cost related rather than for safety reasons as originally cited as they have not even bothered to commission any kind of structural survey on the bridge. I would also be interested to see the stats regarding number of incidents that have taken place on this road over the years as I suspect these are low.

The Council have already failed to implement an appropriate infrastructure to support the hundreds of new houses being built at the Blindwells site and now they seem to be consciously planning to compound the current issues by closing the JCR?

An appropriate public consultation is required with relevant evidentiary support to show the real reasons why the Council seem hell bent on closing this road.

I have copied the local Councillors into this email as they seem to be unaware of the depth of feeling in the local community regarding this closure and think that only 40 objections have been logged. I would urge you both to do the right thing by your constituents and at the very least do your homework prior to any future discussions.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>  
Sent: 20 February 2023 12:00  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL (U226, JOHNNIE COPES ROAD) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2023

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please note I wish to object to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road, as outlined above.

My reasons for objecting to the closure are as follows.

1. By closing this road, this will push more traffic onto Gardiner Terrace / Bankton Terrace, Mid Road Prestonpans. That these streets are already inadequately policed from speeding motorists will only make the situation worse. Increased emissions and more speeding traffic is hardly fair for the local residents in Prestonpans.

2. By closing this road, this will push more traffic towards Blindwells new town. Due to the number of new houses in this area this will literally increase car journeys by the thousands on this stretch of road. Only a fortnight ago, motorists faced 20 minute delays and bus routes were

cancelled for days as the road simply couldn't cope with a set of temporary traffic lights!  
Increased emissions from stationary traffic in this area is hardly fair on local residents.

3. By closing this road, access will be denied to the South car park of Prestonpans railway station directly from Tranent on Johnnie Cope Road. This will a) deter people from using public transport and b) have a detrimental effect on wheelchair and pushchair users wishing to use Edinburgh bound rail services. This platform is inaccessible for wheelchair users from the North car park.

4. Dozens of new flats are nearing completion at the North end of Johnnie Cope Road adjacent to Prestonpans train station. To close an adjacent road just as these flats are finished is simply ludicrous. I'd be interested to know if, during the planning process for these flats, if reference was made to the potential closure of this road, or whether it was simply assumed this road would remain open as an access road. Perhaps you could enlighten me?

5. There is now a small shopping centre at the North end of Johnnie Cope Road adjacent to the new flats and the railway station. These shops including a Vet, a carpet shop, a pizza takeaway and a very busy Co-op attract a lot of traffic from approximately 6am to 10pm every day. That any southbound traffic will now be forced into the local busy streets, instead of directly accessing Johnnie Cope Road is very unfair on the residents of Prestonpans.

6. There are literally thousands of new houses being built in the West of the county. To close one of only two direct access routes from Prestonpans to Tranent is beyond belief. Indeed not only should this road remain open it should be subject to an upgrade and properly maintained as per other roads throughout the county e.g. traffic lights should be installed on the bridge, with the road surface relaid and marked accordingly.

7. To be perfectly frank, this proposal is an affront to the people of Prestonpans. This proposal seems to have been raised without any serious consideration to the needs and requirements of local businesses, residents, car users and railway commuters. This proposal must be dropped as a matter of urgency and the road improved and maintained, NOT closed.

Many thanks



**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 15:48  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

With regards the suggested closure of johnnie cope road .

I would like to object to this road closure as it is a main arterial route to Prestonpans rail station car park south for those living south of Prestonpans.

The road is also a link route between Prestonpans and Tranent.

Closure would force traffic onwards to Wallyford where car park is already full daily.

Alternatively push traffic down Church Street Tranent to Bankton junction which is already failing to handle existing traffic never mind the expected increase from Blindwells.

So there is zero logic in closing this road indeed an argument to enlarge the road would be more sensible.

I am sure simple measures could be installed to increase safety however I am unaware of any accidents on this road.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 February 2023 19:33  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road Proposed Road Closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,  
I wish to object to the proposal by East Lothian Council to close the Johnny Cope Road to vehicular access.

This is a popular road and used extensively by locals and small van deliveries in the area, it allows travel between the towns and Prestonpans avoiding the much congested Meadowmill / Bankton roundabouts.

My own experience recently leads me to believe that these roundabouts are rapidly becoming our very own version of Sheriffhall. The fact that the bus stop heading towards Tranent located before the roundabout has no bus bay to allow the bus to pull in does nothing to alleviate congestion and increases the build up of traffic approaching the round about.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:** 09 March 2023 15:17  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objection to the Closure of the Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to list below my objections to the closure of the above road.

1. I believe that this closure would risk the lives of the residents and animals located here.

Talking from personal experience when we had to call an ambulance after an accident in which someone was bleeding profusely from a head wound it was sent from West Lothian. Will they be able to access a key for the proposed locked gates. Or will they have to take an unnecessary detour adding to essential time.

2. When the bottom road floods I take it residents and people using the overflow car park will have to know in advance so that they can arrange for a key to be brought from Council Offices.

3. There is an historic building here. Does the council have no regard for the people living there or for the building itself for which they were happy to give a grant towards the restoration.



A fire engine of the size required would not be able to get under the bridge and valuable time would be lost whilst dealing with locating a key.

4. There is only one other road between Tranent and Prestonpans which is going to get busier with the development of the new town of Blindwells. Why would you close the second road which is the nearest one to the railway station.

5. The road has been neglected over the years and is now in need of maintenance. The bridge was built, I am sure, to specifications for enabling the road to be used as it is at present. Maintenance will have to be regularly carried out to enable emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles etc to safely use Johnnie Cope Road.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 08:05  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Johnnie Cope Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to object to the closure of the Johnny Cope Road. I reside in Prestonpans and have done for 17 years. I personally do not use the Road due to the conditions of the unkempt pothole Road but I also do not like having to reverse if traffic was coming over the bridge.

I used to go through Wallyford, then the amount of traffic lights that was put up, I realised the timing of my journeys were getting longer so used the Blindwells roundabout as it is longer to drive distance but didn't affect timings.

I would like to see Johnny Cope Road have traffic lights at the bridge ... and Road completely resurfaced. I would use this route if this was done ... especially now the traffic lights at Blindwells now affect journey time and the horrific placement of the bus stop will cause an accident. Twice in the last couple of months, buses have stopped there with their hazards on which has meant traffic has to overtake the bus, go up hill with oncoming traffic coming down the hill, visibility past the bus when parked is horrendous and i can see future accidents happening due to the awful placement of the new bus stop being on the actual road and a wee layby not being created especially when there is one on the opposite side of the road, and I'm now not comfortable using the blindwells route and want to have a short safe route to access the bypass without having to feel at risk due to measures placed without thinking of the volume of traffic and roads used which aren't safe to drive on.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 07:58  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please note my objection to the closure of the above road.

This road has become an artery from Tranent to Prestonpans especially because of all the new developments and vast amount of new builds. From placed signs I see developers have purchased land so there will be more new developments soon.

Tranent seems to be increasingly cut off from Prestonpans in the way of accessibility.

This road services the train station from Tranent and a more direct route instead of the back tracking driving that needs to happen driving around these new developments and putting pressure on Blindwells (recent roadworks causing havoc!) And Strawberry Corner, where even more hours are still to be built.

At one point in time there where roadworks in Prestonpans, each way on the top road (mid road) in and out of prestonpans and on the bottom (sea road) toward Musselburgh. It was IMPOSSIBLE to get out of prestonpans without sitting in road works unless you wanted to go to North Berwick! This road was necessary to avoid long lines of traffic polluting the town.

I believe this road not only should be kept open but upgraded and ideally traffic lights or some sort of help at the bridge to allow with flow if traffic as it's difficult seeing over this bridge.

I moved to Prestonpans 13 years ago and have noticed compared to other areas in East Lothian, it feels like the area are the poor relations, despite having the majority of new developments which must bring in an additional income in council tax compared to places that have more room and less houses built so far?

Therefore this road would help residents manoeuvre around the area, as stated important for train travel, surely we should be making it easier for people to use public transport?

Finally, emergency services will be hindered because of everything noted above. With proposed plans they should get out of unlock gates? Blue light ambulances, really...surely I have that wrong??

Thank you for registering out concerns.

Regards.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 06 March 2023 20:01

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sir/Madam

Closure of the JCR Is nothing short of nonsense. High time the road was monitored by a counting machine to let you know just how busy it can be.

I use this road, twice daily going from Tranent to Prestonpans to visit a relative. I am not a carer but need to make sure relative has eaten and taken meds. Twice daily is four journeys up and down. If I had to use Blindwells or Strawberry corner the journey time would take so much longer and use more fuel.

Can you imagine if the JCR was closed and like today with Church Street being closed the only choice would be Strawberry Corner, along with SO many other drivers.

This is a vital link for the community, with a vast increase in traffic from Blindwells, Tranent and Prestonpans, its unthinkable to only have two major routes to these areas. We need to keep our options open and be forward thinking.

Regards [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 18:08  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

"Dear Sirs

I want to protest in the strongest possible terms about East Lothian Council's plan to close Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans to vehicular traffic.

It may well be the case that the intention in 1986 was to close the road when the A1 dual carriageway was built, but this is now utterly immaterial. The road wasn't closed then and has been continuously used by motor vehicles.

ELC state that the road is now 'unsafe'. This is probably true to some extent but has arisen through the council's neglect of the road and failure to keep it repaired and upgraded to suitable standards for the traffic using it.

Johnnie Cope Road is a vital link between the ever-growing communities of Tranent and Prestonpans, there being only one other viable road linking the towns. Closing it will increase the distance driven by cars currently using the route, having a negative effect on carbon footprint.

The council have also stated that the road will become an active transport route for cyclists and pedestrians. If this is the case, the road is clearly unsuitable even for this and will require upgrading for safety reasons. How can cyclists and pedestrians safely share this route in its current design with combine harvesters, emergency vehicles and other vehicles which will still have access? If the funds have to be spent, they should be spent on improving the road for all traffic with footpaths, traffic calming measures and traffic lights at the bridge. In addition, there is already a perfectly good route for cyclists and pedestrians down The Heugh from Tranent which will soon link up with the new route from Blindwells to Prestonpans. Further, the most dangerous part of this road for me as a local runner, is at the top where the road meets the main Tranent to Wallyford Road. Major safety measures would need to be put in place to allow non vehicular traffic to safely cross this road to access the farm tracks and road leading to Fa'side Castle.

There is clearly very little public support for this road closure which is frankly just a lazy, cost-saving exercise without any proper planning, a proposal based on a decision made almost 40 years ago. This is a shocking example of a local authority riding roughshod over a local community without listening to their wishes.

I implore you to reverse this decision and allocate funds to upgrading Johnnie Cope Road to keep this historic and well-used route open to all.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@tiscali.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 21:31

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

**I am writing to let you know of my strong objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road.**

I live in Tranent and commute daily to Edinburgh, using the car park on the south side of Prestonpans, although I rarely drive along Johnnie Cope Road. The reason I don't use the road more often is the state of repair and the awkward single-track bridge. However, there have been numerous times over the last 10 years when I have had NO option but to use Johnnie Cope Road to drive home when the road under the bridge has been closed for repair or due to floods. I have heard that this is unlikely to happen again – have you seen the state of the potholes under the bridge at the moment?? I will not use the south car park at the station if there is any chance of being stranded, as I feel it would be an issue for my personal safety if I had to walk home alone. My options are to park in the north car park, on the road outside it, or drive further than necessary.

I also refer to the accident on the A1 flyover on 16<sup>th</sup> March. I need say no more.

The council is granting permission for more and more houses to be built at Blindwells with 1,600 at present, and more expected. As the majority will have 2 cars, we can expect in excess of 2,500 extra cars to be using the A198 in the very near future. Can you provide one valid reason to close any road in the vicinity when you are allowing so many more houses in the county?

The road is vital to maintaining vehicle access between two busy East Lothian towns and therefore I plead with you to repair Johnnie Cope Road, not close it.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

**From:** [Redacted]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 16 March 2023 19:23  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>; TSS@transport.gov.scot  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road Closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi There, I'm a long-term resident of Tranent, East Lothian. Who uses the Prestonpans train station to access my full-time job in Edinburgh every day. In order to make my way to the train station, My initial route is via the very important town-connection road Johnnie Cope Road (Birsley Brae). This journey will usually take me 6 minutes from Tranent Police Station. This same journey via Bankton Jct & Church Street will typically take me 10 minutes or more.

Over the last month, Bankton Jct/Church street has been closed too many times. This Junction is typical for high speed crashes, Busy A1 Traffic & Traffic that will soon be forced as the only way through every town south of Tranent, to Prestonpans. Johnnie Cope Road is a vital congestion-relieving road that should be upgraded and kept to high standards. If Johnnie cope road closes, and there's an issue at any point between Tranent/Church Street/Bankton Junction & Prestonpans (Which given the past 4/5 closures in the last 3 weeks alone) The only route will be to go through wallyford, adding an additional 15 minutes to my drive to Prestonpans Train Station from the Tranent Police Station.

In line with Scottish goals for net-zero, This should also be considered as a way to improve carbon neutrality. The Journey between the Tranent Police Station is a measly 1.6 Miles. With the same journey doubled if you take the much busier route via Church Str & Bankton Juct. This is not only an issue itself, but should there be any slow traffic (like there usually is on this badly

designed Major junction) will only add to this insanity (e.g the 40m I had to wait to get between Tranent and Prestonpans only 3 weeks ago, because of roadworks on Bankton Jct.) Should Bankton Jct be closed at any point, the only route to the vital train station is via Wallyford. This doubles the mileage from the previous number to 4.1 Miles!

Closing Johnnie Cope Road restricts access to Prestonpans Train Station to all of the following busy towns; Tranent, Elphinstone, The Saltouns, Ormiston, New Winton, Pencaitland, Macmerry & Haddington. Which leaves people having to use long, and gas-hungry busses & cars to get to city centre Edinburgh.

Lastly, Our Government wants people back on the rails after covid, closing Johnnie Cope Road will only do the opposite. Improving and keeping this vital road open can only be seen as a positive and not a negative.

Thank you very much for reading this email, I will be truly saddened by my local government if this vital road is closed to the public.

█  
Resident of East Lothian

**From:** █@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 10:46  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie cope road closure oposition

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear East Lothian council

I am emailing to express my opposition to the closure of the Johnnie Cope Road. We live in prestonpans and use this road regularly to access Tranent and beyond from Prestonpans to avoid traffic participatory at the Blindwells junction.

The Johnnie Cope Road is vital to reduce traffic congestion at Strawberry corner and Blindwells. It is also used for Tranent residents accessing the train station car park.

Yours sincerely

█  
**From:** █@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:18  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I hearby object to the proposed closing of this road. It is time for the council to start listening to the people that live in their area. We have the rights to use roads and not be restricted by inconceivably backwards planning.

Regards

█  
**From:** █@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 10:31  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I have no idea who in the council thinks it's beneficial to close the Johnnie Cope Road to mechanised traffic but, I'm writing to say it's one of the most ridiculous plans that ELC have come up with recently!

It's a very well used road, it just need appropriately repaired and maintained to benefit everyone and not just certain sections of transport.

Time ELC started doing their jobs to look after the residents and listen to their needs rather than over paid executives making carte Blanche decisions with no care for the impact on its residents.

Preston Crescent resident

**From:** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:24  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** JOHNNIE COPE ROAD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to strongly object to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road to all vehicles except for the emergency services.

This road is in constant use by all modes of of vehicles to access the train station and going to and from Prestonpans and Tranent.

With all the new developments at both Blindwells and on Edinburgh Road in Prestonpans where the amount of congestion will cause utter chaos to the people who live travelling between the towns.

I would strongly urge you to reconsider this closure for the safety of all road users and with all the extra traffic and pollution being caused you may regret closing the only alternative route open to everyone.

The two towns have expanded and continue to expand on an unprecedented scale that our once small communities now don't have the proper infrastructure to cope with the amount of traffic on our neglected roads. Closing this road would just add to the congestion.

This road needs a flow system set of lights at the bridge and a total resurface with new footpaths to bring it up to a decent standard for all to continue to use this well loved road.

I look forward to your response

Regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@sky.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 22:58  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To  
Service Manager, Legal and Procurement

I am writing to object to the order by ELC to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians/cyclists making it impossible for cars /vans to use it.

You must realise this road is in frequent use by people in Tranent and surrounding areas to access the train station and Prestonpans and vice versa.

My reasons are:

1. Quicker and less congested route to station and Prestonpans  
Strawberry Corner getting too busy since housing development which will only get worse as the housing estate expands.

2. Once High school at Wallyford is in operation this will lead to even more of an increase in local traffic.

3. Blindwells area is getting more and more congested. Again it will get much worse as that area becomes more populated.

4. ELC have given no consideration to this for local residents

5. No infrastructure has been put in place to accommodate all these new homes ultimately leading to more and more traffic.

6. As Tranent is also expanding at a rate on knotts there will be more local traffic with again no infrastructure to support it!

Therefore, closure of Johnnie Cope Road would fundamentally effect the locals who already use this on a daily basis.

I thought ELC were looking to keep traffic moving to stop congestion which cuts down on pollution. Making locals drive a longer distance than they gave to at the moment due to this road closure is ludicrous!!

Signed

[REDACTED]

User of Johnnie Cope Road

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** 09 March 2023 11:44

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Planned closure of Johnnie Cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to object to the plan to close this essential link road. Given the massive increase in population since the original plan for closure (which was over 30 years ago), I feel it is a disgrace for the council to try to cut off this access route to Prestonpans.

This route links two of the poorest areas in the East Lothian and support for these communities needs to be a priority. If this is all about saving money, then find the savings from elsewhere. These are choices that are in your power to make.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>  
Sent: 23 February 2023 20:57  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing to object to the order by East Lothian Council to redetermine Johnnie Cope Road as pedestrian/bicycle/emergency vehicle access only.

I am a resident of Tranent. The reasons for my objection are that I use the road to get to Prestonpans Train Station to travel into Edinburgh. Were the road to be shut, I would spend more time in my car driving to Newcraighall Station instead. I also take my two young children to a playgroup in Prestonpans. I recently attempted to go the "long way" from Tranent to Prestonpans however the temporary lights on the A198 were broken (not for the first time) which meant a 30 min wait in a car with crying children. Were it not for Johnnie Cope Road, we would not have made it to the playgroup at all.

I would be grateful if you could consider my objection.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
Sent: 23 March 2023 20:48  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to voice my objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road. I am secretary of Prestonpans Community Council and have sat in disbelief at several meetings listening to local councillors tie themselves in knots over the ownership of the road. In fact, it's only in the last month or so that they admitted that the council are responsible for maintaining the road, Transport Scotland the bridge.

I am old enough to remember Prestonpans before the new A1, indeed, JCR was a vital link between the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent at a time when those communities were a fraction of the size they are now.

I walk there most days with the dog, and the road is a well used road which contradicts your original reason for its closure.

On Thursday 16th March there was an accident at the roundabout at the Meadowmill junction of the A1 which closed the road. The traffic on JCR was treble the usual amount and had JCR been closed to cars, the diversion would have been via Wallyford, adding a significant amount of time to a journey.

Which brings me to my next point. How are the emergency services supposed to navigate whatever barrier is put up? Noone has been able to answer this, and considering council officers declined our invitation to attend CC meetings, we are still in the dark.



Bankton house residents whose businesses rely on access from the south have no idea what will happen to their businesses and fear for their lives should an ambulance or fire engine be delayed by looking for a key and opening a barrier.

The access from the north, under the bridge is in a terrible state - the part you claim to maintain. Should access to the station close from the south, that unsafe and impractical junction will see a significant rise in the number of cars and taxis using it. Can you guarantee the safety of pedestrians and wheelchair users?

My final point is that nowhere else in the whole county would the council close a vital road linking two of the biggest communities in East Lothian. Prestonpans and Tranent have endured mass house building without improved infrastructure, Prestonpans is having our grassy verges pulled up to lay a concrete path from Blindwells to the train station. This path is not needed. It is environmental vandalism imposed on our communities by a council who only think about us when it's to, quite frankly, shaft us.

Prestonpans and Tranent have at least doubled in size since the new A1 was built in 1986 and the council decided to close the road which of course didn't happen. Then in 2020 you tried again claiming that the road was unnecessary. Fast forward to 2022/3 and again, the goalposts have changed to 'unsafe' - despite allowing vehicles of varying size and weight to continue to use it. When Blindwells is complete the amount of traffic is going to significantly increase further, and your solution is to close roads to cars. This is ridiculous. Congestion will increase at both Meadowmill and Wallyford as folk drive to the train station. The environmental damage to those communities could be severe.

It is abundantly clear that this is a cost saving exercise without a second thought for the people for whom the closure would be extremely detrimental. It's extremely disappointing for me as someone who has watched their hometown increase in population and decrease in investment. A poor show.

Best,

██████████, Prestonpans.

**From:** ██████████@yahoo.co.uk>

**Sent:** 07 March 2023 10:42

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam

I am emailing to register my objection at the proposed closure of Johnny Cope Road.

Should this proposal be put into practice, it will cause the lives of residents and other area users to be put at unnecessary risk. The strategy put forward for access by emergency vehicles is simply not good enough and is likely to be successfully challenged on a legal basis in the eventuality of accidents or other serious situations.

Added to this, the inconvenience to residents, users of the veterinary physiotherapy business at Bankton and visitors wishing to access the battle site will be enormous.

There can be no real reason for closing this road that will outweigh the potential risks and difficulties that would arise as a result.

Therefore, I urge East Lothian Council to seriously reconsider this proposal and put local people first.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

(A regular visitor to the physiotherapy business)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>

**Sent:** 07 March 2023 08:50

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing this email to place my objection of the closure of Johnnie Copes Road which runs between Tranent and Prestonpans, East Lothian.

I am a resident at Bankton House Steading and find the proposed closure of this road to be very concerning.

This is a VERY busy road and instead of closing it I actually believe that it needs MAJOR upgrades to make it a suitable road for cars/walkers/cyclists a like which right now it is not. First of all it needs to be completely re-tarmaced and widened. Every so often the pot holes are filled however it never lasts long due to the volume of traffic which uses it. A traffic light system also needs to be introduced on the narrow bridge above the A1 just like at the bottom of the road at the train station. There are many occasions where vehicles have to reverse all the way back to let other cars passed and when walking along this road it can cause added dangers for pedestrians too.

There are no pavements for most parts of the road and the pavement that is there towards the train station is inadequate for buggies/wheelchairs and there is no street lighting either to walk home from the train station.

I also believe the closure of this road will have a detrimental impact to us as residents meaning we will not have the required emergency service vehicle access as well as the need for deliveries or removal lorries who cannot enter from the Prestonpans side due to the low bridge.

The road is integral to both towns and many people use it to access the train station. If it is closed it only means additional journey times and an added build up of traffic at the new blind Wells Estate side which is also concerningly large and will make the volume of traffic in and around that area even higher.

I believe many people hold the same views as above and hope that they are considered seriously instead of keeping the road open with minimal effort to upgrade it from the council, or worse close it with no upgrades.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@phonecoop.coop>  
Sent: 23 March 2023 18:29  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Jonny Cope Road Closure objection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a frequent visitor to the area and I am extremely concerned over the closure of this local road to public vehicles. I believe this to be unnecessary and potential detrimental to both the people and businesses that live on the the road and potential future development in this area. There is also the issue of the increased distances current road users will be required to make increasing vehicle pollution on the roads the traffic will be forced onto. Looking at the reasons given by yourselves for the closure your reasons do not fit with those of the people affected who live and work along this route.

All the communities around this road are increasing in size and at some point the fields between Preston Pans, Wallyford and Tranet will be developed, this is the only road with access under the railway and the council will then be forced to reopen it as there is not sufficient capacity on the other roads in the network for all the traffic it would create. The road has services and would be easy to widen making it the obvious supply road for any new builds.

Emergency vehicles need full access 24/7, any gate, bollards or pinch points to stop through traffic may result in emergency vehicle access being blocked. You cannot guarantee where those vehicles will be coming from or rely on keys or codes being shared with the services. This is putting lives on the line. Given the proximity of the ambulance base to the road its also removing the ability for them to reach people in other communities within target response times.

The location of this road makes it a vital link with public transport, reducing pollution and reducing the increase in private vehicle ownership. The road can be reclassified as it has been in other council areas as a pedestrian priority route without stopping traffic being able to travel the length of the road.

The Station parking can only be accessed on the south side when the road is not flooded under the bridge under the restricted road plan, without this parking the residential streets around the station have selfish parking stopping them from accessing their homes and businesses. Likewise then the water under the bridge prevents vehicular use it also stops pedestrians and other road users using the parking and if they have parked on that side how are they to get their vehicles out so they can get home.

Reviewing all the information provided by others, the consultation process adopted by the council is biased in favour of closing a road on the basis it was planned 20 years ago. Many things have changed in that time including government policies of reducing vehicle emissions and improving the environment we live in, closing this road meets none of that. Recent requests for additional evidence by residents and the Community Councils appears to have gone unheard by Council Officials and I have been unable to find sufficient evidence in the information made available by the council for the forced closure of this route. By contrast all the information made public by those fighting this closure has made it clear the road is used, its wanted and its necessary. The Bridge over the A1 is owned and Maintained by Transport Scotland and that maintenance has to continue , to use it as a closure argument is not valid. Its not part of the council budget.

I therefore object to the closure of this road as a through route.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 18:46

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnny Cope Rd

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening

I strongly object to the closure of Johnny Cope Road, and my reasons are that I use it frequently to travel to the A1. It is much quicker than going through Wallyford, as the additional traffic lights and the volume of traffic is horrendous. If this road is closed, all of the roads out of Prestonpans will be carrying this very large volume of traffic, and the congestion will just get worse.

It's ok building all these new builds, but don't think a lot of thought went into the volume of traffic that it created. Also, with the new high school at Wallyford, the traffic is going to get even worse. I reckon my journey to work will double.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 10:33

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I object to the closure of this road, access should be maintained to help the local businesses and residents and to help congestion.

With Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 09:02

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband to formally object to your publicly stated plans to close the Johnnie Cope road to cars and vehicles. We have been local residents in Prestonpans for 12 years and feel this is an essential access point. It is a road we use at least weekly to access Tranent and we use the train station multiple times a week. Despite the poorly maintained state of the road, it is still a far quicker route onto the A1 heading east for us than travelling to Strawberry Corner.

The closure of this road would mean increased traffic and congestion at both Strawberry Corner and Blindwells. The Blindwells junction is already significantly more congested in the last six months due to the addition of very slow to change traffic lights.

The closure of the Johnnie Cope road is also of significant concern to passengers accessing Prestonpans railway station. Those who need wheelchair access or pushchair access to the Edinburgh side or just want to access the station at all from Tranent will face a very much longer detour to get to the station. And will this be accessible at all in the event of flooding which happens at frequent intervals under the bridge access from the Prestonpans side? It is possible people would end up stranded.

We are also concerned that the restricted nature of the low bridge from the Prestonpans end and the closure of the road from the Tranent end would be a significant safety issue for the small number of residents who live on the road. How for example could a fire engine safely reach these people in the event of a fire?

Ideally we feel some maintenance of the road is very much overdue. The bridge would benefit from something such as a traffic light system to prevent people having to reverse to allow someone coming the other way to cross. Given the huge increase in housing in both Tranent and Prestonpans this is surely not an unrealistic option and well warranted given the high numbers of residents in both towns?

I do hope you will reconsider this decision, we feel that taking away this essential access is detrimental to both towns and to us as regular users. It is also evident that it is a well used route by all sorts of vehicles.

Thank you.



**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 February 2023 17:08  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To  
Service Manager, Legal and Procurement

I am writing to object to the order by ELC to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians/cyclists making it impossible for cars /vans to use it.

