



“Much, Much More Than a Mere Transport Project!”

Get “On Your Bike” to Have Your Say!

Transform Scotland
Call as Holyrood
2021 Election
Campaign Gets
Out On The [Pot-
Holed] Roads ...



“Tell Politicians that ...
‘Cycling is For Everyone’”
- as Levenmouth Cycle-Lanes Network Designed

e-Mail “Alert”: **Transform Scotland Website**,
Monday, 29th. March.:

TRANSFORM Scotland, the national alliance for sustainable transport in this country, have joined the 2021 Holyrood Election campaign with their call to the Scottish people to comment on anything to do with cycling and the network of existing (or future) cycle lanes, and other facilities ... and “tell politicians that ‘cycling is for everyone’”.

The registered charitable organisation, who state on their website that they “campaign for a transport system where walking, cycling and public transport are the easiest and most-affordable options for everyone”, have chosen the election campaign to get their message across, and one of their partners in Scotland, *Cycling UK*, have added: “[We] are calling for more money to be invested in cycling; the creation of safe spaces for people to cycle or walk, and enable people in rural communities to cycle”.

“**Sign the Petition!**”, *Transform Scotland* say, pointing to their website, www.transform.scot

Levenmouth’s Cycle-Footpath Plans

Transform Scotland’s election intervention, and the Election itself, come just as work begins to design and create a whole network of cycle-footpaths for the Levenmouth area, in connection (*literally!*) with the re-instatement of the Levenmouth Rail Link — the dream that people here have of course aspired to for so long. It is *especially* vital, then, for people

hereabouts to say just what they want from the new Levenmouth cycle network... so, in the run-up to the Holyrood 2021 Election (and whilst *LMRC News* has been unable to help in getting the message across), people are being asked to join the by getting out on the roads — *however badly pot-holed* — and tell the campaigning politicians what features they think should be incorporated in the new ‘paths.

Scottish Election 2021 will be on Thursday, 6th. May. ...

Levenmouth Connectivity Project to Date



Story Details: “**The Leven**”, **Connectivity Project Website** (www.theleven.org), *Date not Stated.*;
Photo.: “Free Stock Image”, Microsoft ‘Clip-Art’ Library.

THE LEVENMOUTH Connectivity Project intends to create an “award-winning network” of cycle-ways and footpaths to follow the River Leven for around 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) and also to establish 20 kms. (12.4 miles) of ‘paths, or thereabouts, to serve the local communities of Leven, Buckhaven, Methilhill, Methil, Windygates, and Kennoway, and places in-between. This network of ‘paths, their makers state, “will connect isolated communities to and along the River. ... The project aims to deliver environmental river improvements, and unlock opportunities to bring some areas of vacant and derelict land to productive use. It is hoped that, by working with communities to capitalise on these opportunities, the region will be opened up to new economic, health and well-being opportunities.”... / **Page 2** ➔

LMRC’s Next On-Line Meetings...

Tues., 27th. April, '21,
and Tuesday, 25th. May,
- Both at 6.30 p.m..

Please See Back Page for Information and Campaign Contacts - *LMRC* members are sent codes to allow them to access On-line *Video-Meetings*.

Still... Stay Safe ... Protect Others ... Save Lives !

Remember Your Mask ... and the "F.A.C.T.S."* !!

- ★ **FACE COVERINGS** in Enclosed Spaces;
- ★ **AVOID** Crowded Places;
- ★ **CLEAN** Your Hands & Surfaces Regularly;
- ★ **TWO-METRE (6ft.) Distancing**;
- ★ **SELF-ISOLATE** if You Have Symptoms.

[* From Official Guide Website.]

- says **LMRC News**

Stay SAFE ... and Stay SANE!

"Levenmouth Connectivity Project" to Date

◀ - Cont. from Front Page ... Achievements So Far

In January 2019, funding of £250,000 - part of a sum originally granted by *Transport Scotland* - was awarded to *Levenmouth Connectivity*. It came from the 'Community Links' programme run by *Sustrans Scotland*, and allows *Levenmouth Connectivity* to set up a local branch and liaise with the various community groups in Levenmouth, and generate further interest and support (financial or otherwise) among individuals or businesses in the area, or to "draw in new partners to the programme", as their website states. They also aim to develop a "catchment-wide masterplan with a focus on sustainability, climate adaptation, green infrastructure and 'Active Travel', and to launch their feasibility study to identify potential routes in the area for this network.

