



Sustaining Dunbar Transport Group

Action Plan October 2009

Sustaining Dunbar's Transport Group wants to make it easier to travel around Dunbar by sustainable modes of transport and to reduce the need to travel out of town. In addition to the environmental imperatives, we all benefit directly from a more sociable and pleasant community, freed from the nuisance and danger of busy roads. In order to achieve this, we have identified the following priorities

1. Better Public Transport

a. Timetable and Route Analysis

What: Analyse public transportation timetables and routes and make recommendations for improvement

Why: Current system is virtually unusable, as buses do not connect with each other, nor with the trains. Public transport services do not run at times that suit users. Improved transportation links were identified as necessary improvements in Dunbar in a recent survey of 600 local people

How:

Collate data from previous surveys about how and why local people travel and conduct new surveys as necessary	Requires funding
Cross-reference survey conclusions with bus and train timetables and routes	Requires funding
Publish maps showing existing routes and deficiencies	Requires funding

b. Lobby for change

What: Work with East Lothian Council, bus and train operators and other campaign groups to make improvements

Why: Everyone needs to work together to fix this

How:

Persuade service providers to run services at times that suit local needs	Ongoing, but will be easier after stage (a) complete
Try to persuade bus and train companies not to charge so much	???

c. Provide information

What: Publish public transport information

Why: People need to know when services run or they can't use them. Amazingly many bus stops in Dunbar still do not display a timetable, nor any information about when a bus might appear

How:

Use Sustaining Dunbar website to provide links to all local transport information services	Complete
Encourage service providers to keep their public information up-to-date	Ongoing
Help East Lothian Council to collect all current public transport information and to publish it in a regularly up-dated (quarterly) paper format and online	
Ensure information is distributed through the area and available to all	

d. Pedestrian and Cycle links to Stations

What: Develop safe and direct walking and cycle routes to public transport hubs

Why: Parking at the train station over-spills onto nearby streets causing problems for pedestrians. The station is at the heart of this small town and people should be able to walk there easily

How:

Identify how to make it easier to walk/cycle to the train station	Complete
Work with ELC and Network Rail to improve access for pedestrians	Ongoing
Work with ELC and Network Rail to improve facilities for cyclists	Ongoing

2. More Cycling

a. Prepare cycle maps

What: Identify physical barriers to cycling locally and investigate how they can be overcome. Publish this information on a map

Why: People who jump in their cars at every opportunity have often never considered the alternatives. The maps will show where it is easy to cycle locally and encourage people to experiment. The maps will also provide evidence to allow us to lobby for improvements

How:

Identify key local trip generators and services	Complete
Prepare draft Dunbar Cycle Network Map	Complete
Place Map on Sustaining Dunbar website	Complete
Create facility to add comments and links on website map	Requires funding
Publicise work through posters in public locations, including work places, ELC buildings, train station etc, and ask for comments	Requires funding
Use map as an informative tool with hyperlink nodes to provide	

information on locations (photos and text, contact details).	
Use map as a project identification tool.	
Assess comments and adjust map accordingly	
Liaise with appropriate bodies (ELC? Sustrans? Spokes?)	
Identify potential advertisers/sponsors for map	
Finalise Dunbar Cycle Network Map and publish	

b. Develop cycle network

What: Develop a comprehensive network of cycle paths around the town which take people where they want to go.

Why: Having defined the existing cycle network, it will be possible to identify gaps which need to be filled. We will then seek solutions.

How:

Identify route options in detail and create individual projects	Professional assistance required
Identify issues and improvements (identify key stakeholders)	Professional assistance required
Identify sites for cycle parking	Ongoing
Cost projects	Professional assistance required
Seek funding	Assistance required to identify funding sources
Put forward regulations/orders	Professional assistance required
Land acquisition if required	Professional assistance required
Management of any works and future management	Professional assistance required
Signage	Professional assistance required
Promote awareness of the network to potential users and key stakeholders, including future developers	Requires funding

c. Promote Cycling

What: Raise the profile of cycling in and around Dunbar

Why: As the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) has recorded, there is safety in numbers – the more people who cycle, the safer it becomes. Also, as cycling becomes more commonplace, newcomers are more likely to take it up

How:

Organise a bike festival during Dunbar Civic Week	Very successful Bikefests held in June 2008 & 2009
Organise 'bike doctor' stalls at local events	Dr Bike has attended School Fairs, Civic Week etc.
Encourage local schools to provide the 'Scottish Cycle Training Scheme'	This is now a compulsory for P6 pupils at DPS – other schools?
Encourage leisure cycling through maintenance of existing facilities (Lochend Wood tracks), Tree Scheme BMX park	

d. Create opportunities for bike hire

What: Provide local bike hire scheme

Why: People might like to try out cycling before committing, or hire specialist equipment such as trailers

How:

Encourage local bike shop to hire bikes	Complete. Belhaven Bikes running hire scheme since 2008
Assist in promotion of bike hire scheme by provide links through website and sign-posting	Imminent

3. More walking

a. Prepare pedestrian maps

What: Identify physical barriers to walking locally and investigate how they can be overcome. Publish this information on a map

Why: People who jump in their cars at every opportunity have often never considered the alternatives. The maps will show where it is easy to walk locally and encourage people to experiment. The maps will also provide evidence to allow us to lobby for improvements.