You must realise this road is in frequent use by people in Tranent and surrounding areas to access the train station and Prestonpans and vice versa.

My reasons are:

1. Quicker and less congested route to station and Prestonpans Strawberry Corner getting too busy since housing development which will only get worse as the housing estate expands.
2. Once High school at Wallyford is in operation this will lead to even more of an increase in local traffic.
3. Blindwells area is getting more and more congested. Again it will get much worse as that area becomes more populated.

4. ELC have given no consideration to this for local residents

5. No infrastructure has been put in place to accommodate all these new homes ultimately leading to more and more traffic.

6. As Tranent is also expanding at a rate on knotts there will be more local traffic with again no infrastructure to support it!

Therefore, closure of Johnnie Cope Road would fundamentally effect the locals who already use this on a daily basis.

I thought ELC were looking to keep traffic moving to stop congestion which cuts down on pollution. Making locals drive a longer distance than they gave to at the moment due to this road closure is ludicrous!!

Signed

[REDACTED]

User of Johnnie Cope Road

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: 07 March 2023 00:10

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to order to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians cyclists and authorised vehicles only

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Service Manager, Legal and Procurement, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA

I am writing to object to the order to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians cyclists and authorised vehicles. This will effectively close the road at one end, leaving the only access for people who live and work on the road via a railway underpass at the opposite end. This is too low for use by many vehicles, including fire appliances.

I object to this order on the grounds of health and safety of people who live, work or otherwise use the road. If there is a fire, road traffic collision or other emergency on the road, rescue vehicles will be unable to attend, or at least will be significantly delayed if they must unlock the proposed gates to the road at the non height-restricted end.

In addition, I object to the order on the grounds there has been insufficient consultation with stakeholders impacted by it, including those who live, work or otherwise use the road.

I hope my objections will be given full consideration by East Lothian Council and the order will be reversed.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: 20 February 2023 22:16

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the closure of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear sirs,

I have resided in Prestonpans/Port Seton for several years and actively use the above road to avoid the increasing volume of traffic which builds up at rush hour at the new blindwells estate. I feel the closure of Johnnie Cope Road would inconvenience so many commuters who often find themselves sitting in traffic for lengthy periods using the alternative route. This is not only an inconvenience but also bad for the environment sitting idle for periods of time when there is an alternative route that being Johnnie Copes Road. This road connects communities and should not be closed. I hereby note my objection.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 12:18  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

Please note my request for Johnnie Cope Road to remain open. This is essential for the infrastructure especially taking into account the increase in population with the building of so many new houses.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 23:05  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to object to the closure of Johnny Cope Road. The closure would cause more congestion on the other busy roads in the area which are getting more and more houses built.

This is complete madness by ELC, we pay for services and you need to listen to your constituents.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@blackrock.com>  
**Sent:** 22 March 2023 10:40  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objection to Order 2023 - U226, Johnnie Copes Road

**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my objection to the above proposed order, for the below reasons.

**The importance of the route and unsuitability of alternatives**

As you know, despite a population of some 12,000+ and growing, Tranent does not have its own railway station. Prestonpans Station is a vital travel route for Tranent residents and Johnnie Cope's Road in turn is a vital route to get there. The alternative options are unsatisfactory and unsuitable. Using my own circumstances as an example, I live in Bankpark Grove and travel to work in Edinburgh city centre. At present, my journey to the station is 1.2 miles, a simple and quick journey avoiding major junctions and both town centres. Under the proposal, I would be required to take a loop either west, increasing the journey to 3.8 miles, or east, increasing the journey to 2.7 miles. In both cases, in addition to increasing the distance which of course has environmental implications, I would be required to travel through built up (and growing) town and residential areas which are already congested. As you are well aware, all of these areas are in the process of having hundreds more houses built which will already put an additional strain on the A198, A199 and B1361 – namely the new developments outside Wallyford at Strawberry Corner to Dolphingstone and of course the enormous new Blindwells development. For me, the additional distance and time, taking into account the added congestion, could be the difference between being able to collect my son from nursery on time or not. I cannot see any benefit to sending the current 'Johnnie Cope traffic' on these alternative routes which are already set to become more and more busy and congested.

**The road itself**

East Lothian as a rural/semi-rural county is criss-crossed by hundreds of minor roads joining its towns and villages, and Johnnie Cope's Road is no less suitable than any of them. The current issues with the road stem from a historic lack of maintenance which is easily rectified by repairing the road surface and managing it on an ongoing basis in the same way as any of the other minor roads in the county. To help with traffic flow, the narrow road bridge crossing the A1 could be managed by simply installing a set of reactive traffic lights, identical to those already in place where the road goes on to cross under the railway – the section you intend to keep open – which work extremely well. These solutions are not complicated, difficult or expensive in the scheme of the Council's budget.

Many, many residents of both Tranent and Prestonpans will be negatively impacted by this plan which will have knock-on impacts to residents of the surrounding areas. I would implore the Council to reconsider this proposal.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Analyst | Client Assets (CASS) Governance & Oversight

Mob: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]66@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 20 March 2023 15:23  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I would like to register my opposition to the Council's plan to close Johnnie Cope Road.

I feel that the road has suffered years of neglect by the Council, and now they are using this as the reason to close it down.

It is a popular route for commuters wishing to catch the train at Prestonpans Station and reduces congestion at the Meadowmill and Wallyford roundabouts.

I feel it is a very short sighted decision. Instead I think the Council should invest in this road by resurfacing it, and installing traffic lights on the bridge.

With the population of East Lothian growing the Council should be improving the road infrastructure, not reducing it.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hw.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 20:43  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure proposed closure of Johnnie Cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to raise concerns over the proposed closure of Johnnie cope road to traffic

- the closure would impact those regularly travelling between Prestonpans and Tranent
- The proposed gate/bollards with emergency services being given a 'key' will slow response time and put lives in danger.
- The new houses being built at blindwells will increase traffic having another road open with easy access to the bypass will help spread the traffic and help everyone stay moving

Please note this email as a formal objection to the road being closed to public traffic.

Thank you,  
Kind regards.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 11:35  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Copes Road, Tranent

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning

I would like to state my objection to the closure of this road to cars. To remove this leaves us in a position where we are unable to access trains on time to commute to work which seems ludicrous.

Regards  
[REDACTED]  
Tranent Resident

[REDACTED]  
Dear Sir,

I strongly object to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road. As a long-standing client of the physiotherapy business based at Bankton stables it is clear that the tight corners around the railway bridge, and level of traffic around Prestonpans station, do not permit sufficient access to Bankton stables. The road needs to remain open from the Tranent end, with traffic lights introduced on the bridge over the A1, to improve safety for all users of Johnnie Cope Road.

[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 21:11  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Copes road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To who it may concern,

I am emailing in regards to the planned closure of Johnnie Copes Road linking Tranent and Prestonpans. I've been directed to this email address to lodge our objection.

This is a road that our family use at least 4 times a week, and saves a much longer drive via Strawberry corner or Blindwells to reach Prestonpans train station. Living off Birseley Brae, it's a 2 mile drive from our home to the train station via Johnnie Copes road. If we were to go via the A199 to strawberry corner and then back on ourselves on the B1361 it's 4.5 miles, and via Blindwells it's 4 miles. Both of these options take us past massive housing developments which are becoming busier and busier with traffic, and are areas we would prefer to avoid if we can. Why add to the pressure on these roads and roundabouts when there is a perfectly good access road already in place?

Responsive traffic lights in my opinion are required on the bridge over the A1 on Johnnie Copes road, and clearly some extensive resurfacing works as the road is a complete liability as it stands. But it is an extremely well used and handy cut through, for so many of us that use the train.

It would certainly put me off using the train if Johnnie Copes road was to close, at a time when we should be doing everything in our power to encourage more use of public transport.

I sincerely hope that this road can remain open for the convenience of locals who rely on it so heavily.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:53

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I wish to OBJECT to the plan proposed by East Lothian Council to close the Johnnie Cope Road to mechanised traffic, one of only two direct routes between the growing populations of Prestonpans and Tranent.

I believe this road should be repaired and upgraded to accommodate all users. Speed-calming measures and pavements should be introduced, where appropriate, and traffic lights put in place on either side of the bridge.

There is already a segregated active travel route between Prestonpans and Tranent just a few hundred yards to the east, in desperate need of further investment to make it safer and more appealing. The idea that a local authority can simply close a section of B-road, that it has failed to adequately invest in for decades, and simply rebrand it as an active travel route is simply unacceptable and quite outrageous.

With Blindwells growing rapidly, the adjacent section of the A198 can barely cope now accommodating users to and from Prestonpans, Cockenzie & Port Seton, Longniddry, North Berwick, Aberlady, Drem and Gullane. Two recent problems along this overburdened stretch (roadworks and a serious RTA) caused immense chaos to local communities, including massive tailbacks lasting up to an hour at peak times and severe bus service disruption.

There is simply no justification for closing a road that services such significant population densities and I will continue to object in the strongest possible terms until East Lothian Council makes a convincing case to persuade me that this is anything other than a cynical attempt to save money on road repairs.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 17:33

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

I'm emailing to state my objection to the planned closure of this road. Such a road is essential due to the rapidly expanding populations in the area and the large increase in traffic. It is part of the crucial infrastructure of this area and should go hand in hand with the house building plans.

Closure of the road leaves only one feasible route between Tranent and Prestonpans and that route is not well developed in some parts. It is essential that the Johnnie Cope road not only remains open but that funds are diverted into its redevelopment into a safe route as part of the regeneration of the whole area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 10:37  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** OBJECTION to closure of Johnnie Copes road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm writing to object to the closure of Johnny Copes road.

This road is used by myself via car on a nearly daily basis. It's an essential local road/short cut used by many.

It needs resurfaced and traffic lights put in at the bridge, this will fix many issues that are claimed to be there..

We also use it for riding our horses from Prestonpans to tranent as it joins Birsley Brae/Faside Castle road and avoids the busier main roads.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 20:36  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** OBJECTION to Proposed Closure of Johnny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

I am a resident of Tranent and I writing to strongly object the proposed closure of the Johnny Cope road.

I do hope the council have taken time to read each objection that the people of East Lothian have taken time in writing and genuinely consider ensuring access remains.

The residents of Tranent and Prestonpans have faced growing populations over the years with new houses built in every corner of our towns. Having the council stand up for our local people

would be a small win given the challenges we face with traffic and overcrowding in our area due to the increasing population.

Please chose to use your power for good and deliver on what the people want.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 12:48  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Consultation to close Johnnie Copes road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

Pleas take this email as an objection to the closing of the Johnnie Copes road between Prestonpans and Tranent.

This road is a vital link for many people and no alternatives are available when there are issues at Blindwells without long detours.

The excuse that the road could not be closed in 1986 because the closure was illegal is moot as the County is a very different place to what is was then.

This is a very safe road for all traffic with very few incidents on it involving any sort of traffic and it should be further improved with a traffic light system at the bridge.

It would seem that if the coucil fulfilled theri duties to care for this road their would be no issue with it at all.

As it is, the road condition is a disgrace and the council are to blame, making one wonder if the council are deliberatley allowing this road to disintegrate to allow this to be used as an excuse to close it.

Fulfill your obligations and keep the road fit for prupouse.

Do not close it. If the decision is taken to close it , expect legal action to follow from large numbers of members of the public who live in the area and use this raod on a daily basis.

Yours

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@talktalk.net>  
**Sent:** 07 March 2023 18:45  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road prestonpans/Tranent

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

RE objection to closure of Johnnie cope road

I am a resident of Tranent and i am completely shocked that the closure of Johnnie cope road is even being considered!

The johnnie cope road is a direct link from Tranent to Prestonpans.

I use this road every other day to access the train station that takes me straight to Edinburgh and also to gain access to Prestonpans.  
It is vital that easy access to the train station remains open in this day and age when the Scottish government is pushing everyone to use public transport to reduce CO2 emissions.

To access Prestonpans from Blindwells area is becoming even more harder with the amount of houses that has been build the traffic coming of the bypass and the traffic within the blindwells area is only going to get worse by the more people staying there.

Also with the closure of Church street this week everyone can clearly see the importance of the Johnnie Cope Road it is a vital road with direct access to prestonpans that we need to keep open esp people that need to be able to access the train station.

I will say that Johnnie cope road does need work done to it. It clearly needs resurfaced and traffic lights put on either side of the bridge to be alot more safer. Just like the traffic lights that was put under the bridge at Prestonpans side.

I hope my view is taken on board. Please keep Johnnie Cope Road Open and spend some Money that we pay to improve it. We need to have quick easy access to our Train station to get to work in Edinburgh.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Resident of Tranent

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 March 2023 20:32  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Keep Johnnie Cope Road Open

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

We wish to add our names objecting to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road as the road is an right of way dating back to the 1700s.

Keeping this small important road open is a must and would certainly benefit from substantial Road repairs and traffic lights situated for safety of all road users especially at the road bridge and exit from the back of the train station.

The amount of houses that are being constructed and built within Prestonpans, Bankton, Tranent areas have and are vastly increasing the population. Therefore road users have also increased so that is another reason why this road should remain open as an option/ access to the rear car parking for Prestonpans Station.

Hopefully our Councillors are looking at this logically.

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
Prestonpans

**From:** [REDACTED]@me.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 12:18  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I write to formally object to this road closure, Road capacity in the area is already under pressure losing a viable option that simply requires some investment is unacceptable.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 18 March 2023 14:15  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Repurposing Johnnie Cope Road - Objection - Site postcode – EH33 1NG

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

FAO Service manager, Legal and Procurement, John Muir House, Haddington, EH41 3HA  
18th March 2022

Please note that Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council wish to lodge an objection to the proposal to repurpose the Johnny Cope Road. The grounds for this objection are that we believe that this would impact negatively on the already difficult traffic congestion situation in Tranent High Street and we would urge the council to consider the plans for the Johnny Cope Road in the wider context of traffic management and parking plans for Tranent.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Chair of Tranent & Elphinstone community Council

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 18:53  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of The Johnnie Cope Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern.

Please reconsider the ridiculous notion of closing this vital road. It connects people in two villages, provides access to the train station and knocks vital time off travel journeys for community care workers. I cant see how closing this road is beneficial other than to cut council upkeep costs. I simply dont buy the reasons given in the articles I have read.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Prestonpans resident and community care worker.

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 16:02  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:**

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I write to object to ELC's order to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians cyclists and authorised vehicles. I firmly believe this road should remain open.

I use the road regularly to go to Tranent and to access the train station car park. And if closed, I have to drive to Bankton Roundabout and Blindwells which has lots of queuing traffic and delays, adds to pollution and cost me more in fuel and increase congestion.

The road under the railway bridge gets flooded and cars and people will get trapped if the road is closed to vehicles.

We have huge housing developments around Prestonpans, Wallyford, Blindwells & Tranent & East Lothian Council should be keeping roads open not closing them down. The Johnnie Cope Road is a vital road linking communities & is used and needed.

Emergency Services need access & to say they will be given a key to gates is impractical. Gates can get vandalised & if not opened, people's lives could be at risk.

Can a fire engine get under the railway bridge with ladders on board to reach a house that is 5 stories high?

There has been no consultation with residents about this closure and how it may affect us all. No one to answer our questions and no reports and evidence for this closure.

East Lothian Council has not maintained the road & they should be made resurface its entire length. It could be argued they let it fall into a state of disrepair to strengthen their case to close it. Other roads in the county appear to be getting repaired but not the Johnnie Cope Road.

I understand that East Lothian Council say the bridge over the A1 is unsafe, but this is not the case & where are their structural engineer reports, why has Transport Scotland not had their say? Would they allow a weakened bridge over a busy A1 to continue?

There is enough room for a cycle and pedestrian path on the Johnnie Cope Road as well as a road and there is funding available. There are thousands of houses being built in East Lothian all paying council tax, only recently the power station site gained 11.3 million in levelling funding for regeneration.

There are no additional roads being created in East Lothian to cope with all the additional traffic so why not keep it open and upgrade it. It is needed.

**From** [REDACTED]@btinternet.com>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 16:28

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope's Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

The obvious question is "can a current or future fire engine fit under the rail bridge to access Bankton House?". It has already been destroyed twice by fire, as recently as 1966. Given it is a well used "local road " only, and the bridge was originally built to be able to hold agricultural vehicles and farm vehicles it can more than continue to hold passenger cars. Agricultural vehicles were far heavier when the bridge was built than cars are now. Unnecessary and dangerous (for residents of Bankton House) to close it now. Common sense should prevail.

Regards,



[REDACTED]

(Relative of Bankton House resident)

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 07:15  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road Closure - Rejection

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

I am writing to you to express my rejection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

This road has been a right of passageway for a lot of years and I strongly believe that it should continue to be just that.

It does not make sense that you would install locked gates, this could mean emergency vehicles are losing valuable time. It will increase journey times for everyone who would normally use this road.

Johnny Cope Road has been very much needed during accidents at the Blindwells roundabout. It is also used to get to the bypass from Tranent to miss out all the temporary lights at Wallyford which has caused traffic congestion.

We are supposed to be trying to reduce our carbon footprint, but by closing this road you will be making vehicles increase their journey times by forcing them to take a longer routes.

You are increasing the population of Prestonpans, Tranent, Wallyford and Blindwells but you have not increased any of the roads infrastructure. It certainly does not make sense to take this important road away from us!

It appears that East Lothian Council prefers traffic congestion, instead of trying to keep traffic flowing. Traffic congestion pollutes the air more.

East Lothian Council are supposed to support and work for the residents of East Lothian, the residents of East Lothian want this road kept open.

There should be money spent on Johnny Cope Road to bring it up to a safe standard and it should be properly maintained along with other roads on the network.

I do hope that you will listen to what your residents want and will keep this road open.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:43  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road - keep it open  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to object to ELCs proposal to close the above road.  
The Johnnie Cope Road should be repaired and appropriately upgraded for the benefit of ALL users rather than simply closed to mechanised traffic.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 21:38  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Sirs

I refer to the above and reject the proposal to close this road in the strongest terms.  
The contempt the council has shown to the community of East Lothian, specifically Prestonpans is unprecedented.  
No clear governance of how the decision was made, or the rationale behind it. No transparency or incline of the swell of public interest this would raise.  
The road should be kept open, upgraded for the road and pavements fit for purpose with adequate lighting and traffic management to allow safe passage on the single lane bridge.  
Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:23  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Jonny Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

We as a family object to Jonny Cope Road closing.

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 09:34  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I use this road regularly. This road has been open as long I can remember and I am 72. I don't see why this road should be closed at all, when the by-pass was built the bridge in question must have been sturdy enough to take heavy farm equipment for ploughing etc so why not cars, or do you just not want to have to maintain the road?

Commuters from all around our area in Prestonpans use this road for rail services, and since Blindwells started to take shape that road is now a joke.

OR

Is the intention to move the rail station from Prestonpans to Blindwells!!

All the road needs is two sets of traffic lights at the bridge and resurfaced.

I can't believe this is happening I have always prided myself that East Lothian is a Labour constituency who have always helped and nurtured their community, not held it back WHAT HAS CHANGED?

KEEP JOHNNIE COPE ROAD OPEN

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 22:41  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Jonnie cope road closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my objection to the proposed road closure to mechanical vehicles. As a disabled person driving a mobility adapted vehicle to go regularly to Tranent to use both shops and medical and leisure facilities i need to use daily this road closure will greatly affect my daily commute. I would like to suggest that council instead invest money in re surfacing tarmac widening road where possible and installing a traffic light system at each side of the A1 jonnie cope bridge so traffic can safely cross over and not cause undue stress to the bridge due to load of cars going across.

Also the closure of this road would affect the train station and its passengers.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 March 2023 14:49  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

I am writing to advise of my objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road which links Prestonpans and Tranent.

As a resident of Prestonpans, I am someone that uses this passage way regularly be that to visit Tranent for my grocery shopping or more often than not, to access the A1. As I'm sure you're fully aware, the recent developments either side of Prestonpans at Blindwells and

Wallyford have had a significant impact of the ease of movement in and out of Prestonpans which now feels 'landlocked' by these new developments. The increased amount of traffic from these developments as well as the existing pressure on the roundabout between Prestonpans, Blindwells and the coal road to Port Seaton - from travellers from North Berwick all the way to Longniddry, makes it nigh on impossible to move freely in or out of Prestonpans at any given time, especially around rush hour.

The Johnnie Cope road, significantly alleviates this pressure on the access and egress to Prestonpans by allowing us to head to the A1 without passing through Blindwells or Wallyford, both of which are hugely congested areas already, without all the new residents that will be moving into these new properties in the coming months and years. It is also extremely useful access to the train station for Tranent's residents wishing to use the service.

The removal of access to use this route will result in even more congestion at the Blindwells and Wallyford ends of Prestonpans and will also have a detrimental effect of the rail service given how difficult it will be for people from Tranent to access the station due to the traffic and the much longer journey to get there.

I understand the road is quite narrow however out with the bridge that spans the A1, 2 vehicles are always able to pass without issue. The only slight issue is the bridge itself which only allows one vehicle at a time however drivers manage to navigate this without any issue on a daily basis. As this road becomes more of a throughfare, it may be worth considering traffic lights at the bridge which I think would be a welcome addition but are by no means necessary.

I think to close this road would be a huge mistake and a massive inconvenience for the residents of Prestonpans and Tranent, not to mention the knock on affect this will have on the communities of Blindwells and Wallyford.

I hope ELC will reconsider their stance on this and work with the community to find a way to keep this extremely important access road open.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** 12 March 2023 16:48

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to the redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern.

I object to the re-determination of the road on the grounds it will further disrupt the flow of traffic around Tranent.

There is a huge increase in house building in the locality with apparent little regard to upgrading infrastructure in advance.

The road should be upgraded to allow vehicular access as a through road and to provide connection between communities and access to local services.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

To whom it may concern,

I strongly object to the closure of the Johnnie Cope Road. My reasonings are the following:

1. It is essential link between Tranent and Prestonpans.
2. Helps reduce traffic on surrounding road.
3. Blindswell development already causing alot congestion to current roads and the development has only at phase 1/2.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
Sent: 12 March 2023 12:36  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Proposed Closure of Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to register my protest at the proposed closure of the above road.

The alternatives arrangements seem so convoluted and inconvenient, it would suggest that there has to be a very strong case for the closure, and that that benefit would easily outweigh the downsides to this. However, I have seen nothing that would suggest there this is a single benefit to anyone in the community.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED].org>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 11:12  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnny Cope Road  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

Strongly oppose this closure, repair the road, it's the quickest & direct route to the train station & other areas in Prestonpans, as a taxi business we use road all the time it saves money for Clients isn't it bad enough the financial situation business & customers are in

[REDACTED]  
Office Manager

Direct Line [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Office: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Domestic Abuse Helpline Freephone: [REDACTED]

Scottish Charity Number: [REDACTED]

Company Number: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 21 February 2023 19:19  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,  
The Birsley Brae is the quick route from Prestonpans to the A1. Closing it will make my journey longer. My car will also use more fuel and cause more air pollution . It needs upgraded rather than closed. I use it regularly  
Best regards, [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 22 March 2023 16:57  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of said road where I reside with my partner Louise Doctor, we have lived at 3 Bankton Cottages for over 23yrs.

We object to the closure of this road for the following reasons,  
Safety, blocking the road with bollards could stop emergency vehicles i.e. fire engines getting to us without having to stop and check they have a key to open bollards and then to actually stop to open the bollards. Minutes can save lives!  
The Council have suggested that redesignating the road for pedestrians and cyclists will make it safer! In 23yrs of living here and using both ends of the road multiple times daily I have never heard of any of these stated above to have been hurt or in an accident, you could argue that the state of the road is more likely to cause an accident than just simply using the road. However, I will address this further down this correspondance.  
As for actual vehicle accidents there have been a couple over the years but mainly very minor, can that be said off other roads around Prestonpans and Tranent?

Flooding, under the rail bridge has been a thorn in our side for a number of years and although there has been attempts to clear the drains etc on a couple of occasions, currently under the bridge is beginning to flood again. Last week when we had a few days of rain there was once again a large puddle. There have been many occasions over the years where we have had to make a choice of which flooded area to drive through, the one under the rail bridge or the flooded area at the other side of the bridge over the A1. We would always choose the second as it is on the whole a very large puddle, whereas the one under the rail bridge can be more like a moving river of water. On numerous occasions cars have attempted to go through and had to be rescued, at least currently if this was area floods we have an alternative.

General issues, this road would be where large delivery, removal type vans would access our homes and the expectation that as council tax payers we would have to book with the council to get access for a delivery is a nonsense.

This road is well used by all emergency services, often blue light vehicles. Police and ambulance service regularly use it as a quick route to either Prestonpans or Tranent. Traffic chaos is alleviated when this road is in use, only last week when there was an accident at bottom of Church Street the Police were redirecting vehicles to our road therefore preventing Tranent and Prestonpans coming to a standstill. Currently the increase in traffic through Wallyford and at Blindwells with the volume of new housing only makes it more reason to keep this road open.

I would like to comment on what is required to make this road safe for all users, and here lies the main problem. The council have neglected this road for many years and are I am sure fully aware of the cost of bringing it up to a standard that makes it safe, so it feels to us that closing it off is the cheap alternative. However, a few years ago when they did resurface the road from the new car park they chose not to re-kerb or bring up to a decent standard the pavement that runs from the car park to the cottages. This has always been a hazard and in fact approximately 20yrs ago my elderly mother got caught up in some wire that was hidden in the weeds and made a successful claim against the council.

This road, like the one recently done going into Meadowmill and not used by as many people, requires to be re-surfaced, drainage put in at the Tranent end down to meet the drainage at the cottages, pavements created where possible by cutting back some of the substantial hedgerow, traffic lights at the A1 bridge, pavement down to the station car park upgraded and made safe, speed bumps and priority user signs would all go a long way to making it safer if that what the council are aiming for.

As stated we have resided here for 23yrs and paid full council tax all this time for what? No street lights, we put in lights all round our cottage to make it safer. No decent pavement to talk off and at times being cut off from both sides due to flooding. In actual fact we have had a very limited service from the council and would really like to have something done for our benefit for a change.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]1@icloud.com>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 15:36  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: U226- Johnnie Cope's Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to object to the closure of Johnnie Cope's Road. As a regular user of both Johnnie Cope's Road and A198 to access Prestonpans and Tranent I can see already the increase in A198 traffic due to new housing in the area. This will only get worse as the housing increases. Using Johnnie Cope's Road also allows drivers to access West Tranent without hitting the congested High Street/Church Street junction. Cars exiting the A1 at Bankton junction, particularly heading to Coastal towns, is also becoming increasingly busy, and worrying that traffic will back up on to the A1, by having the option of

Dolphinstone junction and down Johnnie Cope's Road spreads traffic at key times, and reducing traffic through Wallyford.  
Residents need more options to access Prestonpans and Tranent safely rather than reducing this and therefore increasing traffic on already busy roads.  
Additionally the increase in cars waiting at junctions between Tranent and Prestonpans can only increase pollution in the area which is an additional worry.  
I hope you will reconsider this closure.



From [REDACTED]@sky.com>  
Sent: 22 February 2023 14:36  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: JOHNNY COPE ROAD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

I would like to state my objection to the Johnny Cope Road closing.

This road has long since been a connection between Prestonpans and Tranent - long before the bypass came along and has always been well used.

However, since the bypass was built and the numerous houses built in Prestonpans there has been an even great need for it - especially since the new housing estate at Blindwells has started to be built.

Using this road at peak times cuts down on traffic hotspots - Blindwells being pretty bad. It also serves as an alternative route to get on to the bypass from Prestonpans as well as being the quickest route for commuters from Haddington, Tranent, Ormiston and further afield to get to the train station in Prestonpans.