In July 2019, *Sustrans Scotland* awarded more funding, this time of £514,000 from their 'Places for Everyone' programme. This was also financed by *Transport Scotland*, and this, as we now know, has enabled feasibility work on active travel routes, and to produce concept designs to be shared with the community for consultation and comment, as well as "wider community engagement".

Involving the Levenmouth Community

However, none of these improvements can be made without involving the Levenmouth community, and seeing what they'll say. As part of the *Connectivity Project*, there have been in the last year some opportunities for different sections of the Levenmouth community to get involved in the development, design and delivery of the paths network and related amenities, and this will continue for a few years yet.

Levenmouth Connectivity had already started their programme of engagement events, 'feedback sessions', workshops, and other activities, in the weeks before the Pandemic struck, and have since, *somehow*, managed to keep this going despite the scourge and the *Lockdowns*. Over the duration of these planning and implementation phases, which will be open so anyone can offer their ideas and feedback, or raise their concerns. These will be publicised in local newspapers, and via social-media and other outlets, before they happen. Local residents are encouraged to follow the *Levenmouth Connectivity Facebook* and *Twitter* social-media accounts to keep up with the projects and be involved. They can also use their website 'Contact Us' facility at any time to find out more..., or to get involved themselves.

2 - **LMRC News** - April 2021 - www.facebook.com/LevenmouthRail

IMPORTANT PASSENGER ANNOUNCEMENT :
The Next Train from LEVEN
to EDINBURGH
(and Other Destinations),
Calling at CAMERON BRIDGE, is
Now Due : 2023 !

"Thank You" to Local Community from the 'Levenmouth Reconnected' Team ... Following Public Consultations on Station Locations

Credit: '*Levenmouth Reconnected*' (*ScotRail / Network Rail*) Website, Friday, 8th. January.:

"**THANK YOU** to everyone who took the time to contact us to ask questions and to share their views on the proposed station locations for the **Levenmouth Rail Link**. Many people also took up the offer to meet with the project team at our 'virtual' community engagement events which were both challenging and informative. Although not ideal, it was great to get the chance to meet and talk to local people about the project. We are hopeful that circumstances in 2021 will allow us to meet in person and give us more opportunities to discuss the project as it evolves and develops.

"In the meantime, you can continue to ask questions via the online submission form on the website bit.ly/33P0ssJ, or by emailing ...

LevenmouthReconnected@networkrail.co.uk .

"Our next step is to review the feedback received from the community engagement, and views shared through project partners and stakeholders, to decide the 'preferred option' which we will take forward.

"We will continue to update via the website and on social media - [@NetworkRailScot](https://twitter.com/NetworkRailScot) - as work [progresses] towards getting **#LevenmouthReconnected** ."

Levenmouth Rail Link Track-Bed Ground Surveys Get Underway

Credit: '*Levenmouth Reconnected*' (*ScotRail / Network Rail*) Websites, Friday, 4th. February.:

GROUND Investigations that are vital to determine the rock conditions and other characteristics of the track-bed of the Levenmouth Rail Link have already begun and are "making good progress", the *ScotRail 'Levenmouth Reconnected'* team stated in January. The study will provide the designers of the soon-to-be-revived railway with all the information they will need to develop the detailed 'delivery plans' [its completion and handover to the railway authority], and help them decide on the specification and exacting requirements for reconstructing the railway.

"Work to carry out site and ground investigations all along the 5½-mile (8¾-kms.) line of the Levenmouth Rail Link continues. We do this by carrying out *Sonic Drilling* at specific locations in the area — taking soil and rock samples for testing *in-situ.*, to determine the best way forward for the project. We will continue to update you with progress but if you have any questions you can email us: LevenmouthReconnected@network.rail.co.uk ."

Be Patient..., or -

Construction Work will be Starting Soon on the Long-Awaited

Levenmouth Rail Link

The Public are advised to Stay Away from the Railway Trackbed while these Works are in Progress. Heavy Machinery will be in Use – and there will be many other Hazards on the whole Line.

Better Late for a Train than, Well..., **“LATE”!**



Poster Imagery by Alistair Aynsough / LMRC News.