A walking map is significantly different from a cycle map in that it covers a smaller area in more detail and shows more feature such as bus stops. The walking map will focus on short functional trips rather than tourism, though encouraging tourism may be a welcome side effect bringing trade to the town and further supporting local shops.

How:

Identify key local trip generators and services	Requires funding
Prepare draft Dunbar Walking Map	Requires funding
Place Map on Sustaining Dunbar website	Requires funding
Create facility to add comments and links on website map	Requires funding
Publicise work through posters in public locations, including work places, ELC buildings, train station etc, and ask for comments	Requires funding
Use map as an informative tool with hyperlink nodes to provide information on locations (photos and text, contact details).	
Use map as a project identification tool.	
Assess comments and adjust map accordingly	
Liaise with appropriate bodies (ELC? John Muir Birthplace? Woodland Group? Living Streets? Access Forum?)	
Identify potential advertisers/sponsors for map	
Finalise Dunbar Walking Map and publish	

b. Develop footpath network

What: Develop a comprehensive network of footpaths around the town which take people where they want to go.

Why: Having defined the existing footpath network, it will be possible to identify gaps which need to be filled. We will then seek solutions.

How:

Identify route options in detail and create individual projects	Professional assistance required
Identify issues and improvements (identify key stakeholders)	Professional assistance required
Cost projects	Professional assistance required
Seek funding	Assistance required to identify funding sources

Put forward regulations/orders	Professional assistance required
Land acquisition if required	Professional assistance required
Management of any works and future management	Professional assistance required
Signage	Professional assistance required
Promote awareness of the network to potential users and key stakeholders, including future developers	Requires funding
Work with Dunbar Community Woodland Group to integrate Lochend Woods path network into the town network	Ongoing

c. Promote Walking

What: Encourage people to see walking as a mode of transport!

Why: Sometimes people don't even think to walk places

How:

Make links with other walking groups through 'Paths for All'	Ongoing
Encourage local schools to participate in annual Walk to School Weeks	This is now a regular event at DPS – other schools?
Promote International Car-Free Day (In Town Without My Car) on 22 nd September	Did this in 2007 & 2008. 2009?
Encourage ELC to promote Car-Free Day on 22 nd September	

4. Reduced Car Use

a. Car Club

What: Investigate feasibility of car club along the lines of City Car Club in Edinburgh

Why: Informal discussions with residents suggest that an active and easy-to-use local car club would reduce the need for families to have a 'second car', as the car-club car could fill the gaps. Data from Edinburgh City Car Club suggests that after joining a car club, former car owners increase their use of other transport modes by 40%, and decrease their car use by 15%.

How:

Identify parking locations	
Survey local people to identify what kind of scheme would be used	Required funding

Identify funding opportunities/partners	ELC is taking this forward
Promote membership	

b. Demand Responsive Transport

What: Investigate feasibility of local Demand Responsive Transport system e.g. Dial-A-Bus which is a regular bus with a set route which will make detours on demand

Why: The buses run empty a lot of the time; perhaps this system would be more useful to people and cheaper to run

How:

Identify funding opportunities/partners	
Survey local people to identify what kind of scheme would be used	Required funding

c. Traffic Calming

What: Work with ELC to introduce measures to slow traffic in towns

Why: Perceived danger from traffic is a major reason given for not walking or cycling, especially for children.

How:

Identify roads which require calming	
Press for blanket default 20mph limit in built-up areas	Ongoing
Suggest physical measures to slow down traffic	
Work with ELC to persuade public of the need for traffic calming	Ongoing

d. Employer Travel Plans

What: Encourage local employers to develop Travel Plans which promote sustainable travel

Why: Travelling to work is one of the main reasons why people buy cars

How:

Assist in the preparation of employers own Travel Plans	
Evaluate Travel Plans and seek to assist where appropriate	
Raise awareness of the work of Sustaining Dunbar	Ongoing
Promote awareness Scottish Government's Bike to Work Scheme and monitor take-up	

5. Community Planning

a. Future development

What: Work with ELC to ensure future developments are pedestrian and cycle oriented.

Why: It is far better and cheaper to build-in walking and cycle friendly infrastructure than to correct it afterwards. Additionally, the developers will be paying for it, rather than the local authority.

How:

Liaise with ELC	Ongoing
Join the planning application email list	Imminent
Comment on proposals for local development	Ongoing
Be represented on East Lothian Community Planning Forum	Ongoing