The only thing I would suggest is that traffic lights are installed at either end of the bridge to make it safer. I also feel that the road should be properly upkept.

Thanks and regards



From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 11:10  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I just want it noted that my whole family are strongly opposed to the closure of the Johnnie Cope Road to all traffic as this is a road that we use constantly. All these new houses and your thinking of closing a well used exit from Prestonpans it just seems crazy and not at all



reasonable Especially when you might need to increase the car parking at the train station if your going to try to get people to use the trains more.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 March 2023 12:22  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Objection to change of usage Johnnie Cope Road

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I object to the change of usage to Johnnie Cope Road.  
I am a resident of Tranent and use the road regularly to go to Prestonpans train station.  
I think the changes proposed are a risk to residents in Bankton house and the nearby cottages by adding locked posts/gates hasn't been considered in an emergency.  
I think repairing the road and installing traffic lights at the bridge would be a suggestion to make it safe for road users.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 15 February 2023 07:44  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Written Objection to closure of Johnnie Copes Rd.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

FAO Legal & Procurement Manager.

This is my written objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Copes Road.

I have lived at Bankon House North for 17 years. I strongly object to the closure of Johnnie Copes Road on safety grounds.

If the proposal goes ahead only small fire appliances will be able to get under the railway bridge. These have to be dispatched from North Berwick which is 20 minutes away.

The bedrooms of my property are on the 4th and 5th floor. A small appliance will not be able to access the upper floors therefore putting the lives of myself, my husband and 2 children at risk.

I also have major concerns re the proposal for accessible locked gates at the Tranent end to allow larger fire engines access. There are so many scenarios that can impede the swift opening of such gates putting my family at risk and creating a significant risk that doesn't currently exist.

I would also highlight the situation when the railway bridge has been hit by a vehicle. The road has to be closed while the bridge which carries the main east coast railway line is assessed effectively stranding the residents of the 13 properties that have no access except via Johnnie Copes Road.

This situation will also occur on the frequent occasions the road under the railway bridge floods. Although recent work has improved this the area quickly floods after heavy rain the extent

that I'm not comfortable to drive my car through for concern of the potential damage to my car engine but now I will have no alternative.

I also object to the closure of Johnnie Copes Road as it will force significant traffic onto already busy roads that at rush hour can't cope with the volume of traffic and this volume of traffic will be increasing even more significantly over the coming months and years with the new housing developments.

I note the Council plans to close the road to traffic to make it a green access route. Given the gradient at the top of the road is extremely steep it's not a route families can cycle or even push a buggy up. Also there is no street lighting on the section of Johnnie Copes Road making it useless as a route to walk for large parts of the days, especially in winter.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** 28 February 2023 20:52  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Copes Rd

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to add to the objections re the proposed closure of Johnnie Copes Rd that I have previously made.

After attending Prestonpans Community Council meeting I believe the council is now invoking a council decision from 30 years ago to close this road. Surely after such a long time this decision is invalid and must be revisited.

I also understand the basis of this decision and the reason is now the safety of the bridge over the A1. Which is not maintained by ELC but by a national body. But more pertinently was not the basis for the original decision to close the road. Is it legal to use a 30 year old decision but change the basis for the justification of the decision.

I would also like to complain about the lack of information from the council, and specifically the lack of factual content and lack of consistency in the limited information provided. This lacks the transparency that I would expect to be required to be provided by ELC.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 17:43  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to redetermination of Johnnie copes road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
20 /3/2023

To Whom it may concern

I strongly object to the order by ELC to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians cyclists and authorised vehicles. The Johnnie Cope Road should remain open.

I use the road regularly to go to Tranent and if it is closed, I will have to drive to Bankton Roundabout and Blindwells which has lots of queuing traffic and delays and will add 45 minutes onto my journey and also add to pollution and cost me more in fuel and increase congestion.

I have limited mobility so have to use my car to travel I have no choice.

The road under the railway bridge gets flooded and cars and people will get trapped if the road is closed to vehicles.

Taxis regularly use this road but if it is closed it will add miles to their journey and add to the amount of traffic on the roads and increase exhaust fumes as they wait at lights and roundabouts and queuing traffic adding to congestion.

We have huge housing developments around us at Prestonpans, Wallyford, Blindwells etc East Lothian Council should be keeping roads open not closing them as our roads cannot cope now with the vehicles using them. Only a couple of days ago there was a traffic accident near the slip road at Bankton roundabout so the road was closed and all the cars were directed down the Johnnie Cope Road. It is a vital road linking the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent and is used and needed. Where would the cars have been diverted to if it had been closed, they would have had to drive through Wallyford which is already congested with vehicles and its not fair to add to the pollution with thousands of cars at a standstill on their main road.

Peoples' lives are being put at risk if the road closes. Emergency Services all need access and to say they will all be given a key to the gates is impractical. What if the gates are vandalised and they cant be open does East Lothian Council want someone's death on their conscience.

Can a fire engine get under the railway bridge with ladders on board to reach a house that is 5 stories high?

There has been no consultation with residents about this closure and how it may affect us all. No one to answer our questions and no reports and evidence for this closure.

East Lothian Council has not maintained the road it's a disgrace and they should be made to resurface it for its entire length. I wonder if they let it fall into disrepair so they could argue their case to close it. Other roads all over East Lothian are being repaired but not the Johnnie Cope Road.

I understand that East Lothian Council are saying the bridge over the A1 is unsafe well that's just nonsense where are their structural engineer reports and why is Transport Scotland not having a say after all its their bridge. Transport Scotland would not allow a weaker unsafe bridge to be built

over the busy A1. There are other bridges along the A1 built in the same way as this one will they all be closed?

The Johnnie Cope Road is a vital road that is needed especially for the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent and I would like to see it kept open. It helps to reduce the amount of traffic going through Wallyford, at Bankton roundabout, at the slip roads and at Blindwells.

There is enough room for a cycle and pedestrian path on the Johnnie Cope Road as well as a road and there is funding available. Remember there are thousands of houses being built in East Lothian all paying council tax, only recently the power station site gained 11.3 million in levelling funding for regeneration. Why can't Prestonpans and Tranent have the Johnnie Cope Road regenerated and improved after all the years of neglect.

There are no additional roads being created in East Lothian to cope with all the additional traffic so why not keep it open and upgrade it. It is needed.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 20:27  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Instead of closing imo the road should be upgraded especially with the ever growing size of tranent ,prestonpans and [wallyford.it](http://wallyford.it) is and always has been a link from old a1 to prestonpans long before a1bypassed tranent

**From:** [REDACTED]@ed.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 13:51  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was shocked to hear of the plans to close Johnnie Cope Road, in particular for reasons that do not make much sense - on one hand closure seems to demonstrate that there is no need for the road, on the other hand, the Council states that there is too much traffic on the road.

There is, indeed, a lot of traffic on that road which clearly shows that there is great need for the road to remain open, in fact, to improve the road. Speaking as a regular user of this road, I have to drive from Blink O'Forth in Prestonpans Mondays after work to Market View, Tranent, for my half-hour piano lesson. Now you may of course be of the opinion that this is hardly important to the greater good of mankind, however, I pay for the lesson whether I arrive on time or 10 minutes late. The traffic is always queuing up on the A199 at the traffic lights just before the bypass, sometimes with a delay of 10 - 15 minutes. The traffic on the other road into Tranent, the A198, has horrific queues from the roundabout with the B1361 thanks to the new housing development, that delays are even worse. Johnnie Cope Road is vital to reduce that traffic. I


don't even want to think about ambulance or police vehicles needing to get from Prestonpans to Tranent urgently. Closing Johnnie Cope Road is unbelievably shortsighted.

Yours faithfully



I am currently working from home. Please use email as the primary form of contact. My office phone number will not be in use.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336. Is e buidheann carthannais a th' ann an Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, clàraichte an Alba, àireamh clàraidh SC005336.

From: @hotmail.co.uk>  
Sent: 14 March 2023 13:16  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Formal objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road 14.03.23

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally lodge an objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

This road is an important piece of the infrastructure for the local surrounding communities and serves well to improve traffic management at all times of the day.


Johnnie Cope Road also allows for the seamless passage between Prestonpans and Tranent, avoiding an unnecessarily circuitous route via Blindwells and Bankton roundabout which has recently seen a significant increase in traffic due to the housing development in the area.

If it were to close, I strongly believe this would cause significant disruption and frustration to the very many users who benefit from the convenience of Johnnie Cope Road.

I would therefore request that my objection is formally registered and recorded.

Yours sincerely,



From: @gmail.com>  
Sent: 26 February 2023 14:47  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road Closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of Bankton House and would like to object to the proposed partial closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

As a non driver my main concern is the restricted access for emergency services and large delivery and service vehicles to Bankton and the surrounding properties. The provision of locked gates or bollards on the road does not seem practical, especially in emergencies when every second counts.

I would like to see the road better maintained with traffic lights both sides of the bridge and a speed limit applied. Street lights should be installed between the station and the cottages as this stretch is very hazardous at night for pedestrians.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 21 March 2023 14:06

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection - closure of

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To who it may concern

I want to protest in the strongest possible terms about East Lothian Council's plan to close Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans to vehicular traffic.

It may well be the case that the intention in 1986 was to close the road when the A1 dual carriageway was built, but this is now utterly immaterial. The road wasn't closed then and has been continuously used by motor vehicles.

ELC state that the road is now 'unsafe'. This is probably true to some extent but has arisen through the council's neglect of the road and failure to keep it repaired and upgraded to suitable standards for the traffic using it.

Johnnie Cope Road is a vital link between the ever-growing communities of Tranent and Prestonpans, there being only one other viable road linking the towns. Closing it will increase the distance driven by cars currently using the route, having a negative effect on carbon footprint. Accessing the A1 via Wallyford is an obstacle course of parked vehicles, causing tighter vehicular accessing in turn causing pinch points and dangerous passing.

The council have also stated that the road will become an active transport route for cyclists and pedestrians. If this is the case, the road is clearly unsuitable even for this and will require upgrading for safety reasons. How can cyclists and pedestrians safely share this route in its current design with combine harvesters, emergency vehicles and other vehicles which will still have access? If the funds have to be spent, they should be spent on improving the road for all traffic with footpaths, traffic calming measures and traffic lights at the bridge. In addition, there is already a perfectly good route for cyclists and pedestrians down The Heugh from Tranent which will soon link up with the new route from Blindwells to Prestonpans.

There is clearly very little public support for this road closure which is frankly just a lazy, cost-saving exercise without any proper planning, a proposal based on a decision made almost 40 years ago. This is a shocking example of a local authority riding roughshod over a local community without listening to their wishes.

I implore you to reverse this decision and allocate funds to upgrading Johnnie Cope Road to keep this historic and well-used route open to all.

Yours faithfully

██████████ (resident Prestonpans, who uses this road Mon-Fri).

From: ██████████@gmail.com>  
Sent: 08 March 2023 10:30  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Proposed road closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed redetermination of U226 Johnnie Copes Road effectively closing this route to mechanised traffic, and the preposterous idea that emergency vehicles should have access only by way of a key to open gates. This latter notion strikes me as being unsafe and potentially time-wasting and life-threatening as emergency vehicles travel to/from an emergency situation. Delays are not acceptable.

The Johnnie Copes Road serves as a useful link between the two communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. As someone who has schooled their children in Prestonpans and has worked in Tranent for over 26 years I have lost count of the number of the times I have used this road as a convenient route to and from work or the school.

This road is a vital connection especially as we already see increased traffic congestion at the far end of Prestonpans with the new housing development at Blindwells. This increase in traffic will only grow as more houses and businesses are built there.

Johnnie Copes Road is also a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians to travel but should not be restricted to these.

A simple solution would be to repair the road (I have suffered car damage in the past on this badly surfaced road and still wholeheartedly support its continued use by motorised vehicles), and to adopt traffic lights over the bridge allowing safe passage for all.

I very much hope you reconsider the closure of this road.

I would be grateful for your confirmation of receipt.

Yours sincerely

██████████  
Longniddry, East Lothian

From: ██████████@sky.com>  
Sent: 23 February 2023 17:23  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: (U226, JOHNNIE COPES ROAD) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2023 - East Lothian

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I hereby state my objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road. This road provides invaluable access to the train station car park and reduces traffic fall on the busy roundabout at the new blindfields estate.

The road in my view should be resurfaced and traffic control lights placed on the bridge. Keeping the road open and implementing proper maintenance will reduce the environmental impact of traffic using the train station by shortening the distance travelled.

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 09:43  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** John cope road objections

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi

I'm writing to formally object to the potential closer of the Johnny cope road. Firstly this is a big mistake and will cause more congestion on the other roads leading to the A1. Council money could be better sorbet in resurfacing the road adding traffic lights at the bridge on either side. Also, there are businesses on this road that relay on this road for their customers. Local access for the train station from both ends Prestonpans and Tranent side. This road is used heavily and also requires access to get to people who may need emergency assistance. If a gate is put up this will do delay and will lead to more deaths in prestonpans. This is an I'll thought out plan with lack of due care and attention to the people who live, work in the area. All to save. Small amount of money. In the short term. It shows just how of touch East Lothian council actual are. I hereby submit my objection and demand a rethink of this stupid idea

Yours

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:07  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Birsley Brae / Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear ELC

As a resident of Prestonpans & Cockenzie and Port Seton for all of my life, I write to ask that you please carry out the necessary repairs to Birsley Brae / Johnnie Cope Road urgently.

I am not in agreement with any proposal that restricts access to the road for vehicle users and believe the road should remain open for ALL users, as it has been for decades and generations. I do not like to suggest that ELC has been neglectful in their duty of care of this route over the most recent decades, but I fear that is the case and steps should now be taken to address this.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 16:10  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road Prestonpans



**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to register with you my dismay and strongest opposition to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

This road is a vital connection for the local residents, the train station car park, traffic between Tranent and Prestonpans and an alternative access route to the city bypass.

To close it will be to the significant detriment of us all with the only benefit appearing to be cost savings for East Lothian Council.

I ask you yo do the right thing and simply maintain it as you have done recently and easily to the road to Meadowmill Sports Centre.

Thank you

██████████  
A Prestonpans Resident

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am letting you know that I object to the Johnnie Cope Road being closed 😞. What a big mistake this would be!! Why on earth with all the new houses being built would an essential other link road be closed!!! This just does not make sense at all. We need as many routes as possible to ease traffic congestions.

Please reconsider closing this road and instead make the most of it by altering parts of it to make it safer.

Yours faithfully

██████████

**From:** ██████████@hotmail.co.uk>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 07:47

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope road closure

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my concerns about the potential addition of locked gates to the Johnnie Cope Road from Tranent to Prestonpans. I strongly disagree with the proposed plans for the following reasons:

- it's completely taking away a shortcut for no reason
  - It will massively slow down emergency services accessing the road due to them getting out vehicle to unlock a gate. This could prove to be massive problem in an emergency.
- Added travel time for locals who commute by train.

- Increased traffic in Tranent high street which is already busy enough on a daily basis. Increased traffic down by strawberry corner on an already busy roundabout.
  - it really only benefits the people sitting behind a desk working for the council who can add a road closure to their resume
  - Extra fuel emissions caused by cars being on the road longer using 2 roads rather than the current 3 roads

Please reconsider this ridiculous decision,  
Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 14:27  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie cope road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my dismay at the possible closure of this road to cars etc. The road is in a terrible condition, from years of neglect and lack of maintenance. I cycle regularly on this road and it's truly awful with all the pot holes and rough surfaces.

I would like this road to remain open and accessible to all transport. It is an important well used link road.

It needs resurfaced, and widened where possible.

With more and more housing being built, means more cars, more journeys, having this route is essential.

I trust all the objections will be considered before any decision is made.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 11:51  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed closure and redetermination of the Johnnie Cope Road. I live at 1 Burnside Cottages, Seton Mains, Longniddry, East Lothian, EH32 0PG. Closure of this access route open for cars as well as cyclists and pedestrians would severely inconvenience me as an East Lothian resident on a daily basis, as it provide access between Tranent/ Wallyford, the motorway, Prestonpans, and the railway station and car park. Housing is growing particularly at Blindwells and Prestonpans and this road will be needed even more, for example for emergency services, commuters, taxis, etc.

I urge those in charge to invest in any upgrades to the roads necessary (potholes etc.) and to listen to the huge outpouring of public opinion on this issue.

I am also concerned that if the road is closed, more traffic will reroute to the train station car park on Gardiner Terrace and there will be more panic parking on the already busy roadside there and over the homeowners' driveways.

Finally, it will divert more traffic from Prestonpans and Tranent onto bankton Roundabout at Blindwells and Strawberry Corner at Wallyford which are already increasingly busy. And, users of the south railway station car park could become stranded in the event of flooding on the section of road located below the railway bridge.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 15:06  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to communicate in the strongest possible terms, as a resident of Prestonpans/East Lothian, to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

Personally, I use it often as a direct link to and from the A1, as otherwise it would take at least triple the time to access the A1 either through Wallyford or Tranent.

Closing it could only add congestion to these access points that are already busy at peak travel times as well as causing more pollution as a result of the extra journey time.

Emergency vehicle access is paramount, at my understanding of the proposal of adding gates that 'authorised persons' would have access to seems like a needless complication as well as additional transit time, potentially endangering lives. Indeed, If the residents need access for deliveries etc. they would have to give advance notice for gates to be open.

The railway bridge route frequently gets flooded out, in that circumstance the only way for rail users and residents to get out is via Johnnie Cope Road.

I appreciate the costs involved, but the road simply needs resurfaced. This road is used locally and needed more than ever considering the large developments at either end of Prestonpans putting pressure on those access points, and those living in Prestonpans need a quick route to the A1 etc.

This road is simply vital to residents for several important reasons and I do not wish to see it's access restricted.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 08:40  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I wish to hereby note an objection to the closure of the above named road. We have lived in Prestonpans since 2010 and this road is of paramount importance to all local residents. Given the congestion which has now become a daily occurrence in Wallyford due to an increase in traffic signalling and with all the new residential properties being built in the area, to actually

even consider the closure of such an important connecting road is very short sighted. If this road was to be closed the undoubted increase in congestion to the surrounding area is completely detrimental to environmental considerations. The increase in static vehicles producing more Co2 to the surrounding areas flies in the face of what the country is trying to achieve as a whole. The fact that this road very likely only requires some potholes to be filled 2 or 3 times a year throughout the winter is no reason to close it. Everyone understands that financial pressures are being placed on Local Authorities due to funding issues however, we all very strongly recommend that this road is not seen as surplus to requirement. All the new build estates are going to place increased pressure on already stretched services and roads in the area. We all want East Lothian to continue to be somewhere safe for our children whether that be down to pollution or increased traffic through residential areas. We strenuously object to this proposed closure and hope that the local council can see the huge benefits to keeping this road open and continuing to provide a crucial traffic route to the surrounding towns and areas.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@googlemail.com>  
Sent: 24 February 2023 20:21  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope's Road U226

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I wish to object to the proposed "Redetermination of Means of Exercise of Public Right of Passage" order 2023 TO 515/22

This route is the direct route from the west side of Tranent to Prestonpans Station and the car park on the south side of the line and also to places beyond. Closing this road to motorised transport will shift the traffic to Church Street and the A198 and already we saw the problems and delays that were caused when the capacity at Church Street was reduced by roadworks. The A198 is increasingly busy due to the new housing at Blindwells and will only continue to get busier. Church Street was not designed to carry as much traffic as it already does.

In addition, traffic heading for the station and the western end of Prestonpans would not only be forced onto Church Street but also westwards along the B1361 which will increase traffic on a road where I understand the footpath and cycleway from Blindwells to the station will run in parallel. Not a good plan.

Johnnie Cope's Road contributes to being a ring route which keeps traffic off the exceedingly busy High Street and Church Street in Tranent and far from being closed, should be improved to continue to serve a purpose as a by pass of the town.

I do hope this "Redetermination" will be rejected, and Johnny Cope's Road kept open to vehicular traffic.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@lineone.net>  
Sent: 23 March 2023 21:34  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing this letter to object to the proposals to change the use of this road. Both my wife and I use the rear car park at Prestonpans railway station. On many occasions I have got back to the car to find the road flooded under the railway bridge meaning my only point of egress would be to take this road South . If the proposals went ahead, I would have no choice but to park on the road opposite the station as I would not take the chance of being stranded.

I also know some of the people in the cottages and Bankton House, that are very worried that larger fire engines would be unable or at the very least hampered in the event of an Emergency. I also feel that with the emergence of the Blindwells estate which is already causing traffic congestion, cutting through ways between Tranent and Prestonpans would be an error, Which was borne out last week when the accident at the Bankton flyover cause the road to be closed and many vehicles then took to this road.

I am also bemused by the council changing their reasons for closing this road mid-process when they realised their reasons held very little water.

In conclusion I feel this road should be brought back to a more serviceable state of repair with possible traffic management at the bridge which would allow to have a safer flow of vehicles on this road.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@leithnet.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 12:35  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to Johnnie Cope Road Reclassification

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs

I want to protest in the strongest possible terms about East Lothian Council's plan to close Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans to vehicular traffic.

It may well be the case that the intention in 1986 was to close the road when the A1 dual carriageway was built, but this is now utterly immaterial. The road wasn't closed then and has been continuously used by motor vehicles.

ELC state that the road is now 'unsafe'. This is probably true to some extent but has arisen through the council's neglect of the road and failure to keep it repaired and upgraded to suitable standards for the traffic using it.

Johnnie Cope Road is a vital link between the ever-growing communities of Tranent and Prestonpans, there being only one other viable road linking the towns. Closing it will increase the distance driven by cars currently using the route, having a negative effect on carbon footprint.

The council have also stated that the road will become an active transport route for cyclists and pedestrians. If this is the case, the road is clearly unsuitable even for this and will require upgrading for safety reasons. How can cyclists and pedestrians safely share this route in its current design with combine harvesters, emergency vehicles and other vehicles which will still

have access? If the funds have to be spent, they should be spent on improving the road for all traffic with footpaths, traffic calming measures and traffic lights at the bridge. In addition, there is already a perfectly good route for cyclists and pedestrians down The Heugh from Tranent which will soon link up with the new route from Blindwells to Prestonpans.

There is clearly very little public support for this road closure which is frankly just a lazy, cost-saving exercise without any proper planning, a proposal based on a decision made almost 40 years ago. This is a shocking example of a local authority riding roughshod over a local community without listening to their wishes.

I implore you to reverse this decision and allocate funds to upgrading Johnnie Cope Road to keep this historic and well-used route open to all.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 00:16

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Objection to redetermination of Johnnie Cope's Road (U226)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sirs

I write to object to the proposed redetermination of Johnnie Cope's Road as unsuitable or most vehicular traffic.

I live on the west side of Tranent and drive to Cockenzie three times a week. Usually I go via Church Street and Coal Plant Road. However, for most of December 2022 Coal Plant Road was closed due to subsidence. My best alternative route was Johnnie Cope's Road.

More recently, Church Street was unexpectedly closed due to a gas leak. Again, I needed to use Johnnie Cope's Road.

Similar issues are bound to arise again and when they do we will need Johnnie Cope's Road.

Church Street is narrow and will not cope with being the only direct route out of Tranent to the coast. A long detour to Strawberry Corner and Prestonpans High Street is unsatisfactory and increases fuel consumption.

Johnnie Cope's Road is the route from Tranent to its nearest railway station, Prestonpans. Closing off routes to train stations, as was done in Wallyford, is the opposite of environmentally friendly, as it discourages rail use, and for those who are not discouraged, means more miles driven (therefore more exhaust fumes emitted) to reach them.

The justifications for the restriction are mutually contradictory. The Council refers to a decision supposedly taken in the 1980s that the road was "unnecessary". More recently it has been stated that the road cannot cope with the volume of traffic using it. These imply opposite situations - they cannot both be true. In any event, there have been drastic changes to

population in the towns of East Lothian since the 1980s and a decision taken then cannot be uncritically followed now without a thorough review of the rationale for it.

I recognise there may be safety issues, particularly with the narrow bridge over the A1. The latter could be solved by either a traffic light, or if that is considered too expensive, a convex mirror on a long pole. Clearly it has been a long time since the potholes were filled in but that cannot be a justification for closure. The potholes present a much bigger problem to cyclists, who you propose should be the main users of the road, than to motorists.

The proposal to allow emergency services to go through by using a key to unlock a barrier is concerning. In a life-threatening situation, every second counts, and if for whatever reason the key is not available at the crucial moment the delay could cost someone's life. Is every ambulance and fire engine in East Lothian going to have a key to Johnnie Cope's Road sitting in the glove compartment, handily labelled? This seems unlikely.

I use cycling as my main form of transport and would welcome improved safety measures for Johnnie Cope's Road to be shared by cyclists and motorists. But a ban on cars goes too far.

Yours faithfully



**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:06  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to closure of Johnny Cope Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello

I would like to register my objection to the proposal to close Johnny Cope Road. These are my reasons for objection

1. The road provides a vital short cut link between two communities, reducing carbon footprint as the alternatives mean a much longer journey and high possibility of being stuck in slow moving traffic.
2. In less busy times the road is an important route for taxis and can be a lifesaving shorter routes for emergency vehicles. It also provides access to the rail station at Prestonpans for people who would otherwise have a long drive to reach a rail station.
3. While there are issues with the condition of the road, and safety due to increased use, these would be resolved with calming measures , traffic lights at the bridge, and some investment in paving and road surface.
4. Cost is being postulated as a reason for closure, but the road will need investment even if it is closed but still accessible for emergency services.
5. It is a historic link between two communities, and has become a vital and well used link, as explained above. The council should recognise the proposal to close the road is a result of its own past failure, and must not penalize the communities for this by a latter day closure of a now vital road.

Yours



**From:** [REDACTED]@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 20 February 2023 11:10  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope's Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

This road is not only a more direct route to Prestonpans Station for west Tranent and Elphinstone, it also acts as a traffic relief road for Prestonpans traffic getting to A1 and also for road closures ( eg at Blindwells ).

Due to the housing currently being built in North Berwick, Longniddry and Blindwells, the section of road between the Bankton Junction and the roundabout beyond Blindwells will become overwhelmed and a suggestion to overcome this would be to upgrade the road from Ballencrieff to Haddington, then diverting North Berwick traffic via this route.

I would suggest reappraising the importance of Johnnie Cope's road after the completion of the above, if ever undertaken.

**From:** [REDACTED]@sky.com>  
**Sent:** 24 March 2023 13:13  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to protest in the strongest possible terms about East Lothian Council's plan to close Johnnie Cope Road in Prestonpans to vehicular traffic.

It may well be the case that the intention in 1986 was to close the road when the A1 dual carriageway was built, but this is now utterly immaterial. The road wasn't closed then and has been continuously used by motor vehicles.

ELC state that the road is now 'unsafe'. This is probably true to some extent but this has been caused by the council's neglect of the road and their failure to keep it repaired and upgraded to suitable standards for the traffic using it.

Johnnie Cope Road is a vital link between the ever-growing communities of Tranent and Prestonpans, there being only one other viable road linking the towns. Closing it will increase the distance driven by cars currently using the route, having a negative effect on carbon footprint.

The council have also stated that the road will become an active transport route for cyclists and pedestrians. If this is the case, the road is clearly unsuitable even for this and will require upgrading for safety reasons. How can cyclists and pedestrians safely share this route in its current design with combine harvesters, emergency vehicles and other vehicles which will still have access? If the funds have to be spent, they should be spent on improving the road for all traffic with footpaths, traffic calming measures and traffic lights at the bridge. In addition, there is already a perfectly good route for cyclists and pedestrians down The Heugh from Tranent which will soon link up with the new route from Blindwells to Prestonpans.