To Cater for Cyclists and All Other 'Path Users ...

Levenmouth Residents and Businesses Suggest Ideas for Active Travel Routes

Story: **Sustrans Magazine** [**“The Hub”**], Spring 2021; also: **Jamie Callaghan, East Fife Mail**, Wednesday, 14th. April.:

IT'S CERTAINLY Too Late Now as, due to technical troubles, it has not been possible to publish this edition of *LMRC News* in time to help get this message across ... but, in recent weeks anyway, Levenmouth residents and the various businesses based here have been asked to “share their thoughts on plans to improve *Active Travel* in the area” - the local media and social-media 'platforms', including the *LMRC*'s own *Facebook* page, doing their bit.

The current edition of the members' magazine of the 'sustainable transport' charity *Sustrans* has been reporting on cycleways, or at least one reader of “The Hub” (as the magazine is titled) has. — Keen cyclist Amanda was seriously injured in training for a charity-ride some time ago, sustaining damage to her spinal cord and ending up, as she writes, “paraplegic”. Intent on retaining her fitness and independence, she bought a *recumbent trike* and uses this “not only as a leisure or physical tool but also, and perhaps most significantly, as a mobility aid [as] I cannot walk unaided. ... It was crucial for my recovery that I found a way to continue to ride and get outdoors.”

Amanda's story has lessons for everyone involved in the *Active Travel* network that is planned for the Levenmouth area. Many existing cycleways feature barriers to act against unwanted users such as off-road motorcyclists - whom Leven has already had issues with. The kind of trike that Amanda uses has a width of around 80 centimetres, or 31½ inches — which just happens to match the standard doorway width as is required under disability-access legislation in the United Kingdom.

The Barrier is Much Narrower ...

A photograph in *Sustrans*' “The Hub” magazine shows her just about managing to ride her trike through a barrier. However, at around 60 to 90 cms. (2 to 3 feet) from the ground, this barrier is much narrower, and may actually baulk certain kinds of wheelchair or a large pram, or a pushchair for 2 toddlers. *LMRC News*' editor Alistair Aynsough once encountered similar barriers in his native Cumbria, and had to dismount and walk his bike through.

OTHER LOCAL CAMPAIGNS

Apologies — Our regular Railway Updates Column is with-held due to lack of space.

He also recently, briefly, owned an “upright”, electric trike; the trike had a maximum width of 83 cms., or 32.7 inches. - This means, assuming it is actually legal to use ‘pedelec’ trikes on such paths, that it may not have passed through the barriers anyway. Being obliged to walk through barriers is one thing; seeing people with disabilities being denied entry, while others might get in and then abuse cycle-footpath facilities, is quite another.

A compromise - ‘hi-tech.’, or lower - may well be needed.

Wheelchairs, trikes, ‘adaptive’ cycles (which include those that are ‘pedalled’, by hand, by people who cannot really use their legs to propel them), “recumbents”, and more, may well be used on the new ‘paths, so, to welcome all, unsuitable barriers will need to be avoided. Since the *Disability Discrimination Act* of 1995, the law has insisted on several ‘access’ provisions for new amenities such as these we're getting — but, from time to time, we read of major “blunders” in national or local newspapers!!

“ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE” OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Prospects for Seaside Town and District

Story: **Jon Brady, East Fife Mail**, Wednesday, 7th. April.:

LEVENMOUTH IS SET for a “once-in-a-lifetime chance at reinvigoration” when the *Covid-19* pandemic is finally something for the history books, *Fife Council* chiefs say. “While Levenmouth has its challenges”, they write in a new report presented to the Council; “...promising new projects such as the re-imagined Rail Link, a third-sector High Street unit takeover and a hydrogen heating scheme will bring long-term growth.”

Cllr. Ken Caldwell, the Area Convener for Levenmouth, said: “The past year has been a very testing time for our economy. However, this is an exciting time for Levenmouth, with the coming of the Rail Link and the various major projects that are currently planned and in progress. The Committee is working with *Council* officers and local community groups to ensure that we can derive the most benefit from this ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity.”

