

Meeting with Midlothian Council regarding the Leadburn Junction: 30th April 2009, Howgate Hall

Present:

HCC - Karen O'Hanlon (Chair), Elizabeth Quigley, and Jenny Westwood
MLC – Ian Johnson and Douglas Muir

Apologies: Graham Young

KOH began the meeting by outlining the community's concerns with the Leadburn Junction and making reference to recent reports that MLC had removed the junction from its list of priority road improvement projects.

IJ described how this was not the case but that funding for a new roundabout was not available due to changes in the way in which SESTRAN was funded. The key points were:

- No doubt that the junction was in need of improvement
- The junction had been a priority for SESTRAN
- Progress had been made, a design prepared and initial ground preparation investigations made
- Arrangements had been made to fund the roundabout through SESTRAN as it was regionally significant and too large a project for MLC to fund on its own
- However, SESTRAN's funding mechanism changed and instead of receiving funding directly from Government, all funding now goes to directly to local authorities
- MLC does not have the funds to fund any of its 4 priority projects, including the Leadburn junction @ around £90K
- Leadburn junction is currently 44th on its list of priority projects and therefore unlikely to receive any improvements in the short to medium term

KOH asked what, if anything, could HCC do going forward as a community council. There followed a discussion on possible minor improvements that could be made by MLC, and it was suggested by KOH that the HCC kept a "log" of minor incidents and near misses and passed these to MLC. In the short-term, MLC agreed to undertake a Safety Audit and make the Report available to HCC before its AGM in May.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to meet again in a year or so.

The meeting ended.

Karen O'Hanlon (Chair)