There is clearly very little public support for this road closure which is frankly just a lazy, cost-saving exercise without any proper planning, a proposal based on a decision made almost 40 years ago. This is a shocking example of a local authority riding roughshod over a local community without listening to their wishes.



I implore you to reverse this decision and allocate funds to upgrading Johnnie Cope Road to keep this historic and well-used route open to all.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** 07 March 2023 13:00

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road Redetermination

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Afternoon,

I live just off the Edinburgh Road in Tranent and use this road everyday going to and from Prestonpans train station, and both primary and high school in Prestonpans, which my children attend. I am not necessarily objecting to the closure as I am happy to continue to use this road as a pedestrian if I cannot use it as a driver. A few points I would like to raise about the proposed Johnnie Cope Road closure are below.

If the road does close what arrangements will be in place for emergency vehicles? The proposed bollards will cause havoc with traffic at the top, and possibly cause deaths if emergency services are delayed by having to open gates/locks/bollards. How do the residents of that road receive deliveries and how do they access their houses? The rail bridge at the bottom of the road is not particularly high therefore not all high sided vehicles can fit under it. What would I do if I had my car parked in the Tranent side car park of the station and the road under the rail bridge flooded? It often floods in heavy rain and the only way to get out of that side of the car park is to go up the Johnnie Cope Road as the road under the rail bridge becomes impassable for vehicles and pedestrians.

Church Street in Tranent is currently closed, the Johnnie Cope Road is the closest alternative for people making their way to Blindwells, Meadowmill, Prestonpans and cockenzie & post seton by vehicle without having to take a massive detour. If the road was closed permanently we would see higher emissions and longer queues of traffic, especially on the Edinburgh road. The traffic at the new blindwells development is already very heavy with long queues at peak times, this will be made worse if the Johnnie Cope Road is closed.

If the road closes to vehicles it would still require maintenance for pedestrians and cyclists, perhaps a cycle lane and the filling in of pot holes and general maintenance. I believe there should be some form of street light also for pedestrians, this is vital in the winter months.

There would have to be some arrangements made before the closure to combat all of the above issues.

On the other side of the coin, if the road remains open there are many more issues that need addressed.

A speed limit needs to be imposed on this road as there are many speeding drivers, perhaps a speed camera would slow them down. A pavement is required for pedestrians as it is sometimes a case of life and death when walking. A traffic light installed on either side of the bridge due to the blind summit is also a necessity. Lighting for pedestrians would also be helpful. There are none, other than at the station car park and the Edinburgh road. I feel that having no lights discourages people from walking as it feels unsafe, especially in the dark. There is no safely lit walkways to walk between Prestonpans and Tranent unless you walk to Blindwells, which is unacceptable.

I look forward to hearing the outcome.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** 23 February 2023 15:43  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Fw: Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

**To:** "legal@east-lothian.gov.uk" <legal@east-lothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** Thu, 23 Feb 2023 at 15:38  
**Subject:** Johnnie Copes Road

I am writing to request that Johnnie Copes Road remains open and is properly maintained. It is used as a very necessary link from Tranent to Prestonpans. In actual fact the properties at Bankton Steading have Tranent postcodes and children there are zoned for school in Tranent. Also for Doctor surgery. The road is used as direct access to Prestonpans railway station, community centre, swimming pool from Tranent. If the access becomes only available at the roundabout at the Blindwells end, it will be constant chaos and congestion. It will added journey time and cause unnecessary delays. It is really important the road is kept open

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2023 08:31  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Johnnie Cope Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I would like to place on record my objection to the above road being permanently closed to traffic. I think it's an extremely short sighted viewpoint to take to save a bit of money, when everything points to keeping it open and laying it out better.

- The first and most serious point is emergency vehicles. I see numerous ambulances using this road daily (quickest route for an ambulance to get onto the A1 from Preston Road depot). I've heard they will be given 'a key'. One key for a padlock, between how many emergency vehicles? How long would this add on to a journey time when there may be a life dependant emergency? And I'd hate to even contemplate a fire at either the big house or any of the bungalows, which would require multiple fire appliances to get over the bridge in a timely manner.
- Related to the above point, even if the road was closed, it would still need maintained to allow these select vehicles to drive over it. Therefore I'm unsure of the savings it would create.
- Two of the biggest developments in East Lothian are happening on our doorsteps. Blindwells and Wallyford. If we remove Birsley Brae, residents travelling between Tranent and Prestonpans have two options: Bankton junction, or Strawberry corner.

Both of which, within a couple of years, are going to be exponentially busier. I'm already unsure whether both of these junctions (especially Bankton) will cope with the rise in traffic, let alone needlessly adding more to it.

- Just this week we have seen Church Street in Tranent closed. Most traffic will therefore have used JCR as a thoroughfare to Prestonpans. Closing this is going to push a whole load of traffic down Coalgate and Tranent Mains road in Tranent if this were to happen again. Small, narrow residential streets with children playing is an accident waiting to happen.

JCR should remain open. Unless there is a sound business case for closing it, then it is bewildering to see the push to close it. Things have changed since the original order was produced. It is about time the West side of East Lothian was invested in. We are seeing developments pop up left, right and centre, our infrastructure needs to match that! Instead we are seeing our infrastructure collapse, while the population rises, and Council Tax and Rents go through the roof.

Thanks

█

**From:** █@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 24 March 2023 17:00

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Formal objection to closure of Johnnie Cope Road between Prestonpans & Tranent

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing for formally object to the closure of this road & the underhanded way in which East Lothian Council (ELC) are trying to pursue this. I feel ELC have vastly under estimated the local usage of this historic route & ignored the feelings and opinion within local communities.

I live in Port Seton, but regularly use this route to get to / from the west of Tranent. It is easier to use the JCR, as I do not get held up with Blindwells or Tranent High Street traffic.

There are serious failings by ELC over the years. Firstly, ELC have allowed JCR to be a public road for many, many years. ELC have ignored the massive potholes! There has been no maintenance, now resulting is a bigger job which incidently needs repaired even for emergency vehicles. It is a public right of way! When the new bridge was provided, perhaps the correct action then was to close this to public transport, however, that was many years ago & times have now changed. Indeed it wasn't intended to take the volume of traffic currently using it. However, the volumes using it, shows there is a need for this road. ELC have made the monstrous mistake of not planning for a new slip road into Blindwells. Traffic is backing up at Bankton & Blindwells (even with a tiny fraction of houses inhabited).

I feel ELC are out of touch with traffic issues in the areas of Tranent, Wallyford, Prestonpans & Port Seton. Wallyford is already gridlocked & new high school will increase traffic volumes. Tranent High Street is gridlocked! Hit Blindwells/Bankton and queues in both directions & hazardous sitting traffic on A1. Closure of JCR will increase congestion further on all these routes. ELC are allowing all these new houses & a high school to be built with no consideration to roads! Then you announce Inchcape construction traffic will also use Bankton.....

Volumes of traffic indicate JCR should be upgraded rather than closed! ELC have not allowed for traffic volumes in the area in their planning & this cannot fall onto locals when this is outwith our control. Fail to plan....plan to fail!!

JCR is busy with Tranent users of the Prestonpans train station & car park on that side.

Two weeks ago there was an accident at Bankton, the traffic chose from this & roadworks in recent months related to Blindwells shows the volumes of traffic in the area. Communities have grown so big in last 20 years.

KEEP JCR OPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[REDACTED]

Port Seton

From: [REDACTED]@talktalk.net>  
Sent: 21 February 2023 17:30  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Rd

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I am supportive of the campaign to keep this road open . Resurrecting a 1986 action to close is surely short sighted. In the intervening 37 years the landscape has changed .Prestonpans, Tranent and Wallyford have seen a huge population growth . The thoroughfare has proven a vital route between the towns. This road needs upgraded not closed. It provides an additional vital link and supports the Railway too. All of these reasons did not exist in 1986 but certainly are persuasive reasons to upgrade . I urge you to seriously consider the benefits to the East Lothian communities which will be inconvenienced and disadvantaged by its closure. This cannot happen.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: 20 February 2023 21:32  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Keeping Johnny. Cope road open

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I would like to lodge my objections to the closure of the Johnny Cope road (JCR). I have lived in Prestonpans for nearly 15 years and during this time there has been a massive expansion in the number of houses built in Prestonpans, Tranent, Wallyford and Musselburgh . At the same time there has been very little investment in the local road infrastructure to accommodate the extra traffic. If you want to go from Prestonpans to Tranent or join the A1 you have either strawberry corner or Meadowmill, both of which are now much busier. I have always used the Johnny Cope Road as a route to both Tranent and the A1. It is much quicker, however has been left to deteriorate over the years.

With the extra housing due at Blindwells it is going to become increasingly difficult to leave Prestonpans without severe congestion. I request that the council reviews its decision to close the JCR and instead invest in it and put lights on the bridge and widen it and resurface it where possible. It does not seem a reasonable decision to close the road when the local infrastructure is already under such strain despite the JCP being used regularly by locals in its current poor state. Upgrading the road would make much more sense and show that our council is listening to the public.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>  
Sent: 24 March 2023 11:37  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Johnnie Cope Road Closure Objection

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to voice my objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope Road.

On Thursday 16th March there was an accident at the roundabout at the Meadowmill junction of the A1 which closed the road. The traffic on JCR was treble the usual amount and had JCR been closed to cars, the diversion would have been via Wallyford, adding a significant amount of time to a journey.

Which brings me to my next point. How are the emergency services supposed to navigate whatever barrier is put up? Noone has been able to answer this, and considering council officers declined our invitation to attend CC meetings, we are still in the dark.

Bankton house residents whose businesses rely on access from the south have no idea what will happen to their businesses and fear for their lives should an ambulance or fire engine be delayed by looking for a key and opening a barrier.

The access from the north, under the bridge is in a terrible state - the part you claim to maintain. Should access to the station close from the south, that unsafe and impractical junction will see a significant rise in the number of cars and taxis using it. Can you guarantee the safety of pedestrians and wheelchair users?

There's not many places if any in the county that the council would close a vital road linking two of the biggest communities in East Lothian. Prestonpans and Tranent have endured mass house building without improved infrastructure, Prestonpans is having our grassy verges pulled up to lay a concrete path from Blindwells to the train station. This path is not needed. It is environmental vandalism imposed on our communities by a council who only think about us when it's to, quite frankly, shaft us.

Prestonpans and Tranent have at least doubled in size since the new A1 was built in 1986 and the council decided to close the road which of course didn't happen. Then in 2020 you tried again claiming that the road was unnecessary.

This road is an important thoroughfare to the locals and has been as long as I can remember, please keep it open!

Thanks

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
Sent: 07 March 2023 08:49  
To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
Subject: Keeping Jonnie Cope Road Open

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

I want to register my complaint in your proposal to close the above road. Apart from the residents who use this road every day it is used by Tranent & other local people to access railway station & other local amenities such as swimming pool bowling clubs etc. I hope this proposal does not go ahead.

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 23 March 2023 15:41

To: Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to The Johnnie Copes Road redetermination

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find enclosed my objection letter to the redetermination of Johnnie Cope's Road in Prestonpans as suitable only for pedestrians, cyclists and authorised vehicles.  
Please send acknowledgement that you have received my objection by return email.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

I am writing to inform you that **I wish to object** to the order by ELC to redetermine a section of Johnnie Cope Road as suitable only for pedestrians, cyclists and authorised vehicles, **for the following reasons:**

**This road is a vital road** linking the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. It is one of two roads linking these villages the other is congested with traffic and pollution. Only a couple of days ago there was a traffic accident at Bankton roundabout, and the A1 was closed at the slip road and cars were all diverted down the Johnnie Cope Road showing one of the reasons why this vital road should and must remain open.

**Changing the reason for the closure/ redetermination during the consultation process.** East Lothian Council decided to firstly use the original reason for closing it under section 68 (1) of the roads Scotland act 1984 which stated the road will become unnecessary and is unnecessary for the local population. Prestonpans Community Council asked for the community's comments and we all trustingly responded to this reason. The community council then replied formally with our objections and comments which they included. How were we the community to know that when it came to the public consultation a few weeks later ELC would change this original reason after reading all our comments. They instead read them and sought legal advice before changing the reason now quoting section 1 (1) and 152(2). This means that all our objections based on the first reason would not be considered.... surely this is illegal. How can the goal posts be changed in this way. ELC seemingly apologised for the misleading information contained in the original notification but would not consider starting the whole process again. This is just simply wrong I know of no other councils that would change the criteria during a consultation its totally immoral.

The original consultation included horse riders but after my comments horse riders were removed from the list of who would have access.

The original consultation led us to believe there would be 2 gates at each end of the bridge, but the public consultation shows a plan with the access closed further north of the bridge and no mention of how this would be done. I find ELC have not been transparent their mission has been to close this road and they have made it very clear this is what they will do no matter what the community thinks.

**There has been no consultation or discussion** with the residents who live on JCR or Bankton House or with the businesses who use this road or with the community council. Instead ELC chose not to attend an open invitation to the community council meeting to discuss this redetermination. It would be in everyone's interests if instead of closing the road ELC looked at ways of working with the community to keep it open and come up with solutions. The road is vital for people's businesses. At a time when ELC should be supporting local businesses they shut them down by closing a vital road.

**It is an ancient right of way** which cannot be closed and therefore must remain open for all to use.

**This consultation should never have been made** as ELC have not reported how the locked gate system will operate. The paperwork is therefore incomplete, and more information is required.

(Since writing this Martin Whitfield contacted ELC who confirmed emergency services would be given a key to unlock the gates and if a resident required access, they would have to give ELC advanced notice.)

Why was this not addressed in the consultation? Where are the plans? Where is the information on how the gate system will operate? Where is the emergency services report on this? Where is the consultation with residents? Where is the structural report from Transport Scotland? Where is Transport Scotland's statement saying the road is unsafe? Surely this closure should have been discussed with the residents who live on the road and use it every day. This will affect their lives and businesses. This gate and key system are not a workable solution. Is every emergency vehicle going to be given a key? This is an impracticable and antiquated idea. The road must remain open for all to use.

**For ELC to state because the paperwork wasn't completed in 1986 is not a reason to close this well used vital road.**

Since 1986 this area has been developed greatly with large housing estates all over East Lothian particularly Prestonpans, Tranent, Blindwells, Longniddry, Cockenzie and Port Seton and Wallyford resulting in a vast increase in the population, and in the number of vehicles on these roads. Housing developers are in the process of meeting their target of 10,000 houses being built in East Lothian this includes a new settlement at Blindwells. This is not a time to be closing roads but to keeping them open and improving them.

With these new developments brings a great deal of additional cars the result has been queues of traffic and congestion at Wallyford, Church Street in Tranent, Blindwells, Bankton roundabout and slip roads to the A1 bypass resulting in more accidents, more pollution and going against ELC's targets to improve air quality by 2033. You can sit for 45 minutes in queues of traffic polluting the environment. Only a few days ago there was a serious accident with queues of traffic backed up on the slip road and bypass. This resulted in vehicles being directed down the Johnnie Cope Road... what would happen if it was closed! It is one of two direct routes between the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent. It is a well-used popular route and many commuters use it to access the train station car park. Instead ELC want to send these commuters a further distance to congest our villages and roads by closing the JCR it is ludicrous.

By closing the JCR the traffic that would normally use it will have to travel further adding miles to their journey and by using roads they would not normally use ie Bankton Roundabout, Church Street, Blindwells or Wallyford and Longniddry roads instead which will add to congestion, pollution and thus add to climate change. So, by closing the JCR ELC will be adding thousands of cars to drive through our congested villages every day adding to air pollution!!

The JCR gives direct access to the A1 Bypass why on earth would you close it. It is ludicrous to base the closing of a road in 2023 on paperwork from 1986. 37 years ago! Blindwells is a new village which is still to reach its capacity. There are already queues of traffic at the roundabout, slip road and access road to the A1. Closing the JCR pushes extra traffic onto this hotspot. It makes absolutely no sense that as EL grows and develops with so much housing the council want to close a road. Tranent High Street and Church Street can barely cope with the number of vehicles using it. By closing the JCR, the traffic at Church Street will become gridlocked as vehicles travel to Prestonpans Train Station via the only road you will leave them with to access the station and that's via Church Street Tranent, Bankton Roundabout, Blindwells, and Gardiner Terrace in Prestonpans. ELC will be increasing the amount of cars on Gardiner Terrace which is to become an active travel route with a pedestrian and cycle path right next to a busy congested road caused by the closure of JCR. It must be kept open to reduce the congestion and pollution. Why would you close it and cause vehicles to divert for miles through our villages?

Vehicles using the bypass filter off at the Bankton Junction to reach all the villages I have listed as well as to follow the coastal route and access our coastal villages ie Cockenzie and Port Seton, Longniddry, Aberlady, North Berwick, Gullane, Dirlton etc It is busy, over populated with cars, junctions and roundabouts. Why would you close the JCR as it helps alleviate this problem and the likelihood of accidents.

It is therefore not feasible by any means to base a closure / redetermination on an opinion or reason from 38 years ago when I can assure you EL did not have half the amount of traffic or housing it has now.

### **The Bridge over the A1 bypass**

ELC state the bridge on the JCR was intended only for local farm access. This is incorrect when it was built all vehicles used it as I remember when it was built.

At one point ELC erected gates illegally without any consultation and they were removed. However, it is irrelevant what the original use for the bridge was as it has been used since it was built and currently is still being used regularly by locals as a daily commuting access route.

The bridge is owned and maintained by Transport Scotland however ELC appear to have decided with no consultation with Transport Scotland, with no structural report and no evidence to support their claim that it is not safe for vehicles to use but fine for farm vehicles to use!

To think that Transport Scotland would have built a bridge over such an important main road as the A1 bypass and built it inferior to any other bridge over the A1 is ludicrous.

There are bridges all over the country including East Lothian that are used by all types of traffic today that they were certainly not built for. Some were built for horse and carts and are being used heavily by vehicles. They are not being closed.

The bridge at Drem Train Station is a single bridge with bad bends making it impossible to see oncoming traffic. Based on the above assumption will it close?

The bridge at East Linton and Musselburgh date back hundreds of years. Based on the above assumption will they close?

The bridge at Ormiston has priority arrows and is very old will it close?

There are several bridges without proper pavements ie drem bridge. Based on the above assumption will it close?

There are bridges identical to the Johnnie Cope Road bridge in East Lothian, one crosses the A1 a few miles away connecting Macmerry to St Germain's the other a few miles further on, connecting the houses around the Biel Water to the A199. Does this mean ELC will close these bridges as well?



I question why they can close one bridge on the assumption it is unsafe for cars but fine for combine harvesters and tractors and trailers but not another which is of the same construction and used by both commuting cars and vans as well as farm vehicles. Surely, they would have to close them all!!

ELC state the JCR bridge is safe for combine harvesters and other farm machinery, fire engines, tractors, and trailers to use but not cars or vehicles commuting to the train station and back.

Are ELC aware the weight of the listed vehicles they are allowing to access the road once its closed are a great deal more than a car or van or multiple cars and vans ? It makes no sense to close this road.

If ELC were concerned about the safety of the bridge surely they would have contacted Transport Scotland the owners and closed the road and had a structural engineer investigate it and write a report but again Im afraid there is no evidence to back this up. If they were that concerned the bridge should have been repaired but there is nothing to repair. The only real reason seems to be that ELC just want to close the road to save repairing it and are looking for any excuse to do this.

### **Neglect of Road**

The JCR has been neglected by the different Councils over many years which has resulted in the road falling into extreme disrepair. While other roads all over East Lothian are resurfaced and repaired the JCR has been ignored. Ive been told by the roads department and councillors that there just simply is no money to upgrade and repair the JCR which I find unbelievable when ELC is benefitting from the amount of development in the area and funding is found to the value of 11.3million pounds to regenerate the power station site. What about the regeneration of the JCR? All over East Lothian roads are being resurfaced and repaired why not the JCR ? You can't even report potholes etc on the JCR as they are removed by ELC as soon as they are reported, Im sure this is illegal. By allowing the road to fall into such disrepair it will cost more to bring it up to standard but that is not the communities fault it is ELCs fault for neglecting it.

**The Train Station** Many vehicles use the JCR to access the car park to travel to Edinburgh via train or to travel to Prestonpans, or Tranent. This is part of Active Travel using the train but by closing the road it may dissuade people to use the train due to the congestion and queues of traffic. By closing the road more vehicles will cause real congestion at the traffic lights on the lower part of the road and just after Bankton House opening, traffic will be forced to turn in the private drive and the amount of vehicles entering and leaving from the Prestonpans end of the road will increase greatly making it extremely dangerous. Large vehicles will be unable to access the cottages and Bankton House as the Railway bridge is low and the turns on the road too tight. The road needs to remain open to allow traffic to flow up and down the road safely.

### **ELC originally stated that they wished for the JCR to be used by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and emergency vehicles who will all be given access.**

Then once they read the communities objections from Prestonpans Community Council the reason for closure was changed and horse riders were removed from the list of who would have access.

The road will still require to be repaired no matter who has access. I am a cyclist and car driver and horse owner, and I can assure the council that the road would need to be repaired before cyclists, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and prams etc could use it. I will continue to campaign for the road to be repaired and upgraded until it is.

ELC cannot give some people access and not others its discrimination and it's a public right of way for all to use.

By putting gates across the bridge how do you expect mobility scooters, horse riders, cyclists and combine harvesters to gain access. You cannot narrow this bridge. The farmer requires unrestricted access to his fields. The council have not thought this through. If installing gates with some sort of locking system how will horse riders, mobility scooters, cyclists and pedestrians use the bridge as you cannot put two lanes on the bridge, one for combine harvesters, emergency services, hgvs and one for horse riders, cyclists etc the bridge is too narrow for this. If you put gates up, you are restricting access for everyone.

Does the council expect a horse rider to dismount to open the gate hold a horse and shut the gate walk and lead the horse over the bridge, what happens if it bolts, it would be trapped between two gates and the consequence could be life threatening (I am a horse owner and was an instructor) so can speak from experience. Then the rider must walk across the bridge leading the horse and open the second gate. What type of gates will be installed, there is no description, depending on how they open ie if it's just a barrier as in an arm that goes up in the air or an automatic gate both systems may cause a horse to bolt and with no rider on board the consequence would be fatal. We haven't even discussed how the council would expect the rider to mount the horse again. Would they have to stand on the said gate to mount there horse again no thought has been given to this. There must be no barriers, or gates on this road it's far too dangerous for the people who will be opening and closing them. Bollards cannot be put up as emergency services would be unable to get through resulting in loss of lives and motorbikes would be able to drive through them. The road must remain open for its full length.

**Deliveries** ELC have stated that if the residents require the gates to be open for a delivery or a horse lorry that cannot get under or round the bridge, they can book the gates to be unlocked by giving advanced notice. In this day and age, we do not know when delivery drivers etc will deliver and slots can be all day so how will this work especially in the winter will ELC employees be expected to stand at the gate for hours, days waiting to unlock them for a delivery?

**Emergency Vehicles, Fire Engines, Ambulances, Horse Lorries and trailers, Combine Harvesters, Tractors, JCBs, Removal Lorries, HGVs to empty septic tanks all need access on a daily basis.**

These vehicles will be unable to access the housing on JCR or at Bankton House as the road under the railway bridge is too narrow, with tight bends and the bridge is low. If the road is closed, the Prestonpans end of the road would be the only entrance and exit to the Railway car park it is highly likely an accident would happen as the number of vehicles will double and an HGV would not get around or under the bridge.

**No thought has been given to the fact that wheelchair and mobility scooters have to use the road** if they wish to travel to Edinburgh, they have no choice but to use the road as the pavement is narrow at the Prestonpans end of the road to the railway bridge. By closing the JCR to all vehicles and erecting gates the road will have more traffic on it as vehicles will have to enter and leave on the Prestonpans end of the road making others vulnerable. The road must remain open for its full length.

**ELC have not considered the businesses that are on this road.** The animal physiotherapist and her horses and customers require unrestricted access from the top of the road and the bottom. They drive HGV horse lorries which cannot fit under the railway bridge or around the corners. The residents have had no discussion or consultation on this. By closing the road to all vehicles except emergency and farm vehicles it will affect her business! If she wants the gate open she has to book this in advance. This is not practical and is unachievable and unrealistic. Does ELC expect the horse lorries to enter from the top of the road and park blocking the road while they lead their horses over the bridge. These horses and other animals require a physio so could

be lame. They would then have to reverse back up the JCR . I just do not see how this would work. The road needs to remain open as it will cause great danger if closed.

The farmer must get his combine harvester, Tractors etc in and out of his fields. If the gates are locked do you expect him to jump off his combine harvester from a height to open a gate climb back on , climb off, shut the gate, drive on the bridge, climb off on the bridge above the height of the bridge barrier ( health & safety issue) open the gate climb back on, drive through, climb off, shut the gate, climb back on etc etc etc...that will not happen and it's a danger for him and his employees. Again, no thought has been given to the implication for businesses and other vehicles who use this road daily. The road must remain open for its full length.

**The emergency services, fire service police and ambulance.** They would all require the road to be open it's a vital quick route to the residents at bankton house and the residents in the cottages on JCR. There is an ambulance base at the bottom of the JCR in Prestonpans and the JCR is a direct access to the A1 without any queues of traffic. If you close the JCR they will have to find a key then find the lock and open the gates locking them behind themselves causing precious time to be lost while someone could be dying.

The JCR is a vital link to the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent in an emergency. If the gates were vandalised, how would the emergency services gain access. ELC are putting people's lives at risk by closing the road. It is paramount that emergency services, police, ambulances, and fire service can continue to safely use the whole road with no obstacles in their way therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response times to either Tranent or Prestonpans or outlying villages and the bypass as at the top of JCR you can enter the bypass without travelling through any villages.

The police and ambulances use the road frequently. In the event of a fire, from what I believe, there is only one fire engine small enough to fit under the rail bridge. I am not sure if this has an extendable ladder, as the houses are all between 3 & 5 storeys high with the exception of a 1, 2 storey house. By putting gates on this road, you are putting lives at risk. The road must remain open for its full length.

Where is the emergency services consultation report have, they been out to Bankton House and assessed the situation if there was a fire? Have they been out to check their fire engines with ladders can manoeuvre under the bridge and around the corner? Has ELC invited them to attend a meeting with the residents to discuss access? ....No they haven't I have seen no reports etc so why are ELC putting peoples lives at risk? The JCR must remain open its entire length.

**Local Taxi firms** as well as the public need a road with no barriers as they use it regularly otherwise, they will be diverted for several miles adding to pollution and congestion.

**No traffic survey or management has been carried out by ELC** where are the statistics? I have seen none therefore they are choosing to close a road without any evidence to back it up. There is absolutely no reason to close it. It is a well-used vital road for the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. My family and I use it regularly. You cannot close a road to all vehicles without having completed a traffic management survey of the area and the road itself.

**By upgrading the road and keeping the road open** it ensures current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services, removal trucks and horse lorries without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened. The residents of JCR deserve a road and pavement that is maintained, An easy solution would be to put traffic lights on the bridge or right of way arrows after all Ormiston Bridge has this and the top of fishers road is narrow and vehicles use it without any issues. This road has been neglected by ELC for as many years as I care to remember and there have been no accidents on it or the bridge. The road can easily be improved with traffic signals

or priority signs, road repairs and resurfacing and a shared pedestrian and cyclist path. ELC repair and resurface other roads in EL I do not understand why they are not repairing this vital link between our communities and it's a direct access point from and to the A1. The road must remain open for its full length.