Fife Council's Levenmouth Economic Profile shows that this area, and its towns, already had “escalating problems” with unemployment and town-centre vacancies even before the Pandemic began. Empty town centre units in Fife accounted for 15.2% of all units in April 2016 but, by June 2020, one-in-five - in fact, 20.1% - were unoccupied. Council officers fear this is likely to be higher still when the full impact of *Covid-19* is known. Around 600 people have been reduced to claiming benefits during the crisis — up from 6.2 to 9 per-cent. of the working-age population. Levenmouth has the highest unemployment levels of all parts of Fife. The closure of the *BiFab* yard in Methil, over three years ago, didn't exactly help.

Cllr. Caldwell added: “We currently have very high levels of deprivation, and the highest unemployment claimant rate in Fife. I think one of the major causes of this is that we have a very high level of population with no or very low levels of qualifications... but we do have organisations in the area providing alternative routes to help people gain qualifications and get into apprenticeships.” Despite the challenges, *Fife Council* officers are confident future investment in the area will reverse the more-worrying trends.

— **More of this story follows next time in *LMRC News*. ...**

LMRC News is Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH

at Colinsburgh, Fife, Scotland, and Transmitted by *Adobe PDF*, and e-Mailed to the **LevenMouth Rail Campaign** by the Creator of “*Brougham Hall News*”. [Founded 1986 - www.broughamhall.co.uk]

LMRC News - April 2021 - e-Mail: LMRC@mail.com - 3

'REINSTATE THE LEVEN-EDINBURGH RAIL-LINK !'

Former *Bi-Fab* Yard Has New Owners

LONDON-Based *InfraStrata* have bought the former *Burntisland Fabrications* ['BiFab'] yards at Methil in Fife and Arnish on the Isle of Lewis but, curiously, not that at Burntisland itself. *Infrastrata*, who own the iconic *Harland &. Wolff* yard at Belfast, fervently hope their new yards will benefit from winning contracts for off-shore wind-turbine schemes and, maybe, ship-building.

More Next Time

Network Rail Scotland say ...

[*'Project Timeline'...*] - "THE RE-INSTALEMENT of the Levenmouth Rail Link is part of wider improvements to Scotland's railway infrastructure, and will provide a major boost to economic sustainability and connectivity. "It will deliver opportunities for local people - unlocking access to education, culture, entertainment and employment options, as well as attracting new business and investment."

Stations and Infrastructure
- Winter 2020-2021

Planning and Consenting Process
for Stations - Summer 2021

Main Construction Works
Start on Site - 2022

Re-Opening Date [*Stated*
by *Select Media Sources*]. - 2023

LMRC NOT Meeting
Literally..., But *StiH*
Virtually! For Now?!

LevenMouth Rail Campaign
are Sorry to Announce
that, due to Coronavirus,
their usual Monthly 'Action
Group' Meetings at the Fife
Renewables Innovation
Centre are Cancelled 'til
Further Notice ("For the
Duration"), but will Take
Place via "Zoom" Internet-
Based Video-Conferencing.

LMRC Contacts ...  
  

CLEAR Buckhaven, 36 College St., Buckhaven,
KY8 1JY. - [Opposite Library and Council Offices]
E-Mail: LMRC@mail.com 'Phone: 01592-713078
Website: www.levenmouth.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LevenmouthRail
Twitter: www.twitter.com/LevenmouthRail

LMRC Action Group '*Virtual*' Meetings

The Next 'Zoom' Meetings for LMRC are as Planned:
All Meetings Start on Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.



- Tuesday, 27th. April, 6.30 p.m.;
- Tuesday, 25th. May, 6.30 p.m.;
- Tuesday, 29th. June, 6.30 p.m.;
- Tuesday, 27th. July, 6.30 p.m..

LMRC Don't Normally have July Meets - but one may happen via 'Zoom'

CAMPAIGN CALL

"LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

ALTHOUGH, of Course, we now have the wonderful prospect of the Levenmouth Rail Link being reinstated, the **LMRC** remain active — and continue to keep a watch on progress. If you have concerns at any stage, you should still write to your MSP, MP or Local Councillor.

4 - LMRC News - April 2021 - 'Phone: 01592-713078

STILL So Little Sport ... ?

Keep the Ball in Their Court !!!

CAMPAIGN CALLING ...

LOBBY YOUR MSP

... .. Say **LMRC,**

Please Keep This 'Ball' Rolling !