

Edinburgh Access Forum

3.00 pm, Monday 8 April 2013

Present:- Councillor Lesley Hinds (CEC, Convener), David Bell (Balerno Ramblers), Rod Dalitz (Ramblers and Scottish Canoe Association), Matt Davis (CEC, Transport), Martin Duncan (CEC Natural Heritage Section), Sarah Fleming (British Horse Society), Keith Griffiths (Scotways), Peter Hawkins (CTC Scotland), Chris Hill (City Cycling Edinburgh), Keith Logie, (Parks & Greenspace, City of Edinburgh Council), Duncan Monteith (Parks and Greenspace), Sandy Scotland (Spokes), John Russell (Living Streets Edinburgh), Alan Shaw (Lothian Golf Association).

Apologies

Sandy Allison, National Farmers Union Scotland
Charlie Cumming, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust
Jennifer Lothian, East Lothian Council
Jenny Hargreaves, CEC
Alan McGregor, CEC

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Hinds welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Note of Meeting 24 September 2012

Decision

The Note of Meeting was approved with an amendment to page 2 item 5.4 to insert the word initial before infrastructure.

3. Core Path Update & Active Travel Information Hubs

Duncan Monteith, (Parks and Greenspace) advised that network rail were proposing not to allow paths to cross railway lines, this would affect one path in Edinburgh which would require to be reviewed

The project on active travel information was nearing completion with the first display being put up in Wester Hailes Plaza and a further display to be placed in the Oxbgangs area. It was hoped that this project would be rolled out across all neighbourhood areas.

Decision

To note the update

4. Update on Current and Potential Cycling Projects

Matt Davis advised that the following progress had been made on cycling projects:

- 1 A major section of the Leith to Portobello had been opened in November along the former railway linking Leith links to Seafield Road, this scheme had been match funded by Sustrans
- 2 The South meadow Walk to Argyle Street junction scheme had now been completed
- 3 A new ramp had been completed on the Restalrig Rail Path
- 4 Work was due to start on North meadow Walk
- 5 Upgrading work was due to start on the national Cycle network route 1 (Haymarket to the Forth Road Bridge)
- 6 Work on a new link between Burdiehouse and Straiton Nature Reserve
- 7 Junction improvements between the Gyle and Newbridge
- 8 Upgrading of the Corstorphine rail path to Balgreen
- 9 Design work on schemes for future years on the family network, Meadows and South Edinburgh cycle lanes

Decision

1. To note the update
2. The link to the report on road and pavement improvements that was considered by the transport and Environment committee to be made available to members
3. The Active Travel Officer to be invited to the next meeting
4. An update on signage issues to be provided to the next meeting
5. An item "Joint Potential Cycling and Walking projects" to be added to the next agenda

5. John Muir Trail Update

Martin Duncan advised that:

1. The launch date was April 2014

2. Upgrading of the footpath Daitches Brae to Brunstane Park was being undertaken, incorporation paving, edging and drainage at a cost of one hundred thousand pounds.
3. The waymarking phase was about to begin, it was intended to complete the survey by May, the consultation by the end of July and installation by January 2014
4. A Website and guidebook were being worked on

Decision

1. To note the update
2. Copies of the routemaps to be sent to members
3. The issue of access for horse riders to be investigated

6. Local Access Issues.

Martin Duncan provided an update on the following access issues

A) Currie Shed, Water of Leith Walkway

The owner had now been granted planning permission, and a meeting had taken place with the architects and it had been agreed that the fence in place would remain during the construction period until January 2014, but there would be access along a path that would be 3 metres wide during this period, and widened to 4.5 metres after with a 4 metre wide whin dust surface.

B) Landslip Update, Water of Leith Walkway & South Side Princes Street Gardens

There was no update at present for the reopening of this route as assessments and surveys were ongoing at present. Materials for railing repairs had been orderd for the Water of Leith walkway, nag monitoring work was still being undertaken at the castle rock

C) Portobello Promenade & Meadows Signage Update

The no cycling signs on the promenade had been removed and replaced with shared access signage

There was one no cycling sign still in place at the meadows and this was being dealt with by the Neighbourhood Team.

D) Quarry Advisory Signage/Fencing

The Public Health Enforcement Team was looking into this issue at Corstorphine Hill along with other sites around the city and an update would be provided to the next meeting.

E) Pinkhill

The land adjacent to the golf course had been fenced by the developer due to issues with flytipping and it was proposed that a gate would be installed to maintain access

F) Sandport

Discussions were to take place with the residents association or their agent regarding the chain that had been erected along the water of Leith walkway, the conditions attached to the original planning consent would also require to be checked in respect of access

Decision

1. To note the update
2. To request the Estates division to include rights of way in their checklist for land sales

7. Access Issues Process Review

Decision

1. To note that the minutes of the Forum would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee for information
2. To note the Director of Services for Communities would submit a report on the membership of the Forum to the Transport and Environment Committee

8. Members Updates

The following matters were raised by members:

- a) The planning application for Newcraighall North development showed that the crossing via the old railway line across Newcraighall Road, which formed part of the link to Queen Margaret University would disappear
- b) Network Rail planned to infill the bridge at the west of the Newcraighall development, although this was not a right of way, it was a well used route
- c) Due to a recent court ruling on liability for injury guidance was required on signage around golf courses as a matter of urgency

- d) Work was proceeding on the road between the RIE and Greendykes was progressing but no finish date could be provided as yet
- e) Attention was brought to the petition that had been submitted for consideration in regards to Holyrood Park

Decision

1. The department to prepare a briefing note for the Convener on the Newcraighall situation and to seek a meeting with network rail to discuss the matter
2. A meeting be arranged to discuss signage at golf courses
3. To advise members of the link to the petitions pages on the Council website

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hinds declared a non-financial interest in item 8(a & b) as a relative lived within close proximity to the application sites.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 2.00 pm