**The road has been neglected for years.** The JCR should be upgraded and repaired like any other road in ELC. Not being able to afford to repair it, as I have been informed by the roads department is no excuse not to repair and upgrade it. If it is closed it will still require upgrading and resurfacing. There is absolutely no reason to close this well used vital road. Only recently ELC resurfaced Gullane main street and a large section of road near Merryhatton and part of Fishers Road in Port Seton and a road in Longniddry and the road at the side of Chalmers Church Port Seton and numerous others so why not the JCR I have never seen such an appalling state of a road anywhere in Scotland in my life its shocking and ELC should be held accountable. Don't put up barriers instead repair and upgrade the road and keep it open.

**The Road is bordered by farmland, making it easy to widen.** The bridge over the A1 would benefit from Traffic Lights for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles to use. With the County swarming with developers, money should be available to upgrade the existing infrastructure. Only recently 11.3 million has been obtained for the Power Station site why are ELC not funding or finding funding to repair and upgrade the Johnnie Cope Road.

**Active Travel.** ELC are promoting Active travel but by closing the JCR vehicles will be forced to travel further adding to pollution and climate change. Commuters who would normally travel by train will be caught up in the congestion at Church Street and Blindwells adding to it and causing delays of 40minutes or more. Many will miss trains and resort back to travelling by car. This is not encouraging active travel. I regularly use the road and leave the bypass to venture straight down JCR, if the barriers /gates are installed I will have to leave at Wallyford adding to the pollution, queues and congestion or drive further to Blindwells then back on myself. Waiting and travelling longer and further while my vehicle pollutes the air. There is already an Active Travel Route linking Prestonpans to Tranent called the Heugh. By closing the JCR you will be increasing and doubling in places the amount of cars travelling through our villages which goes against the concept of active travel. You will instead achieve poorer Air Quality within our local villages as you force vehicles to increase their journeys and create and add to congestion.

**Traffic lights on the bridge and speed control measures (bumps)** and resurfacing the road would make a huge difference to current safety issues. Pushing all the station traffic into accessing only from the Prestonpans side will increase the likelihood of accidents due to the sharp bend at the entrance to the JCR. Money should be spent on improving the road rather than closing it! Does ELC think by closing the road they would not have to repair it or is it that if they make it an active travel route they will receive funding. Personally I do not see why it cant remain open and incorporate all of these upgrades.

**The road under the railway bridge regularly floods.** We currently live in a world with climate change one of the results of this is flash floods and more rain. If the road floods as it has done how will the cars parked in the car park get out and what about people in mobility scooters and wheelchairs they will be trapped. By erecting barricades across this road, the implications are vast and ELC will be held to account if anyone is trapped or injured due to this decision. The JCR must remain open with no barriers so if there is flooding vehicles, mobility scooters, and wheelchairs are not trapped as they have no other way to get out except to phone ELC and wait for someone to arrive with a key to unlock the gates and I wonder realistically how long that would take. This idea is an antiquated one which will cost lives.

**The Power Station Site** It is important to remember that with the 11.3 million levelling fund, the Power Station site will be developed over the next two and a half years starting this spring.

- Inch Cape have planning permission for building a substation and onshore transmission works. They have finalised and secured their plans with ELC. They have stated that there will be an increase in HGV traffic using the coal road to Cockenzie.  
This means there will be an increase of HGVs and construction traffic and machinery as well as employees vehicles on the A1 Bypass, Bankton Roundabout and the A198 to access the Power Station site. These roads are already congested add to this the traffic listed and it will increase greatly adding to congestion and pollution which will all increase. The Power Station site will be worked from 7am to 7pm, 5 and a half days a week with a continuous stream of vehicles using these junctions and roads. ELC have the opportunity to keep the JCR open by doing this it will help ease congestion at the Bankton Junction, the roundabout at the B1361 and at Blindwells.
- As well as this SeaGreen has in principle permission to build a substation on the site. More HGVs and more works traffic using these roads
- There is also to be a battery energy storage development built at the south of the substation. More HGVs and works traffic using these roads

The basis of the 11.3 million is to undertake site preparation and remediation works, to allow for future employment development. These works include: removal of the earthwork bunds surrounding the coal store and regrading that site to increase its developable area; using the bund material to infill the void where the power station stood; works to the underground cooling water tunnels; repair of the sea wall and improvement works to the John Muir Way.

It is quite clear that the power station site will be hugely developed which will increase the vehicles using these roads making them even more congested in the hot spot areas of Bankton Roundabout and Blindwells. By keeping the JCR open ELC can help reduce the congestion and pollution that will ensue.

- Add to this at the same time the creation of a cycle and pedestrian path on the B1361 and the traffic works and lights and closure of part of the road as this is created
- Add to this the housing development of a few hundred houses opposite Charles Phillips and son, Drummore House on the B1361 with the road works and traffic management systems and part closure that will ensue during the build. This will add to the congestion and queues of traffic.

ELC need to look at the bigger picture to see how the JCR road is absolutely vital to our communities. ELC have developed this area greatly with huge housing developments and a new village add to this the power station site and the amount of work and development happening there as well as the additional work to our roads to create a cycle pedestrian path an additional 300 houses at Drummore and it makes absolute sense to keep the JCR open to alleviate the mayhem that will ensue.

Do ELC really think closing the JCR road will help alleviate what will be the most congested roads in East Lothian. Absolutely not we need to keep it open, in this way, it will help alleviate the gridlock, congestion and pollution that is about to ensue.

All in all, this is not a well thought out proposal and just because a process was started and never completed is not a reason to close this road, which as I have said is a vital road for our communities and the residents and businesses who use it. The JCR is one of two direct routes linking the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent and must remain open for all to use. It is also a direct link to the A1 with an exit and entrance road within metres of the JCR. By keeping it open it also helps to alleviate the congestion at other hotspots in the area. (blindwells, Bankton Roundabout, the A198, Church Street, Gardiner Terrace, the B1361 etc)

### **THE SOLUTION**

There is a solution....KEEP IT OPEN.....HOW?

There are ways to fund the work required on the JCR to keep it open and create a pedestrian and cycle path as well as giving access to all vehicles at the same time. Other villages have done this ie gullane to drem path, Beckys strip near North Berwick, the cycle path from blindwells to the train station, the improvements to dean woods in Longniddry, the resurfacing of the Longniddry to Haddington railway walk. All mainly achieved from funding. (Sustrans, community funds etc) There is a diverse range of people in our community who all want to see this road remain open for all to enjoy. The road just requires widening, resurfacing, some street lights and traffic lights installed at the bridge. ELC state it is too far and costly to run power to the bridge for traffic lights however with funding and the money created from all the new developments this can be achieved. Cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles can all share the road and if more land is required a portion can be purchased from the farmer although it is possible to use the grass verges which are large in themselves.

With the amount of resurfacing that has happened this month in East Lothian the JCR could have been resurfaced twice over.

Prestonpans should not be neglected in this way. If the road was in North Berwick, Dunbar, Gullane or Haddington I'm sure I would not be having to write a letter to object and justify why in this day and age a well-used road linking to the A1 should remain open. I hope you will make the right decision for the communities you serve.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

*Abbreviations  
JCR Johnnie Cope's Road*

*ELC East Lothian Council*

**From:** [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 20:40

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Fwd: Johnnie cope Road.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED] >

**Date:** Thu, Mar 23, 2023 at 2:17 PM

**Subject:** Johnnie cope Road.

**To:** [REDACTED] >

A total no on my point. You have no right to close this road and are acting against the people. You are supposed to be a conservative. What are you conserving???????

So lets see YOU want to gate the road ILLEGALLY and cause more CHAOS .

So instead of just making the road better, you will spend much on stupid gates (which will be removed!!!

Stop being silly please or the people will get silly.

See the attached this has gone to heritage Scotland and Transport Scotland.

James J Brannan Stonemason Writer/ Author and many other things.

### Johnnie Cope Road

To Whom It may Concern:

I write with great concern regarding the proposed closure of the above mentioned road. Not only is this road a Historic land mark but it is and always has been a public Carriageway / road.

It is the last vital artery which links up towns, farm roads tracks etc. Given the recent chaos caused by the Blindwells development. This was a prime example of the roads importance to keep things moving.

Regarding the condition of the road:

Given the recent past Covid and the likes. Many roads have suffered neglect and fallen into disrepair.

The fact a contractor had been using the top part of the road for access to the recent built houses just along from the Jet garage. This has added to the damage to the road.

If the issue is cost then perhaps these companies should perhaps put something back in?

The link is still vital for emergency services, police, fire, ambulance, doctors.

It also affects local businesses, Taxis, food deliveries etc.

There is also an Equestrian Center who require access. Also residents who live there, commuters by train from both Prestonpans and Tranent.

For me it is important, I care for my mother and I am a volunteer worker in Tranent Time is vital for me to get to and from or it causes problems for others. I do not believe the problems will end with Blindwells and all it takes is one accident to cause more chaos. I am in Prestonpans just so you know.

Regarding the statement the road was meant to be removed back in the 1980's. That plan is Null and void. I believe the bridge is owned by Transport Scotland. So it is questionable if anyone has the legal right to block it?

I put it to you and would remind you of what we have already lost through the years to suit builders roads, and this is our last direct link.

When the new A1 was created they expected people to cross the road on foot to Fa'side Castle then they had to put a walk over bridge in place (Eventually). We also lost the link to Dolphinston and when they moved the railway lines we lost another access. Oh yeah and lets even mention the Mythical dog racing track in Wallyford!

I also know the Inch Cape will Kick off soon Regardless as to what is said it will cause traffic problems. Yet more roads being closed even if only for a short time and the heavy vehicles will cause damage to the coal road.

I write this with sincerity and deep concern as I feel we lost enough of our rights / civil liberties especially over the last few years and do please remember councillors are put in place by the people and are meant to work for and with the people not work against their wishes. Do as the people want Thanks. We are all meant to do our best for the environment the closure of the road will not help at all.

██████████ Stonemason, writer Author

Hi Keith

Here is the letter as requested.

[REDACTED]

## Longniddry Community Council



[REDACTED] ark

[REDACTED]

2023  
Asset and Regulatory Manager  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Haddington  
EH41 3HA

Dear Sir

### **Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 Redetermination of Johnnie Cope Road**

With reference to the above, Longniddry Community Council have been made aware that East Lothian Council propose to close the Johnnie Cope Road to mechanised traffic, with the obvious exception of emergency services.

We are also aware that both Prestonpans Community Council and Tranent and Elphinstone Community Council are submitting objections to these plans, and Longniddry Community Council would also like to make our objections known.

We are of the opinion that if this well used historical road is closed to mechanised traffic as suggested, this will have a large impact on traffic using the A198 from Bankton Roundabout towards Meadowmill Roundabout to drive back and forth between Tranent and Prestonpans, particularly at peak times when commuters are travelling to and from Prestonpans Railway Station. This is already a particularly busy stretch of road at the present time, and which will obviously become even more so as the building of houses increases in this area. You may be aware that recent roadworks at Meadowmill Roundabout caused gridlock on this stretch of the A198, therefore we are concerned that an upsurge in the volume of traffic may have a similar effect.

We would therefore like to object to the closure of the Johnnie Cope Road and suggest that the road should be retained and maintained to a good standard by East Lothian Council.



We note that Longniddry Community Council were not given prior notice of these proposals and would be obliged if you could please note that as Blindwells has not yet been designated as a separate area and cannot have its own Community Council at the present, it still requires the help and support of Longniddry Community Council for the immediate future. Bearing that in mind, we would therefore be obliged if you could copy Longniddry Community Council into any further communications in respect of this proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
(Secretary)

**From:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>

**Sent:** 23 March 2023 23:55

**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objection Letter - Johnnie Cope Road

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## **OBJECTION TO THE CLOSURE (REDETERMINATION) OF JOHNNIE COPE ROAD**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you all in relation to the proposed closure/redetermination of the Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans, East Lothian.

I appreciate there may have been a plentiful supply of objections prior to my own. Even if you do not read my letter in full please read the following very important point, which may be unique from all others already put forward.

I am a Police Constable with the British Transport Police (BTP), I am also a resident of Prestonpans. Prestonpans railway station and all railway tracks and associated buildings/services are policed by my force.

I have first-hand experience in attending emergencies on the railway throughout East Lothian and most pertinently at Prestonpans railway station. The Johnnie Cope Road is an invaluable route in ensuring I, and my colleague's, are able to attend life threatening emergencies quickly, and when absolutely necessary, to the south side of the station.

Incidents I have attended at Prestonpans railway station include people in mental health crisis who are intent on ending their life by stepping out in front of a train where seconds do really count in attending and removing them before the next high speed non-stopping train is due through. For reference - the line speed for this section, bearing in mind it is the East Coast mainline, is 125mph.

I have attended numerous incidents where there have been children trespassing on the line, again the Johnnie Cope Road provided an invaluable route to get to where we were needed to access the line and remove children before any trains were able to pass through.

In instances where people have sadly been struck by a train and are deceased, the best access to the station and the line is provided by all routes possible, this includes the Johnnie Cope Road and access gates to the south of the station.

Whilst I am able to share my experiences I am not commenting on behalf of my force and all views are my own. Nonetheless, any decision to close or hamper the use of the Johnnie Cope Road will likely have a detrimental impact on the ability of emergency services responding to incidents in and around Prestonpans railway station. The proposal for access to be provided upon giving notice and a key being brought for the gates will never work in an emergency where we, and other emergency services, would likely be on scene within minutes of a call being made.

In the event of a train on fire, it is necessary for the driver of the affected train to make for the nearest station, if safe to do so, to allow the safe disembarking of any passengers. This would result in a train on fire stopping at Prestonpans railway station. If this was an Edinburgh bound service, which stops at the south side of the station, the fire service would need to attend the south car park accessed via the Johnnie Cope Road, none of their vehicles would likely fit underneath the underpass and if the bridge was compromised by a major incident there would be no vehicular access from north to south of the station.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

niall.bonnar@hotmail.co.uk 23 March 2023 Service Manager - Legal and Procurement East Lothian Council John Muir House Haddington EH41 3HA legal@eastlothian.gov.uk Copied to Paul McLennan MSP and all East Lothian Councillors. **OBJECTION TO THE CLOSURE (REDETERMINATION) OF JOHNNIE COPE ROAD** Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to you all in relation to the proposed closure/redetermination of the Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans, East Lothian. I appreciate there may have been a plentiful supply of objections prior to my own. Even if you do not read my letter in full please read the following very important point, which may be unique from all others already put forward. I am a Police Constable with the British Transport Police (BTP), I am also a resident of Prestonpans. Prestonpans railway station and all railway tracks and associated buildings/services are policed by my force. I have first-hand experience in attending emergencies on the railway throughout East Lothian and most pertinently at Prestonpans railway station. The Johnnie Cope Road is an invaluable route in ensuring I, and my colleague's, are able to attend life threatening emergencies quickly, and when absolutely necessary, to the south side of the station. Incidents I have attended at Prestonpans railway station include people in mental health crisis who are intent on ending their life by stepping out in front of a train where seconds do really count in attending and removing them before the next high speed non-stopping train is due through. For reference - the line speed for this section, bearing in mind it is the East Coast mainline, is 125mph. I have attended numerous incidents where there have been children trespassing on the line, again the Johnnie Cope Road provided an invaluable route to get to where we were needed to access the line and remove children before any trains were able to pass through. In instances where people have sadly been struck by a train and are deceased, the best access to the station and the line is provided by all routes possible, this includes the Johnnie Cope Road and access gates to the south of the station. Whilst I am able to share my experiences I am not commenting on behalf of my force and all views are my own. Nonetheless, any decision to close or hamper the use of the Johnnie Cope Road will likely have a detrimental impact on the ability of emergency services responding to incidents in and around Prestonpans railway station. The proposal for access to be provided upon giving notice and a key being brought for the gates will never work in an emergency where we, and other emergency services, would likely be on scene within minutes of a call being made. In the event of a train on fire, it is necessary for the driver of the affected train to make for the nearest station, if safe to do so, to allow the safe disembarking of any passengers. This

would result in a train on fire stopping at Prestonpans railway station. If this was an Edinburgh bound service, which stops at the south side of the station, the fire service would need to attend the south car park accessed via the Johnnie Cope Road, none of their vehicles would likely fit underneath the underpass and if the bridge was compromised by a major incident there would be no vehicular access from north to south of the station. Additional points: I note that the East Lothian Council (ELC) consultation provides no great detail in how any proposed gate/barrier system would operate. This suggests the correspondence is incomplete and additional information is necessary. 1. ELC state that as paperwork was not finalised in 1986 is not an adequate reason to close/redetermine a vital and well used route. In the time since 1986, the area has witnessed a huge increase in population and additional housing estates in the Prestonpans, Tranent, Wallyford and Blindwells areas. Vehicle ownership and use has also greatly increased since 1986. Congestion throughout the area has greatly increased following this pattern and resulted in increasing delays and traffic. 2. I'm led to believe that there has been no traffic survey or management conducted by ELC which suggests ELC are deciding to close a road without any relevant evidence to support the decision. No adequate reason appears to have been put forward to support the closure of a vital and well used road. 3. I believe the Johnnie Cope Road is an ancient public right of way, which existed well before the A1 road development – this should remain open and for use. 4. It has been stated by ELC that it is their intention to re-determine the Johnnie Cope Road for use by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and when required, emergency services - who will all be given access through the proposed locked gates. I have already explained why this would not work. 5. The Johnnie Cope Road has fallen into a very poor state and is uncomfortable in a vehicle and is likely dangerous on a bicycle owing to the pot holes, uneven surfaces and damage – if intended for use by these other users the road would undoubtedly require repair and resurfacing in any event. 6. The closure of the Johnnie Cope Road would greatly increase traffic, congestion and inconsiderate or illegal parking to the north side of the station due to a lack of direct access to the south side of the station. 7. I observe that there are similar roads including narrow bridges throughout Scotland which continue to operate and make use of traffic management/traffic lights to provide a safer road for all users. It is not clear if this has ever been considered by ELC. 8. In the 16 years that I have been driving I do not recall the Johnnie Cope Road ever being resurfaced or any major repair works being undertaken – I may be mistaken but that is my recollection. I argue that it would be more beneficial to the residents of the area for the road to be repaired and upgraded to ensure it is able to safely serve the communities for many years to come. 9. The Johnnie Cope Road provides an additional route, alleviating strain on the other residential routes throughout the county. Closure would result in additional congestion and delay through Wallyford, past Blindwells and other neighbouring routes. 10. From experience, the roadway beneath the bridge is prone to regular flooding. In the event of the Johnnie Cope Road being closed and the road beneath the bridge being impassable due to flooding, the south side of the station would be unreachable to vehicles. This would severely affect the north side of the station and surrounding roads whereby people would abandon their vehicles in order to board their train. Additionally, there is no accessible route from north to south except for via the underpass or the Johnnie Cope Road. In the event that both these routes are out of use, those with accessible requirements would be unable to access the station and board services Edinburgh bound. Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 21 March 2023 14:24

**To:** CabSecNZET@gov.scot; MinisterFT@gov.scot

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objection to proposed closure of Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there,

Ahead of the public consultation exercise closing on Friday 24th March, please find attached our formal written objection to a proposed road closure in our town, for the attention of Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport, and Jenny Gilruth MSP, Minister for Transport.

Unfortunately, we have found it necessary to bother the Cabinet Secretary and Minister with this matter as they presumably have the devolved power to adjudicate on this matter under section 71 of the *Roads (Scotland) Act 1984* (previously a matter for the Sec of State for Scotland), that is currently being utilised by East Lothian Council to close one of only two direct routes connecting the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent.

As explained at length in the letter, we reluctantly now find ourselves having to politely request the Transport Department to "call in" this decision to ensure detailed research of *all* options is at long last undertaken and for a public inquiry to be held *before* any decision to close this public road is made.

We would greatly appreciate it if the Cabinet Secretary and the Transport Minister were given sight of this letter prior to any response being issued by officials.

For full transparency, we have also copied into this email the local MSPs (constituency and South of Scotland), the Chief Exec and Council Leader of East Lothian Council, their legal department and the eight ward councillors representing the two communities most affected.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

All the very best for now,

[Redacted Signature]

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**Prestonpans Community Council (Est. 1975)**

[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [Web](#)

Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** [Redacted]  
**Secretary:** [Redacted]  
**Treasurer:** [Redacted]  
**Vice Chairperson:** [Redacted]

Michael Matheson MSP & Jenny Gilruth MSP Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport & Minister for Transport The Scottish Government St. Andrew's House Edinburgh EH1 3DG 20th March 2023

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Minister,  
Johnnie Cope Road, Prestonpans – Proposed Road Closure I write on behalf of Prestonpans Community Council to formally object to the proposal by East Lothian Council to close an historic right-of-way, Johnnie Cope Road – one of the two direct routes connecting the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent. It is worth noting at the outset that the local authority of the time apparently originally proposed to close this road in 1986 around the time of the opening of the A1 bypass at Tranent. The intention then was for this ancient right of way to remain open solely to walkers and cyclists. However, East Lothian Council advise that the necessary TROs were never progressed by Lothian Regional Council. Despite having failed to follow the correct legal procedure to stop-up the road, the Regional Council did nonetheless briefly introduce gates in the early days after the A1 bisected the Johnnie Cope Road. These gates were apparently swiftly and repeatedly removed by persons unknown and the road has remained open to all users over the decades that have followed. It is our understanding that ELC Cabinet Members

were made aware of this error by Officers in January 2020 and authorised by the Council Cabinet to begin the closure procedure once again. East Lothian Council decided to use the original justifications offered for closure in 1986, covered by Sections 1(1), 68(1) and 152(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. We have repeatedly attempted to engage, in good faith, with the local authority over several months to better understand their closure justifications (narrated below), but we now find ourselves in the reluctant position of having to write to yourself to object formally to the proposed stopping up of Johnnie Cope Road under the relevant provision stipulated in Section 71(2) of the same act. We have repeatedly asked the Local Authority for and have failed to receive the robust evidence that normally might be expected to support such a significant decision to close one of only two roads directly connecting a town of c.10.5k with its neighbouring community of c.11.9k. Consequently, we now unfortunately find it necessary to trouble you both, to ask for a determination to be made on this matter by you and your team. Given that transport is now a devolved matter, unlike at the time of the 1984 Act when it was in the hands of the Secretary of State for Scotland, we believe that Section 71 of the above Act empowers one of you to adjudicate on this matter. Page 2 of 5 Background to objection Johnnie Cope Road Johnnie Cope Road is a short stretch of adopted road that directly links the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent. It got its name as the starting point of General Cope's panicked retreat straight to Carlisle following his defeat at the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745. In 1986, as the A1 was being constructed, the road was bisected almost exactly in half and a single track bridge was built across the A1, of exactly the same construction as those still in use elsewhere along the A1 in East Lothian, connecting Macmerry to St Germain's and connecting the settlements along the Biel Water to the A199. As briefly narrated above, the then local authority, began a process to close the road, believing that it was unnecessary to the local population. It has been repeated, at length that the bridge put in at the time was intended for local farm access only and that the road was deemed surplus to requirements. Immaterial original justifications We would politely suggest that decisions made (and not submitted to public scrutiny and consultation) almost four decades ago are utterly immaterial to the situation in 2023 and moving forward. In making the original decision, the Regional Council cited a provision under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, specifically clause 68 (1) which posited that the road "will become unnecessary". However, no one can be in doubt that the intervening 37 years have shown that this prediction was far from correct. Local circumstances have changed considerably. The settlements of Prestonpans, Tranent, Cockenzie and Port Seton have all virtually doubled in size over that period, with significant housebuilding taking place. As this very decision is being made an entire "new town" development is under way between these settlements at Blindwells, the first phase of which will add 1,600 commuter homes all connecting into a short stretch of the A198 – this is the only other direct connection from Prestonpans to Tranent and the A1. Page 3 of 5 Additionally, this section of the A198, next to the Bankton Junction, also connects the communities of Cockenzie and Port Seton, Longniddry, Gullane, Aberlady and North Berwick to the A1. In our view it is completely illogical and entirely inappropriate to attempt to close the only alternative local relief road, while the traffic pressures on the A198 can only intensify in the coming years. Over the last few months, we have repeatedly attempted to engage with the Council on this point, asking them to provide reports that evidence the usage and the carbon and other impacts of closure on nearby roads. Initially going unacknowledged, we eventually received the results of a single traffic survey completed over a week in the winter of 2022 which showed in excess of a thousand journeys per day on the Johnnie Cope Road (mainly rush hour commuters on the way to and from the railway station park and ride on that road). No other data on adjacent roads was provided, which suggests either that the data conflicts with the reasoning for closure provided by Council officers, or that such data sadly does not exist, leaving the Council's primary justification for closure entirely unevicenced. We would also like to add that the original stated, but so far unsubstantiated, apparent intention for the bridge is also immaterial. We have bridges all over the country, some many centuries old, that are in regular use by all types of traffic today that they certainly were not built to accommodate. Those along our busiest of routes that have no longer been found fit for purpose for 20th or 21st century needs have been replaced, rarely have the roads been closed instead. Emergency and other necessary access to residential properties The Council proposes that the road will close beyond the properties at Bankton House and Farm and the park and ride facilities at the train station. While this will allow those residents to access their properties via Gardiner Terrace, Prestonpans, this access is only suitable for smaller vehicles due to an overhead railway bridge. Larger vehicles such as vans, horse transports and especially emergency vehicles cannot access the properties at Bankton from this direction. The

Council's suggested solution to this is to install a padlocked gate at either side of the bridge over the A1. While emergency vehicles will have access to the keys, Bankton residents have expressed sincere fears that these gates will unnecessarily impede and delay the arrival of emergency vehicles in getting to the scene of an emergency. Other local residents have rightly also pointed out that the route is also regularly used by ambulances housed at the Prestonpans ambulance station, just a few hundred metres away from the entrance to the Johnnie Cope Road. There appears to have been no real consideration given to the extra time or difficulty posed by alternative routes, in the event that the suggested key option fails. One Bankton resident reported at our most recent public meeting, his daughter's bedroom is on the 5th floor of his property south of the railway line, requiring a ladder vehicle in the event of a fire. The precious seconds or minutes spent fumbling around in the darkness at two gates across the Johnnie Cope Road Bridge, could potentially mean the difference between life and death. As a Community Council, we have yet to see any formal response to these concerns by the emergency services and we struggle to see how the proposed benefits of closure are balanced against this potential risk. Concerns have also been raised repeatedly with the Council that the access via Gardiner Terrace has a history of severe flooding, which would cut off vehicular ingress and egress to Bankton residents. Council officers have indicated that affected residents could request access from the other entrance but would be required to do so in advance. As climate change intensifies and rainstorms become more common, obviously it would not be possible for tenants to predict when flooding may occur, nor have the Council provided compelling evidence that recent remedial works are sufficient to prevent the re-occurrence of serious flooding.

Page 4 of 5 The process of requesting access is rumoured to be requesting for a key-holder from the Council offices at Macmerry to be in attendance at a specific time to open both gates. In an age of multi-hour or all-day delivery windows, for every conceivable good and service, and restricted local authority resources such an arrangement is clearly unworkable.

Bridge condition The Council has also recently asserted that the Johnnie Cope Road bridge over the A1, owned and maintained by Transport Scotland, has to be shut "on the grounds of road safety" as the bridge is declared to be unsuitable for the volume of traffic currently using it. Again, we have asked multiple times for the Council to provide recent structural analysis and formal reports that confirm the bridge is dangerously incapable of serving the current number of vehicles that regularly use it. We are told that such a condition survey would be the responsibility of Transport Scotland and that the County Engineer had completed a visual (if not formal) assessment and decreed the bridge unfit. It is of grave concern to us as a Community Council that the Council apparently considers that one of Transport Scotland's bridges is a potential danger to traffic travelling on the A1, one of the busiest routes in the country. The proposal, going forward, is that the bridge will be safe enough to accommodate the weight of combine harvesters, fire engines, tractors and trailers and other heavy goods vehicles, but not a series of private cars on their way to the park and ride facilities on Johnnie Cope Road. As a Scottish Government agency, we would be grateful if Transport Scotland could provide its view on the safety of its bridge and any structural assessments to support the Council's opinion that the bridge is unsafe. We would also appreciate if Transport Scotland could confirm what engagement they have had with East Lothian Council on this determination, if any, as it would be unfathomable for a local authority not to consult the organisation tasked with the upkeep and maintenance of such a key piece of infrastructure on this road. Similarly, several other communities served by the very similarly designed and contemporary bridges across and along this stretch of the A1 would probably welcome assurances that Transport Scotland is not allowing traffic to pass over and under dangerous bridges in their care. If not, should these communities also be expecting a closure order soon? Inconsistent and problematic consultative process Prior to notable and voluble community opposition, the Council unfortunately seems to have had little sincere intention of engaging in meaningful public consultation on this matter. The reluctance of officers to provide any substantive, objective evidentiary basis to justify the closure of Johnnie Cope Road, their unwillingness to attend a Community Council and meet with local residents and their tendency to ignore very basic questions, offering further subjective assertions and equivocations instead, have given rise to public fears that the current "consultation" exercise is merely ticking statutory boxes. These fears were only exacerbated by a significant "moving of the goalposts" part-way through the consultation process. As a statutory consultee we were asked in January this year to comment upon plans to close the road using only Section 68(1) of the Roads (Scotland) 1984 Act. In good faith, before responding, we sought the views of our local community at our public meetings, on social media and by email. We received 84 objections from concerned residents and just 4 in support of closure. We

submitted our formal and considered objection only to find out a few days later that, following internal legal advice, the Council was now using Sections 1(1) and 152(2) to justify closure in the next Page 5 of 5 stage of the consultative process. When we noticed, we asked for the process to be restarted. The Council apologised for the "misleading information contained in the draft order" but decided that the position of the goalposts had not changed sufficiently to alter their plans. Ways forward For many years it has been evident that the Local Authority has not maintained Johnnie Cope Road to a standard of other similar adopted roads in the county. Misinformation and confusion about the actual ownership of the road and the bridge has also further muddled public discussions and concerns about the condition of both pieces of public infrastructure over many years at the Community Council and other public fora. We are firmly of the opinion that this important road should be maintained and upgraded for all users. It should be repaired to acceptable standards and speed-calming measures and pavements should be introduced where appropriate to do so. Traffic signals should also be erected on either side of the single-track bridge to restrict numbers on the bridge at any one time and to ensure safe passage in both directions. None of this is surely unreasonable to ask for in one of only two busy, well-used, direct routes between the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent, particularly as we already have an excellent, if under-invested, active travel route between these communities just a few hundred metres to the east of the Johnnie Cope Road. However unacknowledged in this specific process, it is hopefully inconceivable and unacceptable to you and your department that Local Authority Officers, seeking to save money on long overdue road upgrades and repairs, might use historic and obscure justifications to close roads in disrepair or turn them into cheaper "active travel" routes instead. Imagine the local and national precedent that such a drastic action as this could set. Would any pot-holed B-road in the country be safe? We would therefore be grateful for your views on both the legality and the spirit of this process and for your calling this decision in for a public inquiry, as per the powers granted to you under Section 71 of the above Act. Should you or your team require further information from us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

All the very best for now, [REDACTED] Chair of Prestonpans Community Council CC: -

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - [legal@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:legal@eastlothian.gov.uk).

Dear Keith,

Please find attached, for the attention of Ian Lennox, Prestonpans Community Council's comments and objection to the Council's proposal to close Johnnie Cope Road. I have also cc'ed in our ward councillors and will be sending on a copy to the Transport Secretary's office.

Could you please let me know over what time period and to whom you would like sent any public comments during the next stage of this notification exercise.

We will also be hosting our monthly public meeting of our Community Council on **Tues the 28th February at 7pm** in the **Town Hall in Prestonpans**. Given the almost unprecedented level of local interest in this matter we would greatly appreciate it if yourself, Ian Lennox or any other appropriate colleague from the Roads Service team with agency over and knowledge of this application could come along and explain the grounds for closure of one of two roads directly connecting the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent to local residents. We will make it the first order of business so that whichever council officer is in attendance will not be detained for too long. Can you please let me know who might be available for this meeting?

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the very best for now,

[REDACTED]

Ian Lennox Asset and Regulatory Manager East Lothian Council John Muir House Haddington EH41 3HA Dear Ian, Re: Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

(Your Ref: N/T1A/23/KS/) We thank you for your letter on the above matter dated 23 January 2023. Having consulted widely with fellow local residents (in person, on our social media and by email), viewed extensive commentary on a new local grassroots campaigning page (with over 700 followers in a few weeks) and discussed the matter in detail at two recent public meetings of the Community Council we write back to you to object to your proposal to close Johnnie Cope Road to mechanised traffic in the strongest possible terms. In the three weeks since you sent us your letter, we have received from members of the public 84 notes and comments objecting to the road's closure and only four in favour. Concerns vary from the likely negative impacts on traffic levels on other nearby routes, access to homes and businesses south of the railway bridge, emergency and heavy goods access to those homes, increased journey time emissions, overall inconvenience and fears about flooding under bridge that might trap vehicles in the railway car park and prevent access and egress from homes south of the bridge. Interestingly, a significant number of correspondents independently share the opinion of our Community Council that rather than being shut, the adopted roads on either side of the bridge over the A1 should instead be properly repaired, traffic-calming measures introduced, adequate pedestrian pavement provided and traffic lights on either side of the bridge added. Your decision to very belatedly seek to enact a provision from the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, specifically clause 68(1), is a contentious one. The quoted clause specifies that the road in question "will become unnecessary", something that has proved to be demonstrably incorrect over the last 36 years or so given the increasingly heavy use on the road as the numbers of households expanded dramatically in both Prestonpans and Tranent. If it is the Council's assertion that the Johnnie Cope Road is now "unnecessary" what metrics have you used to come to such a decision? 1 of 4

Additionally, this proposed legislative justification for closure actually conflicts with the justification for closure given by your own spokesperson and published in the East Lothian Courier on the 2nd February which states: "The main reason for the road to be closed to vehicular traffic is on the grounds of road safety. The structure was not designed to take the volume of traffic using it." This contradictory justification is notable for two particular reasons. The first is the Council's apparently inadvertent admission that the road is in fact heavily used, therefore suggesting that it is in fact a "necessary" road. Secondly, it suggests that the Council has failed in its statutory duty to ensure that the bridge's owner, Transport Scotland, has kept the bridge connecting the two sides of your adopted road in a condition that is appropriate to the needs of our busy and growing local communities. Your spokesperson goes on to say that the bridge "was built as an accommodation bridge for a farmer" and that it was "always intended to be closed to vehicular traffic." Both of these statements are utterly immaterial to the situation we find ourselves in today. On the first statement, many historic bridges across Scotland were built for different purposes than those which there are currently used. It is often the case that such bridges have had to be adapted or replaced due to wear and tear or simply to meet new needs, this is one of those cases. On the second point, it does not matter what was "intended" almost forty years ago, the fact remains that the appropriate road closure legislation was not implemented at the time and the historic Johnnie Cope Road remained opened to through traffic after the A1 cut right across it. The communities of Prestonpans and Tranent have grown considerably in the last 37 years and the two roads connecting our two towns are used far, far more in 2023 than they ever were in 1986 when an council officer first considered closure but failed to seek the appropriate order. Your spokesperson concluded that "there are alternative, more appropriate roads within close proximity." No objective data to back up such a significant claim has so far been provided to us. Where are the traffic studies and projections for these nearby roads recording current usage and projected modelling to justify this bold assertion? What work has been done to examine how this traffic displacement will impact upon the chaotic traffic jams already being experienced at the Bankton Junction ramps as the new Blindwells development comes on stream? What research has been completed to assess whether an upgraded Johnnie Cope Road (or even more simply a properly maintained Johnnie Cope Road) would be of more benefit to the populations of Prestonpans and Tranent? If any such research has been done, why has this not been shared with us? We appreciate that you have attempted to use a 39 year old year piece of legislation to close the Johnnie Cope Road, but The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 requires you to have consulted beforehand with, among others, the operators of public passenger transport services. Has such a consultation taken place with 2 of 4 the various local taxi companies who regularly use this route? Taxis are an integral and recognised part of our public transport system, what consultation work has been carried out with local operators? What impact assessments have been carried out on increased financial costs to users and increased environment emissions of



forcing these vehicles to take a longer route between our two communities? Similarly, much of the public's and Bankton residents' concerns have understandably focused on emergency vehicle access. Your colleagues have assured us that the emergency vehicles will still be able use the bridge, opening the controlled gates or bollards. We have not yet had sight of the official agreement with your proposal from police, fire and ambulance services. Even if these emergency services are contented, in the round, with access provision through your new gates, has the increased likelihood of vandalism or accidental damage to any gate mechanism, particularly high in this isolated spot, been considered? When every second counts following an emergency call, lives may be at stake. Do you have 100% confidence that emergency vehicles will always have access through such barriers and never be delayed? We have also drawn to your officers' attention our serious concerns about flooding under the railway bridge. Their official response was that recent improvement works "...should keep the drains clear from any normal rainfall." We live in an age of climate change, "normal rainfall" is a thing of the past with heavier and heavier rainstorm events predicted. Inevitably, the road has already flooded since your remedial works were carried out. With a locked bridge to the south and flooded road to the north, residents at Bankton and commuters with their cars in the station car park will find their vehicles blocked in. A completely unacceptable situation. Moving back to your decision to use section 68(1) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to close this vital connecting road between Prestonpans and Tranent, rather than subsequent legislation, clause 71 of that act provides supplementary addenda to clause 68. We would draw your attention to sub-section 2(a)ii of that clause which states that any submitted objection to an application by a local authority to enact section 68 will be determined by the Secretary of State. Given that Transport is now a Devolved matter, we will be exercising our right under this clause to ask that the Scottish Transport Secretary's office for a ruling on this matter and will be encouraging local residents to do likewise. Your office appears to have taken a decision to close a well-used road without exercising a level of due diligence and pre-decision public consultation that most East Lothian residents would like to see as standard practice from their local authority. Your office has offered no qualitative or quantitative evidence to support closure beyond pale, unsubstantiated assertions. 3 of 4 Public opinion overwhelmingly supports not just the road staying open, but that it be properly maintained, traffic-calming on the road and traffic lights introduced at the bridge and proper pavements constructed. But you have ploughed on regardless with this unwanted scheme, convincing yourselves that the stopping up to mechanised traffic of a long-established right of way is somehow a better solution for the needs of two busy towns in 2023. With only two direct routes connecting two population centres of 10,500 and 12,500, one of which is also the only current route out of and into an emerging "new town", it is ludicrous to the point of absurdity to suggest that one of these two roads is now classed as "unnecessary". Prestonpans Community Council is unanimous in its robust and total objection to this proposal. Yours sincerely, [REDACTED] Chairperson, Prestonpans Community Council.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached copies of the responses we received from the community with reference to the proposed repurposing of Johnny Cope's Road.

From those responses, there seems to be a fairly strong feeling in the community that the closure of the road as proposed is not a popular decision.

As a result, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council would ask that the plans be put on hold to allow time for more formal consultation and consideration of the full implications.

A hard copy has been sent to yourself and the Asset Manager.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Chair  
Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council

Against closure

[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)  
I am against this decision as its a very well used local access road.

If it should have closed all those years ago they should have completed it all those years ago, its not been a priority for all that time but suddenly now its a problem??

Given the cost of living and the cost of fuel at the moment the route around either side from Tranent into Prestonpans adds a lot of miles onto the journey!! Not to mention the extra traffic at Blindwells side also adding to that.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@yahoo.com)To:you [Details](#)  
Hello,

Just a few comments on the proposed road closure.

I live at Bankpark therefore I use the road daily. I have no problem with the road being closed completely to traffic as I can easily walk to/from Prestonpans train Station and it would be safer for my children to walk or cycle to/from Prestonpans for school if there was no traffic.

However I realise that some people can't/won't walk so perhaps a one way system would be a good alternative. If the road was to stay fully open, the idea of a traffic light on the bridge, or a widening of the bridge would make sense. Also a pavement all the way up, even if just one side, would be appreciated by pedestrians.

One problem I foresee is access in or out of the train station car park on the Tranent side when the road becomes impassable because of flooding. Also, if the road is closed completely the traffic congestion around the blindwells area with people driving to/from Prestonpans will become even more problematic than it already is.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)  
Johnny Copes road closure.

I would like to express my disgust at the possibility of this road being closed. It provides direct access to car park at PrestonPans railway station for people from Tranent Elphinstone Pencaitland Ormiston Macmerry. If any change made I would suggest closing the road at the bridge so it becomes a no thru road and only access to station south side car park allowed.

This would inconvenience the small number of people who live beside the road however that is way below the numbers inconvenienced by closure .

Kind regards

██████████

██████████@icloud.com)To:you [Details](#)

I wrote this email after seeing that the local councillors are working towards closing Johnnie Cole's road.

After reading their reasoning behind this as, '36 years ago we didn't close it so now we are' I really struggle to understand how this could possibly constitute as an actual reason?

As I'm sure you will be reading in the various community Facebook pages and posts regarding this proposal (if anybody is actually paying attention) there are a huge amount of residents on both sides of the A1 utterly puzzled behind the logic of this.

Also in these pages there are many reasons as to why the road should not be closed. For example, the state of the traffic management at the new Blindwells development causing daily issues with traffic queuing back onto the A1 thanks to the ridiculously short slip road and the lights controlling traffic into the new houses.

(Little side note on this area too, the original agreement with developers in this area was a small, set amount of houses were approved on the basis that the slip roads onto and off the A1 would be reworked to make them more suitable for the increased traffic the new town would bring. Now correct me if I am wrong but it would appear either the developers have failed to follow through with this promise or the councillors have been 'convinced' to waive this part of the terms somehow. I will not be holding my breath for the start of these upgrading works).

Now back to Johnnie Cope's road. We have covered the issues with the blindwells end of prestonpans so let's look at the Wallyford side.

Thanks to the decisions of the local councillors to allow a massive development to go ahead on what was registered as 'green field' area (for years the signs remained on lampposts whilst the groundwork's began) there is now thousands of houses, a new primary school and a new high school being built between Tranent and the existing Wallyford town.

Do the councillors really believe that this will have no affect on the existing roads? Have they driven past a school in the last 30 years? There are cars everywhere, driving like idiots and parking like idiots!

This is, as I am sure you are well aware after keeping up with the comments sections on your posts, just a small amount of concerns from local residents.

Instead of closing the well used road - despite the councils attempts to put people off using it with their complete and deliberate lack of maintenance - why not invest in resurfacing and fitting motion sensing traffic controls at either side of the bridge much like those controlling traffic under the rail bridge slightly further down the road?

If you are unfamiliar with the above mentioned rail bridge let me refresh your memory. It's the one that becomes totally impassable due to flooding on a regular basis! Just what you want when parking at the local train station and having to walk home as the local council have decided to close the only other viable route out.

Please do not respond to this point with 'we recently cleared the drains so this should no longer be an issue' or that 'recent drainage works will 'minimise' risk of flooding during 'normal rainfall' as has been posted on the threads from prestonpans community page as let's be honest that will, at most help for a few weeks. (When has Scotland ever just had 'normal rainfall'?)

Anyone with any knowledge of groundwork's knows you cannot pump millions of pounds worth of concrete into the old mine shafts that are scattered around East Lothian to allow houses to be built on top without seriously affecting the water table.

I draw your attention to the flooding throughout the East Lothian area that has been a growing issue over the last few years thanks to these developments. One such example is the A199 between the Kinweger recycling plant and Dolphingstone.

In short (sic) the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope's Road will without a doubt cause unnecessary delays due to added traffic on either end of Prestonpans, increase the carbon footprint of those drivers having to take the longer route and as it was 36 years ago when the gates were erected be a complete waste of time and money as the local residents break through and continue to use the road!

If you need further proof that local residents will prevail in their desire to use roads they shouldn't I would suggest you take a trip down to Wallyford park and ride and count how many cars continue through the new section of road sign marked for use of buses taxis and cycles only.

I look forward to your response but will not be surprised when it does not arrive. Sadly I will not be surprised to hear of the inevitable decision to close the road after the councillors have 'listened' to the local communities yet went ahead and done what they have already decided on anyway.

We can only hope they remember they are here to serve the local communities and not just their own bank balances.

Regards

[Redacted signature]

Phone :

Website:

Email

[Redacted]@icloud.com)To:you [Details](#)

To voice my opinion on the closure of the road between Prestonpans and Tranent at Bursley Brae.

This road is access for many from Tranent to use the train station and serves as easy access for people living in those areas. Closing it is not only insulting to road tax payer but an utter disgrace of an idea. Where is all our road tax money etc going every year. Prices are going up but the council are closing more and more roads instead of repairing them alongside car parks etc. Yellow lines are going down in places and fining people for parking. It's a disgrace.

Closing the road is a terrible terrible idea.

Regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted]@gmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

This road is a very important thoroughfare for the people of Tranent and Prestonpans and the proposed closure will cut off a very busy link between our two villages. I feel the only viable

reason the council may have for closing this road is because it need properly maintained and the council have neglected it for a significant period of time. The road should be properly repaired and if anything needs done it would be traffic control on the bridge. The regular flooding under the train station bridge alone should show how poor an idea closing the road actually is, if people using the southern car park were to return from work on the train after a particularly heavy rainfall and the upper part of the road was closed they would have no way of getting their cars out.

This smacks of the council just trying to shirk on their responsibility to maintain this road as they have neglected it so long.

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

To who it may concern,

I am emailing in regards to the planned closure of Johnnie Copes Road linking Tranent and Prestonpans.

This is a road that our family use at least 4 times a week, and saves a much longer drive via Strawberry corner or Blindwells to reach Prestonpans train station. Living off Birseley Brae, it's a 2 mile drive from our home to the train station via Johnnie Copes road. If we were to go via the A199 to strawberry corner and then back on ourselves on the B1361 it's 4.5 miles, and via Blindwells it's 4 miles. Both of these options take us past massive housing developments which are becoming busier and busier with traffic, and are areas we would prefer to avoid if we can. Why add to the pressure on these roads and roundabouts when there is a perfectly good access road already in place?

Responsive traffic lights in my opinion are required on the bridge over the A1 on Johnnie Copes road, and clearly some extensive resurfacing works as the road is a complete liability as it stands. But it is an extremely well used and handy cut through, for so many of us that use the train.

It would certainly put me off using the train if Johnnie Copes road was to close, at a time when we should be doing everything in our power to encourage more use of public transport.

I sincerely hope that this road can remain open for the convenience of locals who rely on it so heavily.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

## Johnnie Cope Road Must Remain Open

Sun, 29 Jan 2023 11:31

[REDACTED]@live.co.uk)To:you + 5 more [Details](#)

This is a artery to the communities of both Tranent and Prestonpans.

It provides traffic calming and quick access to both communities and the Rail Station.

It has a purpose of keeping East Lothian connected as many families live in on or the other towns.

It will keep the traffic congestion away from the new junctions at Blindwells where hundreds of Houses are being built.

It will also help keeping the road where the new Wallyford School opens in August. Protecting children from heavy traffic.

It also is a safe way for cyclist and walkers as the road traffic is conscious of the country code.

[REDACTED]  
Prestonpans resident with family in Tranent.

## Keeping the Jonnie Cope road open

Sun, 29 Jan 2023 13:17

[REDACTED]@live.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

This is nothing other than a stitch up , pulling files from 35 years ago to justify the closure now is nothing other than preposterous and any recent paperwork has merely been instigated by the council to achieve the council's desired outcome to close the road. You'd have to be fairly dumb not to realise that this is the case. That being said we can and must fight this fight, it's not for dodgy councillors or council departments to screw the local community over by slight of hand in order to save the money it would take to fix the road and this is ultimately what this nonsense is about. Panners should stand together and fight this plan and hold hot coals to the councillors that claim to represent their constituents but in reality pay lip service to their responsibilities of representation. I urge everyone not to ignore this this fight because if this is allowed to happen they'll be emboldened to do whatever they want knowing we won't fight it. Stand up for your community

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

I have used the road now known as the Johnnie Cope Road to visit my family who have lived in Prestonpans for many generations. I moved to Tranent in 1968 Having been brought up in Prestonpans I and many of my friends used it to get to Tranent park, Fa'side Castle, the picture house etc. at this time the road was known as **Birsley Brae**

The road is used now and in the past by cars even before the bypass was built, there was never any problem with the road until the council decided to build a single traffic bridge instead of a two way traffic bridge. They tried to close this road before but failed because I believe the road

is a **RIGHT OF WAY** which I think the council have no right to close this road to the public if it is in **CONSTANT USE**. (which it is)!

The reason the road is in a state of disrepair is because it is East Lothian Council's fault by not repairing potholes etc. Which they are responsible for.

When Blindwells is fully opened the traffic going between Tranent, Prestonpans, Port Seton, Longniddry is going to be horrendous! It has already caused a lot of tailbacks etc., and there are only a few streets there at the moment.

**Keeping the Johnnie Cope Road Open** and investing in traffic lights at the bridge and repairing the road will ease some of the congestion that it going to happen at Bankton Roundabout and the High Road into Prestonpans and surrounding areas.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

Dear Secretary,

The historic Johnnie Copes Road must be kept open. It is a quick link for my elderly and now frailer relations in Wilson Avenue between Prestonpans and Tranent to access doctors, dentists etc and is well used for access to Prestonpans railway Station. Network Rail use it frequently for vital maintenance access to the East Coast Main Line. The Scottish Fire and Rescue service use it as a quick route if required for any emergency situation. The Police also use it for vital quick access between the two towns.

The route must be kept open and we must have the support of all political parties and the local MP, MSP to keep it open.

Please stop this closure happening

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] )To:you [Details](#)

Hello Team

I want to complain about the Johnny Cope Road being closed

This road has been there for years and we can easily access the train station & cooperative shop

This road needs repaired why is it in such a mess.

We also have a taxi firm and live in the Edinburgh Road the cost implication to the public having to go all the way round is crazy

Its linking 2 communities its used loads, get it repaired and get traffic light installed at either end of the bridge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Office Manager**

Direct Line: [REDACTED] Ext [REDACTED] Dalkeith & 2212 Macmerry

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gmail.com)To:you [Details](#)  
Keep this essential road open!

**Closure off Johnny cope road**

Tue, 31 Jan 2023 13:50

[REDACTED]@gmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

I am e-mailing you regarding the closer off the johnny cope road. Please don't allow this to happen, have they even thought of what this could cause? A nightmare for everyone that uses that road, what are they meant to do now? Why shut a road that's never caused problems to taking the road away and causing major problem. I will be standing on the road the day they come and not letting them past!!

Please help us stop this from happening there is lovely hood at stake here

Dear Sir/Madam

It is imperative that the above road remains open!

ELC must have the knowledge and statistics to prove that if this road is closed it will involve even more traffic chaos at Blindwells and Meadowmill Roundabout. At the moment to negotiate Meadowmill Roundabout and Blindwells is horrendous and instead of closing the above road it would be advantageous to upgrade the road immediately which makes it shorter and easier for drivers to commute between Tranent and Prestonpans. I am of the opinion that ELC is not giving consideration to roads, etc., and allowing houses to be built anywhere and neglecting the very necessary infrastructure in our County.

I worked for ELC for 47 years and I am greatly disturbed and sad at the significant deterioration and decline in the services now provided by ELC.

[REDACTED]

Hello

In light of the above proposal I wish to raise the following points for consideration.



1 Restricted access to Bankton properties for  
-delivery/removal vehicles  
- Horse boxes to Bankton Stables  
- Tankers to empty septic tanks and most importantly  
- emergency services vehicles especially fire engines with extending ladders being unable to access the low bridge at the railway.

2 Loss of use by local traffic between Tranent and Prestonpans, especially people wishing to access the railway station from Tranent.

3 An increase in traffic using the road north of the railway bridge which includes a sharp bend with difficulties encountered bypassing vehicles. Although repairs to the road drains in the past have reduced the amount of flooding, there is still partial flooding during heavy rainfall.

4 Closure of the road would increase the amount of traffic using the Bankton junction at Blindwells and leave no alternative short detour. In addition to the above this road allows traffic from Prestonpans to access the A1 without the need to use the main road through Wallyford.

I hope that these points will be considered by the entire ELC.  
Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We are writing to inform you that we wish the Johnnie Cope Road to remain open for the following reasons :

Firstly this consultation should never have been made as ELC have not reported how the locked gate system will operate. The paperwork is therefore incomplete, and more information is required.

1. **For ELC to state because the paperwork wasn't completed in 1986 is not a reason to close this well used vital road.**

Since 1986 this area has been developed greatly with large housing estates all over East Lothian particularly Prestonpans, Tranent, Blindwells, and Wallyford resulting in a vast increase in the population, and in the number of vehicles on these roads. This has resulted in queues of traffic and congestion at Wallyford and Blindwells. By closing the JCR the traffic that would normally use it will have to use either Blindwells or Wallyford and Longniddry roads instead which will add to congestion, pollution and adding to climate change. Even the boundaries of EL have changed. It is ludicrous to base the closing of a road in 2023 on paperwork from 1986. 37 years ago!

2. **No traffic survey or management has been carried out by ELC** therefore they are choosing to close a road without any evidence to back it up. There is absolutely no reason to close it. It is a well-used vital road for the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. My family and I use it regularly.

3. **The Johnnie Cope Road is an ancient public right of way** that shouldn't be closed.

4. **ELC state they wish it to be used by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and emergency vehicles who will all be given access.**

The road will still require to be repaired no matter who has access. I am a cyclist and car driver and horse owner, and I can assure the council that the road would need to be repaired before cyclists, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and prams etc could use it. I will continue to campaign for the road to be repaired and upgraded until it is.

ELC cannot give some people access and not others its discrimination and it's a public right of way for all.

By putting gates across the bridge how do you expect mobility scooters, horse riders, cyclists and combine harvesters to gain access. You cannot narrow this bridge. The farmer requires unrestricted access to his fields. The council have not thought this through. If installing gates with some sort of locking system how will horse riders, mobility scooters, cyclists and pedestrians use the bridge as you cannot put two lanes on the bridge, one for combine harvesters, emergency services, hgvs and one for horse riders, cyclists etc the bridge is too narrow for this. If you put gates up, you are restricting access for everyone.

Does the council expect a horse rider to dismount to open the gate hold a horse and shut the gate walk and lead the horse over the bridge, what happens if it bolts, it would be trapped between two gates and the consequence could be life threatening (I am a horse owner and was an instructor ) so can speak from experience. Then the rider has to walk across the bridge leading the horse and open the second gate. What type of gates will be installed, there is no description, depending on how they open ie if it's just a barrier as in an arm that goes up in the air or an automatic gate both systems may cause a horse to bolt and with no rider on board the consequence would be fatal. We haven't even discussed how the council would expect the rider to mount the horse again. Would they have to stand on the said gate to mount there horse again no thought has been given to this. There must be no barriers, or gates on this road it's far too dangerous for the people who will be opening and closing them. Bollards cannot be put up as emergency services would be unable to get through resulting in loss of lives. The road must remain open for its full length.

5. **Emergency Vehicles, Fire Engines, Ambulances, Horse Lorries and trailers, Combine Harvesters, Tractors, JCBs, Removal Lorries, HGVs to empty septic tanks all need access on a daily basis.**

These vehicles will be unable to access the housing on JCR as the road under the railway bridge is too narrow, with tight bends and the bridge is low. If the road is closed, the Prestonpans end of the road would be the only entrance and exit to the Railway car park it is highly likely an accident would happen as the number of vehicles will double and an HGV would not get around or under the bridge. No thought has been given to the fact that wheelchair and mobility scooters have to use the road as the pavement is too narrow. The road will have double the amount of traffic on it as vehicles will have to enter and leave on this section of road making others vulnerable. The road must remain open for its full length.

6. **ELC have not taken into account the businesses that are on this road.** The animal physiotherapist and her horses and customers require unrestricted access from the top of the road and the bottom. They all drive HGV horse lorries. The residents have had no discussion or consultation with ELC and DO NOT KNOW how access will be given.

The farmer has to get his combine harvester, Tractors etc in and out of his fields. If the gates are locked do you expect him to jump off his combine harvester from a height to open a gate climb back on , climb off, shut the gate, drive on the bridge, climb off on the bridge above the height of the bridge barrier ( health & safety issue) open the gate climb back on, drive through, climb off, shut the gate, climb back on etc etc etc...that will not happen and it's a danger for him and his employees. Again, no thought has been given to the implication for businesses and other vehicles who use this road daily. The road must remain open for its full length.

7. **The emergency services, fire service police and ambulance.** They would all require the road to be open it's a vital quick route to the residents at bankton house and the residents in the cottages on JCR. Its also a vital link to the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent in an emergency. If the gates were vandalised, how would they gain access. ELC are putting people's life's at risk by closing the road. It is paramount that emergency services, police, ambulances, and fire service can continue to safely use the whole road with no obstacles in their way therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response times to either Tranent or Prestonpans. The police and ambulance use the road frequently. In the event of a fire, from what I believe, there is only one fire engine small enough to fit under the rail bridge. I am not sure if this has an extendable ladder, as the houses are all between 3 & 5 storeys high with the exception of 1, 2 storey house. By putting gates on this road, you are putting lifes at risk. The road must remain open for its full length.
8. **Local Taxi firms** as well as the general public need a road with no barriers as they use it regularly otherwise, they will be diverted for several miles adding to pollution and congestion.
9. **By upgrading the road and keeping the road open** it ensures current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services, removal trucks and horse lorries without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened. The residents of JCR deserve a road and pavement that is maintained, An easy solution would be to put traffic lights on the bridge or right of way arrows after all Ormiston Bridge has this and the top of fishers road is narrow and vehicles use it without any issues. This road has been neglected by ELC for as many years as I care to remember and there have been no accidents on it. The road can easily be improved with proper signage, a repaired road and a decent pavement. ELC repair and resurface other roads in EL I do not understand why they are not repairing this vital link between our communities. The road must remain open for its full length.
10. **ELC have neglected the JCR for years.** This road should be upgraded and repaired like any other road in ELC. Not being able to afford to repair it, as I have been informed by the roads department is no excuse not to repair and upgrade it. If it is closed it will still require upgrading and resurfacing. There is absolutely no reason to close this well used vital road. Only recently ELC resurfaced Gullane main street and a large section of road near Merryhatton and will be resurfacing the top of Fishers Road in Port Seton there are numerous others so why not JCR. Don't put up barriers instead repair the road and keep it open.
11. **The Road is bordered by farmland, making it easy to widen.** Lights would solve the blind summit problem. With the County swarming with developers, money should be available to upgrade existing infrastructure. Only recently 11.4 million has been obtained for the Power Station site why are ELC not funding or finding funding to repair this road. Where is the option to upgrade the Johnnie Cope Road.
12. **Active Travel.** ELC are supposed to be promoting Active travel but by closing the JCR vehicles will be forced to travel further adding to pollution and climate change. Commuters who would normally travel by train will be caught up in the congestion at Blindwells adding to it and causing delays of 40minutes or more. Many will miss trains and resort back to travelling by car. This is not encouraging active travel. I regularly use the road and leave the bypass to venture straight down JCR, if the barriers /gates are installed I will have to leave at Wallyford adding to the pollution, ques and congestion or drive further to Blindwells then back on myself. Waiting and travelling longer and further while my vehicle pollutes the air.
13. **Traffic lights on the bridge and speed control measures (bumps)** would make a huge difference to current safety issues. Pushing all the station traffic into accessing only from the Prestonpans side will increase the likelihood of accidents due to the sharp bend at the old entrance to the station which has been developed greatly with several roads,

housing and traffic lights. Money should be spent on improving the road rather than closing it!

14. **The road under the railway bridge regularly floods.** We currently live in a world with climate change one of the results of this is flash floods and more rain. If the road floods as it has done how will the cars parked in the car park get out. The JCR must remain open with no barriers so if there is flooding cars are not trapped.

This is not a well thought out proposal and just because a process was started and never completed is not a reason to close this road, which as I have said is a vital road for our communities and the residents and businesses who use it. In the past the people of Prestonpans fought to keep this road open and were successful we can only hope on this occasion that history repeats itself.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Hi, I've just read Pat Milligan's post to the community council, and would like to pick up on a few points from a wheelchair user's point of view.

If the council close this road, it's fair to assume that people currently using the train station from the Tranent side will need to come to Prestonpans to get to the car park. The increase in volume of traffic will certainly affect wheelchair users who need to get the train into Edinburgh.

We (non-drivers) have no option but to go under the bridge, on the road since the pavement is far too narrow for a wheelchair. It's dangerous enough right now, but it will be impossible if there is an increase in traffic. The flooding under the bridge also makes it impossible to catch a train. Those bevelled mirrors that Pat spoke about would help tremendously, but what would be even better would be to demand a full path for people accessing the station.

The Equality Act says "there's a duty to make reasonable adjustments if you're placed at a **substantial disadvantage** because of your disability compared with non-disabled people or people who don't share your disability." I would argue that making changes that will increase traffic at an already dangerous junction will substantially disadvantage wheelchair users, who will no longer be able to safely use the Train Station.

I don't know if this will be useful, and am happy to leave it up to you to decide whether to pass it on or not. One major disadvantage of passing it on that worries me is that the Council may use the access issue as an excuse to build a new station at Blindwells (a lot less accessible for non-drivers in Prestonpans). I have a feeling that closing this road is to give the council more ammunition to carry forward their plan for a station at Blindwells. I think our next fight will be to retain Prestonpans Train Station.

Thanks again for your work on this. Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Hi

We live in Prestonpans and have a child where there is shared care with a parent in Tranent. The child also goes to Ross High School.

This road provides an exceptionally important alternative to meadowmill/blindwells/church street route. That route can be very congested and has been closed or has had numerous times in recent months where there has been temporary traffic lights.

I strongly feel the road should remain open, but the council also have a duty of care to the residents of Prestonpans and Tranent that it should be properly maintained.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

I reside at Bankton Cottages on the said road and want to make my feelings on the matter very clear.

The road as it stands is an absolute disgrace. We have lived here for 23yrs and paid our council tax but have no decent pavement, no street lighting and at times when there is heavy rain we are marooned by flooding under the rail bridge and at the Tranent side of the bridge over the A1 walking is not an option and you drive through at your peril.

It is my opinion that this entire stretch of road requires appropriate upgrading to make it safe for all.

1. Completely resurfaced (as happened in Gullane main street recently, with no apparent necessity).
2. Traffic lights at the bridge.
3. Widening of the road where possible.
4. Proper drainage put in to stop flooding and erosion of the road surface. (Potholes were filled just before Xmas and heavy rain over the next few days and the holes were washed clean and in fact since then have gotten a lot more dangerous, a waste of tax payers money!).
5. Speed bumps at the bottom part of the road, from the A1 bridge down to car park to deter speeding drivers and therefore make safer the pavements for pedestrians.
6. Work redone on drainage under the rail bridge as it once again floods after heavy rain.
7. A bevelled mirror at the corner opposite old entrance to the station for safety coming round the tight bend.
8. Lastly an upgrade of what pavements exist and where possible, road widening and creation of new pavements or space for walkers.

The safety aspect of doing this work will enhance traffic congestion around the area. For example take pressure of Wallyford a narrow enough road in a very built up area and the slip road /junction at the other end, Blindwells which is already causing congestion without the added lights currently in use.

Ensure emergency services, police, ambulances and fire service can continue to safely use the road. Therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response

times to either town. I can vouch for both police and ambulance using the road frequently usually when it requires a blue light.  
Also used frequently by local taxi services as well as the general public.

Prevent all traffic from Tranent side station car park having to use the narrow road under rail bridge to access the new car park. The council are well aware that the new volume of houses at Blindwells will cause more traffic therefore spending money on upgrading a well used local road makes safety sense for all not just the residents on the road

Ensure current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services and removal trucks without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened.

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

Please find attached copies of the responses we received from the community with reference to the proposed repurposing of Johnny Cope's Road.

From those responses, there seems to be a fairly strong feeling in the community that the closure of the road as proposed is not a popular decision.

As a result, Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council would ask that the plans be put on hold to allow time for more formal consultation and consideration of the full implications.

A hard copy has been sent to yourself and the Asset Manager.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED],

Chair  
Tranent & Elphinstone Community Council

Against closure

[REDACTED]

@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

I am against this decision as its a very well used local access road.

If it should have closed all those years ago they should have completed it all those years ago, its not been a priority for all that time but suddenly now its a problem??

Given the cost of living and the cost of fuel at the moment the route around either side from Tranent into Prestonpans adds a lot of miles onto the journey!! Not to mention the extra traffic at Blindwells side also adding to that.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@yahoo.com)To:you [Details](#)

Hello,

Just a few comments on the proposed road closure.

I live at Bankpark therefore I use the road daily. I have no problem with the road being closed completely to traffic as I can easily walk to/from Prestonpans train Station and it would be safer for my children to walk or cycle to/from Prestonpans for school if there was no traffic.

However I realise that some people can't/won't walk so perhaps a one way system would be a good alternative. If the road was to stay fully open, the idea of a traffic light on the bridge, or a widening of the bridge would make sense. Also a pavement all the way up, even if just one side, would be appreciated by pedestrians.

One problem I foresee is access in or out of the train station car park on the Tranent side when the road becomes impassable because of flooding. Also, if the road is closed completely the traffic congestion around the blindwells area with people driving to/from Prestonpans will become even more problematic than it already is.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

Johnny Copes road closure.

I would like to express my disgust at the possibility of this road being closed.

It provides direct access to car park at PrestonPans railway station for people from Tranent Elphinstone Pencaitland Ormiston Macmerry.

If any change made I would suggest closing the road at the bridge so it becomes a no thru road and only access to station south side car park allowed.

This would inconvenience the small number of people who live beside the road however that is way below the numbers inconvenienced by closure .

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@icloud.com)To:you [Details](#)

I wrote this email after seeing that the local councillors are working towards closing Johnnie Cole's road.

After reading their reasoning behind this as, '36 years ago we didn't close it so now we are' I really struggle to understand how this could possibly constitute as an actual reason?

As I'm sure you will be reading in the various community Facebook pages and posts regarding this proposal (if anybody is actually paying attention) there are a huge amount of residents on both sides of the A1 utterly puzzled behind the logic of this.

Also in these pages there are many reasons as to why the road should not be closed. For example, the state of the traffic management at the new Blindwells development causing daily

issues with traffic queuing back onto the A1 thanks to the ridiculously short slip road and the lights controlling traffic into the new houses.

(Little side note on this area too, the original agreement with developers in this area was a small, set amount of houses were approved on the basis that the slip roads onto and off the A1 would be reworked to make them more suitable for the increased traffic the new town would bring. Now correct me if I am wrong but it would appear either the developers have failed to follow through with this promise or the councillors have been 'convinced' to waive this part of the terms somehow. I will not be holding my breath for the start of these upgrading works).

Now back to Johnnie Cope's road. We have covered the issues with the blindwells end of Prestonpans so let's look at the Wallyford side.

Thanks to the decisions of the local councillors to allow a massive development to go ahead on what was registered as 'green field' area (for years the signs remained on lampposts whilst the groundwork's began) there is now thousands of houses, a new primary school and a new high school being built between Tranent and the existing Wallyford town.

Do the councillors really believe that this will have no affect on the existing roads? Have they driven past a school in the last 30 years? There are cars everywhere, driving like idiots and parking like idiots!

This is, as I am sure you are well aware after keeping up with the comments sections on your posts, just a small amount of concerns from local residents.

Instead of closing the well used road - despite the councils attempts to put people off using it with their complete and deliberate lack of maintenance - why not invest in resurfacing and fitting motion sensing traffic controls at either side of the bridge much like those controlling traffic under the rail bridge slightly further down the road?

If you are unfamiliar with the above mentioned rail bridge let me refresh your memory. It's the one that becomes totally impassable due to flooding on a regular basis! Just what you want when parking at the local train station and having to walk home as the local council have decided to close the only other viable route out.

Please do not respond to this point with 'we recently cleared the drains so this should no longer be an issue' or that 'recent drainage works will 'minimise' risk of flooding during 'normal rainfall' as has been posted on the threads from Prestonpans community page as let's be honest that will, at most help for a few weeks. (When has Scotland ever just had 'normal rainfall'?)

Anyone with any knowledge of groundwork's knows you cannot pump millions of pounds worth of concrete into the old mine shafts that are scattered around East Lothian to allow houses to be built on top without seriously affecting the water table.

I draw your attention to the flooding throughout the East Lothian area that has been a growing issue over the last few years thanks to these developments. One such example is the A199 between the Kinweger recycling plant and Dolphingstone.

In short (sic) the proposed closure of Johnnie Cope's Road will without a doubt cause unnecessary delays due to added traffic on either end of Prestonpans, increase the carbon footprint of those drivers having to take the longer route and as it was 36 years ago when the gates were erected be a complete waste of time and money as the local residents break through and continue to use the road!

If you need further proof that local residents will prevail in their desire to use roads they shouldn't I would suggest you take a trip down to Wallyford park and ride and count how many cars continue through the new section of road sign marked for use of buses taxis and cycles only.

I look forward to your response but will not be surprised when it does not arrive. Sadly I will not be surprised to hear of the inevitable decision to close the road after the councillors have 'listened' to the local communities yet went ahead and done what they have already decided on anyway.

We can only hope they remember they are here to serve the local communities and not just their own bank balances.



Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@icloud.com)To:you [Details](#)

To voice my opinion on the closure of the road between Prestonpans and Tranent at Bursley Brae.

This road is access for many from Tranent to use the train station and serves as easy access for people living in those areas. Closing it is not only insulting to road tax payer but an utter disgrace of an idea. Where is all our road tax money etc going every year. Prices are going up but the council are closing more and more roads instead of repairing them alongside car parks etc. Yellow lines are going down in places and fining people for parking. It's a disgrace.

Closing the road is a terrible terrible idea.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

This road is a very important thoroughfare for the people of Tranent and Prestonpans and the proposed closure will cut off a very busy link between our two villages. I feel the only viable reason the council may have for closing this road is because it need properly maintained and the council have neglected it for a significant period of time. The road should be properly repaired and if anything needs done it would be traffic control on the bridge. The regular flooding under the train station bridge alone should show how poor an idea closing the road actually is, if people using the southern car park were to return from work on the train after a particularly heavy rainfall and the upper part of the road was closed they would have no way of getting their cars out.

This smacks of the council just trying to shirk on their responsibility to maintain this road as they have neglected it so long.

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

To who it may concern,

I am emailing in regards to the planned closure of Johnnie Copes Road linking Tranent and Prestonpans.

This is a road that our family use at least 4 times a week, and saves a much longer drive via Strawberry corner or Blindwells to reach Prestonpans train station. Living off Birseley Brae, it's a 2 mile drive from our home to the train station via Johnnie Copes road. If we were to go via the A199 to strawberry corner and then back on ourselves on the B1361 it's 4.5 miles, and via Blindwells it's 4 miles. Both of these options take us past massive housing developments which are becoming busier and busier with traffic, and are areas we would prefer to avoid if we can. Why add to the pressure on these roads and roundabouts when there is a perfectly good access road already in place?

Responsive traffic lights in my opinion are required on the bridge over the A1 on Johnnie Copes road, and clearly some extensive resurfacing works as the road is a complete liability as it stands. But it is an extremely well used and handy cut through, for so many of us that use the train.

It would certainly put me off using the train if Johnnie Copes road was to close, at a time when we should be doing everything in our power to encourage more use of public transport.

I sincerely hope that this road can remain open for the convenience of locals who rely on it so heavily.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

### **Johnnie Cope Road Must Remain Open**

Sun, 29 Jan 2023 11:31

[REDACTED]@live.co.uk)To:you + 5 more [Details](#)

This is a artery to the communities of both Tranent and Prestonpans.

It provides traffic calming and quick access to both communities and the Rail Station.

It has a purpose of keeping East Lothian connected as many families live in on or the other towns.

It will keep the traffic congestion away from the new junctions at Blindwells where hundreds of Houses are being built.

It will also help keeping the road where the new Wallyford School opens in August. Protecting children from heavy traffic.

It also is a safe way for cyclist and walkers as the road traffic is conscious of the country code.

[REDACTED]

Prestonpans resident with family in Tranent.

## Keeping the Jonnie Cope road open

Sun, 29 Jan 2023 13:17

[REDACTED]@live.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

This is nothing other than a stitch up , pulling files from 35 years ago to justify the closure now is nothing other than preposterous and any recent paperwork has merely been instigated by the council to achieve the council's desired outcome to close the road. You'd have to be fairly dumb not to realise that this is the case. That being said we can and must fight this fight, it's not for dodgy councillors or council departments to screw the local community over by slight of hand in order to save the money it would take to fix the road and this is ultimately what this nonsense is about. Panners should stand together and fight this plan and hold hot coals to the councillors that claim to represent their constituents but in reality pay lip service to their responsibilities of representation. I urge everyone not to ignore this this fight because if this is allowed to happen they'll be emboldened to do whatever they want knowing we won't fight it. Stand up for your community

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk)To:you [Details](#)

I have used the road now known as the Johnnie Cope Road to visit my family who have lived in Prestonpans for many generations. I moved to Tranent in 1968  
Having been brought up in Prestonpans I and many of my friends used it to get to Tranent park, Fa'side Castle, the picture house etc. at this time the road was known as **Birsley Brae**

The road is used now and in the past by cars even before the bypass was built, there was never any problem with the road until the council decided to build a single traffic bridge instead of a two way traffic bridge. They tried to close this road before but failed because I believe the road is a **RIGHT OF WAY** which I think the council have no right to close this road to the public if it is in **CONSTANT USE**. (which it is)!

The reason the road is in a state of disrepair is because it is East Lothian Council's fault by not repairing potholes etc. Which they are responsible for.

When Blindwells is fully opened the traffic going between Tranent, Prestonpans, Port Seton, Longniddry is going to be horrendous! It has already caused a lot of tailbacks etc., and there are only a few streets there at the moment.

**Keeping the Johnnie Cope Road Open** and investing in traffic lights at the bridge and repairing the road will ease some of the congestion that is going to happen at Bankton Roundabout and the High Road into Prestonpans and surrounding areas.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)To:you [Details](#)

Dear Secretary,

The historic Johnnie Copes Road must be kept open. It is a quick link for my elderly and now frailer relations in Wilson Avenue between Prestonpans and Tranent to access doctors, dentists etc and is well used for access to Prestonpans railway Station. Network Rail use it frequently for vital maintenance access to the East Coast Main Line. The Scottish Fire and Rescue service use it as a quick route if required for any emergency situation. The Police also use it for vital quick access between the two towns.

The route must be kept open and we must have the support of all political parties and the local MP, MSP to keep it open.

Please stop this closure happening

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] To:you [Details](#)

Hello Team

I want to complain about the Johnny Cope Road being closed

This road has been there for years and we can easily access the train station & cooperative shop

This road needs repaired why is it in such a mess.

We also have a taxi firm and live in the Edinburgh Road the cost implication to the public having to go all the way round is crazy

Its linking 2 communities its used loads, get it repaired and get traffic light installed at either end of the bridge

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Office Manager**

Direct Line: [REDACTED] Ext 2105 Dalkeith & 2212 Macmerry

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Head Office: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED] [Support Line:](#) [REDACTED]

Domestic Abuse Helpline Freephone: [REDACTED]

Scottish Charity Number: [REDACTED]

Company Number: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gmail.com) To:you [Details](#)

Keep this essential road open!

**Closure off Johnny cope road**

[REDACTED]@gmail.com) To:you [Details](#)

Tue, 31 Jan 2023 13:50

I am e-mailing you regarding the closer off the johnny cope road. Please don't allow this to happen, have they even thought of what this could cause? A nightmare for everyone that uses that road, what are they meant to do now? Why shut a road that's never caused problems to taking the road away and causing major problem. I will be standing on the road the day they come and not letting them past!!

Please help us stop this from happening there is lovely hood at stake here

Dear Sir/Madam

It is imperative that the above road remains open!

ELC must have the knowledge and statistics to prove that if this road is closed it will involve even more traffic chaos at Blindwells and Meadowmill Roundabout. At the moment to negotiate Meadowmill Roundabout and Blindwells is horrendous and instead of closing the above road it would be advantageous to upgrade the road immediately which makes it shorter and easier for drivers to commute between Tranent and Prestonpans. I am of the opinion that ELC is not giving consideration to roads, etc., and allowing houses to be built anywhere and neglecting the very necessary infrastructure in our County.

I worked for ELC for 47 years and I am greatly disturbed and sad at the significant deterioration and decline in the services now provided by ELC.

[REDACTED]

Hello

In light of the above proposal I wish to raise the following points for consideration.

1 Restricted access to Bankton properties for  
-delivery/removal vehicles  
- Horse boxes to Bankton Stables  
- Tankers to empty septic tanks and most importantly  
- emergency services vehicles especially fire engines with extending ladders being unable to access the low bridge at the railway.

2 Loss of use by local traffic between Tranent and Prestonpans, especially people wishing to access the railway station from Tranent.

3 An increase in traffic using the road north of the railway bridge which includes a sharp bend with difficulties encountered bypassing vehicles. Although repairs to the road drains in the past have reduced the amount of flooding, there is still partial flooding during heavy rainfall.

4 Closure of the road would increase the amount of traffic using the Bankton junction at Blindwells and leave no alternative short detour. In addition to the above this road allows traffic from Prestonpans to access the A1 without the need to use the main road through Wallyford.

I hope that these points will be considered by the entire ELC.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We are writing to inform you that we wish the Johnnie Cope Road to remain open for the following reasons :

Firstly this consultation should never have been made as ELC have not reported how the locked gate system will operate. The paperwork is therefore incomplete, and more information is required.

1. **For ELC to state because the paperwork wasn't completed in 1986 is not a reason to close this well used vital road.**

Since 1986 this area has been developed greatly with large housing estates all over East Lothian particularly Prestonpans, Tranent, Blindwells, and Wallyford resulting in a vast increase in the population, and in the number of vehicles on these roads. This has resulted in queues of traffic and congestion at Wallyford and Blindwells. By closing the JCR the traffic that would normally use it will have to use either Blindwells or Wallyford and Longniddry roads instead which will add to congestion, pollution and adding to climate change. Even the boundaries of EL have changed. It is ludicrous to base the closing of a road in 2023 on paperwork from 1986. 37 years ago!

2. **No traffic survey or management has been carried out by ELC** therefore they are choosing to close a road without any evidence to back it up. There is absolutely no reason to close it. It is a well-used vital road for the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent. My family and I use it regularly.

3. **The Johnnie Cope Road is an ancient public right of way** that shouldn't be closed.

4. **ELC state they wish it to be used by cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and emergency vehicles who will all be given access.**

The road will still require to be repaired no matter who has access. I am a cyclist and car driver and horse owner, and I can assure the council that the road would need to be repaired before cyclists, mobility scooters, wheelchairs and prams etc could use it. I will continue to campaign for the road to be repaired and upgraded until it is.

ELC cannot give some people access and not others its discrimination and it's a public right of way for all.

By putting gates across the bridge how do you expect mobility scooters, horse riders, cyclists and combine harvesters to gain access. You cannot narrow this bridge. The farmer requires unrestricted access to his fields. The council have not thought this through. If installing gates with some sort of locking system how will horse riders, mobility scooters, cyclists and pedestrians use the bridge as you cannot put two lanes on the bridge, one for combine harvesters, emergency services, hgv's and one for horse riders, cyclists etc the bridge is too narrow for this. If you put gates up, you are restricting access for everyone.

Does the council expect a horse rider to dismount to open the gate hold a horse and shut the gate walk and lead the horse over the bridge, what happens if it bolts, it would be trapped between two gates and the consequence could be life threatening (I am a horse owner and was an instructor ) so can speak from experience. Then the rider has to walk across the bridge leading the horse and open the second gate. What type of gates will be installed, there is no description, depending on how they open ie if it's just a barrier as in an arm that goes up in the air or an automatic gate both systems may cause a horse to bolt and with no rider on board the consequence would be fatal. We haven't even discussed how the council would expect the rider to mount the horse again. Would they have to stand on the said gate to mount there horse again no thought has been given to this. There must be no barriers, or gates on this road it's far too dangerous for the people

who will be opening and closing them. Bollards cannot be put up as emergency services would be unable to get through resulting in loss of lives. The road must remain open for its full length.

5. **Emergency Vehicles, Fire Engines, Ambulances, Horse Lorries and trailers, Combine Harvesters, Tractors, JCBs, Removal Lorries, HGVs to empty septic tanks all need access on a daily basis.**

These vehicles will be unable to access the housing on JCR as the road under the railway bridge is too narrow, with tight bends and the bridge is low. If the road is closed, the Prestonpans end of the road would be the only entrance and exit to the Railway car park it is highly likely an accident would happen as the number of vehicles will double and an HGV would not get around or under the bridge. No thought has been given to the fact that wheelchair and mobility scooters have to use the road as the pavement is too narrow. The road will have double the amount of traffic on it as vehicles will have to enter and leave on this section of road making others vulnerable. The road must remain open for its full length.

6. **ELC have not taken into account the businesses that are on this road.** The animal physiotherapist and her horses and customers require unrestricted access from the top of the road and the bottom. They all drive HGV horse lorries. The residents have had no discussion or consultation with ELC and DO NOT KNOW how access will be given.

The farmer has to get his combine harvester, Tractors etc in and out of his fields. If the gates are locked do you expect him to jump off his combine harvester from a height to open a gate climb back on, climb off, shut the gate, drive on the bridge, climb off on the bridge above the height of the bridge barrier ( health & safety issue) open the gate climb back on, drive through, climb off, shut the gate, climb back on etc etc etc...that will not happen and it's a danger for him and his employees. Again, no thought has been given to the implication for businesses and other vehicles who use this road daily. The road must remain open for its full length.

7. **The emergency services, fire service police and ambulance.** They would all require the road to be open it's a vital quick route to the residents at bankton house and the residents in the cottages on JCR. Its also a vital link to the villages of Prestonpans and Tranent in an emergency. If the gates were vandalised, how would they gain access. ELC are putting people's life's at risk by closing the road. It is paramount that emergency services, police, ambulances, and fire service can continue to safely use the whole road with no obstacles in their way therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response times to either Tranent or Prestonpans. The police and ambulance use the road frequently. In the event of a fire, from what I believe, there is only one fire engine small enough to fit under the rail bridge. I am not sure if this has an extendable ladder, as the houses are all between 3 & 5 storeys high with the exception of 1, 2 storey house. By putting gates on this road, you are putting lifes at risk. The road must remain open for its full length.

8. **Local Taxi firms** as well as the general public need a road with no barriers as they use it regularly otherwise, they will be diverted for several miles adding to pollution and congestion.

9. **By upgrading the road and keeping the road open** it ensures current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services, removal trucks and horse lorries without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened. The residents of JCR deserve a road and pavement that is maintained, An easy solution would be to put traffic lights on the bridge or right of way arrows after all Ormiston Bridge has this and the top of fishers road is narrow and vehicles use it without any issues. This road

has been neglected by ELC for as many years as I care to remember and there have been no accidents on it. The road can easily be improved with proper signage, a repaired road and a decent pavement. ELC repair and resurface other roads in EL I do not understand why they are not repairing this vital link between our communities. The road must remain open for its full length.

10. **ELC have neglected the JCR for years.** This road should be upgraded and repaired like any other road in ELC. Not being able to afford to repair it, as I have been informed by the roads department is no excuse not to repair and upgrade it. If it is closed it will still require upgrading and resurfacing. There is absolutely no reason to close this well used vital road. Only recently ELC resurfaced Gullane main street and a large section of road near Merryhatton and will be resurfacing the top of Fishers Road in Port Seton there are numerous others so why not JCR. Don't put up barriers instead repair the road and keep it open.
11. **The Road is bordered by farmland, making it easy to widen.** Lights would solve the blind summit problem. With the County swarming with developers, money should be available to upgrade existing infrastructure. Only recently 11.4 million has been obtained for the Power Station site why are ELC not funding or finding funding to repair this road. Where is the option to upgrade the Johnnie Cope Road.
12. **Active Travel.** ELC are supposed to be promoting Active travel but by closing the JCR vehicles will be forced to travel further adding to pollution and climate change. Commuters who would normally travel by train will be caught up in the congestion at Blindwells adding to it and causing delays of 40minutes or more. Many will miss trains and resort back to travelling by car. This is not encouraging active travel. I regularly use the road and leave the bypass to venture straight down JCR, if the barriers /gates are installed I will have to leave at Wallyford adding to the pollution, que and congestion or drive further to Blindwells then back on myself. Waiting and travelling longer and further while my vehicle pollutes the air.
13. **Traffic lights on the bridge and speed control measures (bumps)** would make a huge difference to current safety issues. Pushing all the station traffic into accessing only from the Prestonpans side will increase the likelihood of accidents due to the sharp bend at the old entrance to the station which has been developed greatly with several roads, housing and traffic lights. Money should be spent on improving the road rather than closing it!
14. **The road under the railway bridge regularly floods.** We currently live in a world with climate change one of the results of this is flash floods and more rain. If the road floods as it has done how will the cars parked in the car park get out. The JCR must remain open with no barriers so if there is flooding cars are not trapped.

This is not a well thought out proposal and just because a process was started and never completed is not a reason to close this road, which as I have said is a vital road for our communities and the residents and businesses who use it. In the past the people of Prestonpans fought to keep this road open and were successful we can only hope on this occasion that history repeats itself.

Yours sincerely





Hi, I've just read Pat Milligan's post to the community council, and would like to pick up on a few points from a wheelchair user's point of view.

If the council close this road, it's fair to assume that people currently using the train station from the Tranent side will need to come to Prestonpans to get to the car park. The increase in volume of traffic will certainly affect wheelchair users who need to get the train into Edinburgh.

We (non-drivers) have no option but to go under the bridge, on the road since the pavement is far too narrow for a wheelchair. It's dangerous enough right now, but it will be impossible if there is an increase in traffic. The flooding under the bridge also makes it impossible to catch a train. Those bevelled mirrors that Pat spoke about would help tremendously, but what would be even better would be to demand a full path for people accessing the station.

The Equality Act says "there's a duty to make reasonable adjustments if you're placed at a **substantial disadvantage** because of your disability compared with non-disabled people or people who don't share your disability." I would argue that making changes that will increase traffic at an already dangerous junction will substantially disadvantage wheelchair users, who will no longer be able to safely use the Train Station.

I don't know if this will be useful, and am happy to leave it up to you to decide whether to pass it on or not. One major disadvantage of passing it on that worries me is that the Council may use the access issue as an excuse to build a new station at Blindwells (a lot less accessible for non-drivers in Prestonpans). I have a feeling that closing this road is to give the council more ammunition to carry forward their plan for a station at Blindwells. I think our next fight will be to retain Prestonpans Train Station.

Thanks again for your work on this. Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Hi

We live in Prestonpans and have a child where there is shared care with a parent in Tranent. The child also goes to Ross High School.

This road provides an exceptionally important alternative to meadowmill/blindwells/church street route. That route can be very congested and has been closed or has had numerous times in recent months where there has been temporary traffic lights.

I strongly feel the road should remain open, but the council also have a duty of care to the residents of Prestonpans and Tranent that it should be properly maintained.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

I reside at Bankton Cottages on the said road and want to make my feelings on the matter very clear.

The road as it stands is an absolute disgrace. We have lived here for 23yrs and paid our council tax but have no decent pavement, no street lighting and at times when there is heavy rain we are marooned by flooding under the rail bridge and at the Tranent side of the bridge over the A1 walking is not an option and you drive through at your peril.

It is my opinion that this entire stretch of road requires appropriate upgrading to make it safe for all.

1. Completely resurfaced (as happened in Gullane main street recently, with no apparent necessity).
2. Traffic lights at the bridge.
3. Widening of the road where possible.
4. Proper drainage put in to stop flooding and erosion of the road surface. (Potholes were filled just before Xmas and heavy rain over the next few days and the holes were washed clean and in fact since then have gotten a lot more dangerous, a waste of tax payers money!).
5. Speed bumps at the bottom part of the road, from the A1 bridge down to car park to deter speeding drivers and therefore make safer the pavements for pedestrians.
6. Work redone on drainage under the rail bridge as it once again floods after heavy rain.
7. A bevelled mirror at the corner opposite old entrance to the station for safety coming round the tight bend.
8. Lastly an upgrade of what pavements exist and where possible, road widening and creation of new pavements or space for walkers.

The safety aspect of doing this work will enhance traffic congestion around the area. For example take pressure of Wallyford a narrow enough road in a very built up area and the slip road /junction at the other end, Blindwells which is already causing congestion without the added lights currently in use.

Ensure emergency services, police, ambulances and fire service can continue to safely use the road. Therefore not only keeping residents safe but allowing the services quicker response times to either town. I can vouch for both police and ambulance using the road frequently usually when it requires a blue light.

Also used frequently by local taxi services as well as the general public.

Prevent all traffic from Tranent side station car park having to use the narrow road under rail bridge to access the new car park. The council are well aware that the new volume of houses at Blindwells will cause more traffic therefore spending money on upgrading a well used local road makes safety sense for all not just the residents on the road

Ensure current and future residents can receive deliveries, emergency services and removal trucks without there being a height restriction or delay while gates/barriers are opened.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 March 2023 10:32  
**To:** Legal <legal@eastlothian.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** prestonpanscommunitycouncil@googlemail.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: OBJECTION TO JOHNNIE COPE'S ROAD CLOSURE

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached a letter of objection to the closure of Johnnie Cope's Road between Prestonpans and Tranent.

I would look for a considered and long-term view of the impact that closing this road will have on not just the Prestonpans community, but the communities surrounding the area including those still under development.

As indicated in the letter, this road should not only be maintained in its current form for vehicular access, but look to be further upgraded as part of a strategic review of roads in the area.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

cc: East Lothian Councillors

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam RESPONSE TO PROPOSED JOHNNIE COPE'S ROAD CLOSURE I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the closure of Johnnie Cope's Road or the reclassification to solely a pedestrian/cycle route. There are several reasons which demonstrate that this proposal is unjust and is being attempted without due diligence. The impression being given is that this is simply a cost saving exercise without due regard to the residents of Johnnie Cope's Road, or the populations of Prestonpans and Tranent. Johnnie Cope's Road is a road which connects the 2 communities across the Tranent Bypass (A1) over a singletrack hump-back bridge which was built in the late 1980s. The road is well used, with recent sample audit showing approximately 1100 users in a one-day period in November 2022. This despite the roads lack of maintenance by East Lothian Council. East Lothian Council appears to have changed the justification for this closure from being the condition of the bridge over the A1 to a situation of concern regarding safety. At this present moment the condition of the road, after years of neglect, is a situation which could easily cause damage to vehicles and certainly injury to others. Yet, this is a situation of the Council's own doing through lack of care in maintaining this road to the standard that it should be expected to be. This does not mean that the Council should simply turn their back and effectively say 'no money in the pot now that we have spent it all, lets close the road'. A few years ago, I ended up with a broken finger (now permanently damaged) after being thrown off my bicycle when the wheels became trapped in ruts/potholes on Johnnie Cope's Road. This was reported to the Council at the time, and minor repairs made. All these minor repairs however do not last, and the road needs to be completely resurfaced. This is not outwith the powers of the Council, who have recently publicised a number of other road resurfacing projects in the area. Long-term residents of Prestonpans have already indicated to me that several connections both sides of the A1 have been severed since the building of the A1. This is an attempt to break another link and make access between the 2 communities more challenging. In fact, restricting access to the road means that there is a large detour required, adding to the congestion particularly at Blindwells and longer term at Dolphingstone. Can this truly be said to be in the interest of Council Taxpayers or indeed the environment with greater distances needing to be travelled with carbon impact? Google Maps shows that a detour is 7 minutes (3.2 miles) via Strawberry Corner/Dolphingstone and 8 minutes (2.7 miles) via Blindwells. The current proposal appears to be suggesting that access will be blocked at both ends of the road with locked gates, which can only be unlocked by making an appointment in advance with East Lothian Council. For the residents who live on this road this suggests nothing far short of being imprisoned in their homes. Taking the thought

further, when has it been possible to arrange a grocery, furniture, or other delivery within such a tight timescale for someone to be there holding the key at the exact moment? There is a Health and Safety concern regarding emergency access for the residents at Bankton House and the cottages. While a key may be a "master nationwide council key" held by all emergency vehicles, there is still a delay in unlocking/opening and relocking one or more gates. Continuing the apparent lack of due diligence, the public have been given no access to a Fire Risk Assessment for the proposal, which needs a fire appliance with ladders to be able to quickly access the premises. Which other local communities are being split in this way across the county? If costs are the issue why haven't developers been asked to contribute more to infrastructure improvements? Blindwells is the prime example with traffic using the same arterial route from the A1 also serving Prestonpans, Cockenzie, Port Seton, North Berwick and Longniddry. The other entrance to Prestonpans comes from Wallyford with traffic accessing via the junction of the A1 north of Strawberry Corner, again no improvements have been made to the A1 to support increased traffic with the developments at Dolphingstone/Wallyford. This additional pressure to a limited extend is being released by what currently is a sub-standard connection between Tranent and Prestonpans – Johnnie Cope's Road. There is an opportunity to improve connections and the Infrastructure Team within the Roads Department and Councillors should be expected to think of solutions to issues arising for constituents, rather than the 'easy' option of closure. One of the arguments which has been raised is that Johnnie Cope's Road should become an Active Travel Route for pedestrians and cyclists. There is already a route called the Heugh via Meadowmill. The road at Meadowmill recently being resurfaced which demonstrates that money is available when required. Closure of the road (or 'reclassification') should not be considered the easy cost saving measure that it appears. No structural reports have been made available to the public, which it would be assumed East Lothian Council have access to if the bridge is as claimed and not structurally sound. Yet, if the bridge is a safety hazard concerning weight limits, then surely it should be being replaced as heavy equipment including Combine Harvesters require to use the access. It could be said that the bridge is not being used for what it was designed for, yet there are countless other bridges across the country which are in a similar situation, some quite historic. This does not mean that closure is the only option, there have been no other suggestions put forward such as installation of traffic lights as at the Nungate Bridge in Haddington, or similar near Linlithgow in West Lothian. It cannot be denied that at times traffic uses the road with some inappropriate speeds, yet again there is a simple solution to this with installation of appropriate speed calming measures. Going beyond the argument of closure, consideration should be given to a wider project to upgrade this road and make it one of the main roads into Prestonpans rather than a minor road which is already doing a great job assisting with traffic demands, despite its poor condition. In terms of safety apart from the single-track bridge other issues which could be resolved to make this road more useful would be the elimination of the 4 bends in the road - none of which are of current concern with a lowspeed limit being implemented and proper resurfacing. In fact, while frustrating, traversing the bridge with traffic coming in the opposite direction, everybody acts in a respectful manner and gives way as required. East Lothian Council should be considering a forward-thinking approach to meet the traffic demands of the future. In the strongest sense I reiterate that this road should neither be reclassified or closed, indeed it is a fundamental link not only between two communities but has a wider impact on serving those in Blindwells and the new developments at Dolphingstone and will become even more important in the years to come. Whether or not the road should have been closed in 1986 if paperwork was in order is completely immaterial to the situation, we find ourselves in today. It is simply irresponsible to 'wave through' legislation and reclassification/closure without recognising the long-term harm that this will cause. With traffic only going to increase with new houses being built at both ends of Prestonpans, there is a need for maintaining and improving this current connection. In addition, taking account of East Lothian Council's own "Strategic Masterplan - Former Power Station & Surrounding Area", it is recognised that there are "potential opportunities to enhance current road infrastructure" within the Council - Johnnie Cope's Road should equally fall into this category as the specific road mentioned in the master plan. Further consideration should be given to: "enhanced utilisation of the rail infrastructure, particularly with regard the potential opportunities of 'four tracking' from Prestonpans to Drem, which would create significant opportunities for additional local (and intercity) rail services on the East Coast Main Line in East Lothian. Also potential options for stations to serve the Blindwells/Cockenzie area" with "examination of potential options for stations to serve the Blindwells/Cockenzie area reveals that there are many options from relatively minor upgrades to the existing stations at Prestonpans

and Longniddry, through relocation of either or both of these two stations, to the construction of an additional new station to directly serve Blindwells and/or Cockenzie." Obviously not wishing to lose the station at Prestonpans as it is well used by the communities that it serves - notably within realistic walking distance of everybody in the expanding town of Prestonpans; some significant work would need to be undertaken. It is reasonable to assume that this could involve the demolition of the current narrow historic railway bridge which holds the track and a wider bridge being installed. Indeed, this option allows a realignment and creation of a straight road direct to Tranent without restriction, while at the same time resolving the flooding issues that plague the residents of Bankton House and the cottages on Johnnie Cope's Road. This would allow a proper pavement to be installed to assist with disabled access to the other platform - unless the rail authority chooses to install lifts during a station refurbishment. Questions could remain over the cost of replacing the road bridge (which would be ideal to be 2-way) yet with traffic lights installed there is no reason why the current bridge isn't suitable now. Once again why are developers being permitted planning permission without investing in local infrastructure for an area? Note infrastructure doesn't just include roads, but other basic facilities which build a community. The junction at the bottom of Johnnie Cope's Road where it meets the junction to the local Co-op and Mid Road is a disgrace and greater oversight should have been taken at the time of giving planning permission to the shop units. With the "waste ground" a roundabout could easily be installed to ease flow, and equally would be a traffic calming measure along mid-road. A junction traffic lights or roundabout on exit from Tranent just past the Jet Garage would be a traffic calming measure for traffic entering Tranent. It could be viewed that by forcing Tranent residents on a de-tour to Prestonpans Railway Station that this will increase traffic along Mid-Road and then become the excuse for Prestonpans residents to lose their station, or at the very least require a car (for many) to access the station if it is moved further towards Blindwells and away from the centre of Prestonpans. Upgrading Johnnie Cope's Road in its present state with resurfacing is the first step, traffic lights for the bridge the second (unless the bridge was widened), followed by the forward-thinking approach which long term would continue to redirect some traffic and be of benefit to all within the area - note not just Prestonpans residents. In summary, the road is an essential lifeline for those that use it. Residents on the road deserve better, restricting their access with "key entry" via a gate is not humane nor realistic on a day-to-day level. Emergency vehicles use the road regularly to access Tranent, the ambulance station is in Prestonpans. The Fire Service must have unrestricted access should their services be needed at Bankton House or the cottages. The road is one of few links left across the A1 for the communities which reside on both sides. The road already serves a purpose of being able to reduce demand on other arterial routes into Prestonpans. I look forward to being able to receive detailed feedback to each of these concerns and long-term views for "opportunities to enhance current road infrastructure". Yours faithfully Colin Dempster  
Enc Maps showing the alternative routes available 3.2 miles – 7 minutes by car – without traffic 2.7 miles – 8 minutes by car – without traffic

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 22 February 2023 11:51

**To:** [REDACTED]@eastlothian.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: FW: Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED],

Original use or intention is immaterial. There are bridges all over the country (and indeed even this county) that are in use today by traffic that these structures were not designed for. For example the single-track, hump-backed Aray Bridge outside Inverary was completed in 1786. Today it carries in excess of 3000 vehicles per day, ranging from motorbikes to heavy goods vehicles, when it was designed for nothing heavier than a coach and six horses. Argyll and Bute Council, like local authorities across Scotland have done in similar circumstances, rightly put in place a traffic signal either side to safely regulate traffic. When a similarly aged bridge at the head of Loch Fyne was found to be unsuitable for contemporary traffic a new one was built nearby.

That your team's response to ourselves and others and the advice you have provided to Councillors consistently fails to acknowledge and address the simple fact that significant numbers of vehicles *do* choose to use this road (as testified by the justification you are now giving as to why you want to close the bridge) is troubling.

We have attempted to engage with your team on this matter in good faith over many months. I will ask you once again for the formal structural report you must surely have commissioned the Council Engineer to produce to come to this important decision and the other associated research that you must surely also have commissioned to look at current and projected road user numbers on the Johnnie Cope Road and the B1361 and A198 as well as the carbon and pollution impacts of forcing users onto already congested alternatives.

We are simply asking for the fact-based evidence that led your team to request this delegated authority from Council Cabinet, not subjective opinion or a repeat of what may or may not have been the original intention in 1986. A lot has changed in 37 years, at some point in this process that change will have to be acknowledged. The Section 68(1) was to be used because a road was deemed as "unnecessary", that is demonstrably proven not to be the case as the communities of Prestonpans and Tranent have grown in the time since.

I look forward to reading those reports and any available data that you have used here so that I can precis them for attendees at the Community Council next week in your absence, but like you I must get back to my day job for now.

All the best for now,

■

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**Prestonpans Community Council (Est. 1975)**

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Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** ■  
**Secretary:** ■  
**Treasurer:** ■  
**Vice Chairperson:** ■

On Wed, 22 Feb 2023 at 11:11, ■ > wrote:

■

I don't agree that we have changed the goal posts. As we have outlined Johnnie Copes road was originally to have been closed as a through route when the A1 Tranent bypass opened in 1986, but kept open for walkers and cyclists. To this end, a bridge was provided where it crosses the A1 and "no through road except cycles" signs were sited at both the

Tranent and Prestonpans . It's a single lane accommodation bridge it's not suitable nor was it ever designed to take the volume and type of traffic currently using it.

The TRO is currently out for consultation so you can provide feedback directly to East Lothian Council legal team at [legal@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:legal@eastlothian.gov.uk).

Kind Regards

■

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <[prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 22 February 2023 11:06

**To:** ■ >

**Cc:** ■  
■  
■

**Subject:** Re: FW: Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello ■,

(Apologies answering on phone and accidentally pressed send!)

This is quite a significant matter and we too have day jobs, hence the need for volunteers to hold community meetings in the evenings. I am afraid that your subsequent paragraphs do not address our Community Council's concerns that you have changed the goalposts mid-game.

Your team asked the Council Cabinet for permission to close the road in Jan 2020 pursuant to Section 68(1), specifically that the road is "unnecessary". That is what you asked statutory consultees to comment upon during the regulated consultation period *prior* to the opening of the public consultation. You have since sought legal advice and changed position. The irony that the clause your lawyers settled upon was one that was intended to assist Local Authorities to "manage and maintain" roads in their care has not been lost on us. That it provides just enough wiggle room in its final sentence to afford power to Local Authorities "to determine the means by which the public right of passage over" will be a matter for the Transport Secretary to mull over.

Thank you for confirming that your Council Engineer has confirmed the bridge is not suitable for the volume of traffic using it. May we please see this formal report so that we can have all of the available evidence to provide to local residents? Also, do you have any of the other data

necessary, such as traffic numbers using the road, carbon data for extended journeys and projected numbers on the only other road directly connecting the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent.

Many thanks indeed,

■

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Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** ■■■■■■

**Secretary:** ■■■■■■

**Treasurer:** ■■■■■■

**Vice Chairperson:** ■■■■■■

On Wed, 22 Feb 2023 at 11:01, Prestonpans Community Council  
<[prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello ■■■■,

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Your team asked the Council Cabinet for permission to close the road in Jan 2020 pursuant to Section 68(1), specifically that the road is "unnecessary". That is what you asked statutory consultees to comment upon during the regulated consultation period *prior* to the opening of the public consultation. You have since sought legal advice and changed position. The irony that the clause your lawyers settled upon was one that was intended to assist Local Authorities to "manage and maintain" roads in their care has not been lost on us. That it provides just enough wiggle room in its final sentence to afford power to Local Authorities "to determine the means by which the public right of passage over"

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**Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

**Secretary:** [REDACTED]

**Treasurer:** [REDACTED]

**Vice Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

On Wed, 22 Feb 2023 at 10:48, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

We get invited to a lot of evening meetings and unfortunately we can't attend them all. If Keith and I were available we would have attended.

I would like to clarify that as Council officers we are simply implementing a decision that was approved by East Lothian Councils Cabinet. I appreciate there are some new Cllrs in place now and that is why I briefed them in Nov 2022.

Keith has outlined the process and that legal advice was sought and it was agreed to promote the redetermination Order under sections 1(1) and 152(2). The original Lothian Regional Council Order did make reference to Section 68, as we reported, and the Order was promoted under 1(1) and 152(2) which is again what we've done.

The bridge is not adopted by East Lothian Council and it is the responsibility of Transport Scotland so you would need to contact them to obtain any reports. East Lothian Council Structural Engineer has advised us that this is an accommodation Bridge and was not designed to take the volume and type of traffic using it. This is why Johnnie Copes road was originally to have been closed as a through route when the A1 Tranent bypass opened in 1986, but kept open for walkers, cyclists and farm access.

The TRO is currently out for consultation so you can provide feedback directly to East Lothian Council legal team at [legal@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:legal@eastlothian.gov.uk).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <[prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 21 February 2023 12:21

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED],

Many thanks for coming back to me, I won't pretend that's not disappointing, I think that local residents deserve the opportunity to put questions to those responsible for making such significant decisions.

Since I will be asked by CC colleagues, the closure notification circulated below to us a few weeks ago tells us that you wish to close the road using powers contained in *the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984*, specifically section 68(1). Your draft redetermination order then offers the justification that the road "will become unnecessary," which is clause 68(1)(b) and would have been the justification for the original order had your predecessors properly sought it all those years ago. You have not specified safety concerns in the draft order which would be 68(1)(a). Can you tell us why? Is it because 69(1)(a) specified closure on dangerous grounds specifies only on reasons "other than by reason of its crossing" (my emphasis)?

Also, can you please share with us the recent structural assessments and reports that confirm that this bridge over one of the busiest trunk roads in Scotland is dangerously incapable of hosting the volume of vehicles that currently find it necessary to use it each day but that it can still withstand the weight of heavy combine harvesters, moving trucks, fire engines and other vehicles. How you and your officers objectively came to this conclusion is vital to public understanding of the situation.

Answers on both of these would also be hugely appreciated as we draft our communication with the Transport Secretary, as per Section 71, para 2(a)ii of the same Act, and encourage others to do the same.

All the very best for now,

[REDACTED]

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**Prestonpans Community Council (Est. 1975)**

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Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

**Secretary:** [REDACTED]

**Treasurer:** [REDACTED]

**Vice Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

On Tue, 21 Feb 2023 at 09:21, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for the invite, but unfortunately Keith and I are unable to attend the meeting next week. The Traffic regulation order is currently out for consultation so the Community Council can feed back to this. As we have outlined Johnnie Copes road was originally to have been closed as a through route when the A1 Tranent bypass opened in 1986, but kept open for walkers and cyclists. To this end, a bridge was provided where it crosses the A1 and "no through road except cycles" signs were sited at both the Tranent and Prestonpans. However, the closure was not legally effective as the then highways authority, Lothian Regional Council never made the necessary TROs needed to authorise it. The error was discovered by East Lothian Council some years ago hence why a report was taken to Cabinet to put things right and authorise the closure to through traffic of the ex-B1349. This was approved by Cabinet in Jan 2020 but with the onset of COVID it wasn't taken forward. We are now simple progressing the order.

The main reason East Lothian Council is proposing that Johnnie Cope road is to be closed to vehicular traffic is on the grounds of "Road Safety". The Structure over the A1 was not designed to take the volume and type of traffic using it. It was built as an accommodation bridge for the farmer and it was always intended to be closed to vehicular traffic. There are alternative more appropriate roads within close proximity. We proposed to redetermine the road to permit pedestrian and cyclists only which will provide a safer environment for those users. To redetermine the use requires a Traffic regulation order ( TRO ) and this is currently out for public consultation. I would note the design of the TRO will allow for emergency services access, farmer access and access for any residents.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <[prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 20 February 2023 23:06

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED],

As I haven't heard back, I am just following up on the request I made below. I wonder if either of you, or one of your colleagues in the Roads Team, is planning to join us at next week's community council meeting to discuss the Johnnie Cope Road closure? It's on Tues 28th Feb at 7pm in the Town Hall, Prestonpans.

It really is vitally important that local residents in Prestonpans and Tranent are able to make an informed choice when responding to your consultation on this matter. To do this, they really need to hear from the Roads Team why your department has proposed this significant change to local amenity and what tangible benefits closing one of the two roads directly connecting our two towns brings to the residents of both communities.

We will move the item to the top of the agenda to ensure that whoever comes along will not be kept too long and is able to get away before we move onto other local business. I do hope that you can send someone along to discuss this really quite important local issue.

I look forward to hearing from you soon in order that I can circulate the agenda.

All the very best for now,

[REDACTED]

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Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** [REDACTED]ith

**Secretary:** [REDACTED]n

Treasurer: [REDACTED]  
Vice Chairperson: [REDACTED]

On Mon, 13 Feb 2023 at 11:15, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Morning [REDACTED],

Thank you for responding and I've sent your e-mail to senior colleagues.

Please find attached advert that I've asked the Courier to place in this Thursdays edition.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Roads Officer | Road Services | Infrastructure | Partnerships & Community Services

East Lothian Council | John Muir House | Haddington | East Lothian | EH41 3HA  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Prestonpans Community Council <[prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpanscommunitycouncil@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 10 February 2023 20:10

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Re: Redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached, for the attention of [REDACTED], Prestonpans Community Council's comments and objection to the Council's proposal to close Johnnie Cope Road. I have also cc'ed in our ward councillors and will be sending on a copy to the Transport Secretary's office.

Could you please let me know over what time period and to whom you would like sent any public comments during the next stage of this notification exercise.

We will also be hosting our monthly public meeting of our Community Council on **Tues the 28th February** at **7pm** in the **Town Hall in Prestonpans**. Given the almost unprecedented level of local interest in this matter we would greatly appreciate it if yourself, Ian Lennox or any other appropriate colleague from the Roads Service team with agency over and knowledge of this application could come along and explain the grounds for closure of one of two roads directly connecting the towns of Prestonpans and Tranent to local residents. We will make it the first order of business so that whichever council officer is in attendance will not be detained for too long. Can you please let me know who might be available for this meeting?

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the very best for now,



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Public meetings held in Prestonpans Town Hall at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December)

**Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

**Secretary:** [REDACTED]

**Treasurer:** [REDACTED]  
**Vice Chairperson:** [REDACTED]

On Mon, 23 Jan 2023 at 11:35, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached consultation letter for the redetermination of Johnnie Copes Road













