

Spokes Action Update 16.11.13

... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address, your change may not yet be in our database, so this message may go to your old address or possibly to both.

... When using email addresses below, replace AT by @.

A. REMINDER - THIS TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER, SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING

Please come along!! Good numbers will help send a **strong message to Parliament via Alison Johnstone MSP** - now is a crucial time in the middle of deliberations on the 14/15 Scottish Budget. This is not an 'abstract' issue - for example, it is thanks to the previous increase that we now expect greatly improved bike facilities when Leith Walk is rebuilt, probably starting fairly early in 2014.

Another speaker, Tom Ballantine, Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland will tell us more about their campaign to double walking/cycling investment in 2014 - **he is meeting both the Environment and Transport Ministers this month** about this, and it would be good if he too can take a strong message. SCCS organised the recent lunchtime demonstration seeking doubled cycling investment in 2014, and 10% of the transport budget by 2020 - see the excellent video in our report at...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/10/seeing-double/>

Also at the meeting will be a **display of all 15 prizewinning entries from our recent competition, Cycling with a Purpose.**

Full details of the meeting here...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/10/cycling-investment-spokes-autumn-public-meeting/

B. SPOKES NOVEMBER TRAFFIC COUNT

Thank you everyone who helped. The count found yet another rise in bike use and another fall in car use. See the results here...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/11/bikes-up-cars-down-again/

You can now also click through from the article to see interactive summary graphs of all our data from 2006 to the present.

C. MEADOWS TO INNOCENT CONSULTATION

The Council is consulting on plans to link the Meadows to the Innocent railway path. ***If you live or cycle in this area, please send in your own response.*** Full details, including maps and a downloadable leaflet which is being distributed door-to-door in the adjacent area, are here...

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/385/cycling_in_edinburgh/1931/cycle_projects/5

NB - map 201 is incorrect, but hopefully will be replaced shortly

There is a short online questionnaire, or you can email detailed comments to

CyclingProjects.Consultation@Edinburgh.gov.uk. Also use that address for any queries about the project.

There will be a staffed drop-in display/ consultation session on Tues 26 Nov, 5.30-8.30pm, South Side Community Centre, 117 Nicolson Street.

*Spokes will be doing a formal response coordinated by Richard Grant. If you know the area and have ideas that might be useful, please do respond to the council as above, but *also send your ideas to richardanthonygrantATgmail.com* [as soon as possible, but definitely by 28 November].*

The Council hopes to build this link in 2014, with the Meadows-Canal link following in 2015.

D. BORDERS RAILWAY

There will be drop-ins to explain the ongoing project, and discuss how it is going to develop. It's an opportunity to continue pressing for good walk/cycle accesses to the stations, and rolling stock with good bike carriage capacity. *If you are unhappy with any aspects, or want to press for decent bike carriage [which is currently unclear] contact your MSPs using www.writetothem.com.*

Tue 26 Nov, 3-7pm – Edinburgh College, 46 Dalhousie Road, Eskbank, EH22 3FR

Tue 3 Dec, 3-7pm – The Hive, Low Buckholmside, Galashiels, TD1 1RT

Tue 10 Dec, 3-7pm – Stow Town Hall, Stow, TD1 2QN

Full details...

www.bordersrailway.co.uk/news/community-drop-in-meetings-mark-borders-railway-progress.aspx

There's also an earlier item about the project on our website Rail page...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/public-transport/rail/

E. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PANs

Check out our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals, to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans

F. COMPETITION FOR AGES 5-18, SCOTLAND ENVIRONMENT WEB

A government competition, with great prizes, for young people ...

What needs to change in your local community that will make a difference to your environment and what role can you play in making it happen?

Closing date 31 January 2014, but you need to register interest as soon as possible. Full details...

www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get_involved/young_people/youth_discussion.aspx

G. SPOKES TREASURER

After many years of great service, Rosemary wishes to hand the job over to a new volunteer. Since we do not have employees to be looked after it is a relatively straightforward task for someone with a mind for figures and organisation, and good at keeping up to date. Rosemary will do a full handover and will be available by phone or email for advice.

Ideally we'd like someone who could attend Resources Group (roughly monthly) though that is not essential. Also, someone who has been a Spokes member for some time and who anticipates living

in Edinburgh for the foreseeable future. Obviously it may not be possible to find someone who fits all these criteria! Please email spokesATspokes.org.uk with your details if interested.

H. LOCAL POLICING PLANS - CONSULTATION CONTINUES

Local Policing Plans are being drawn up for 2014-2017 in (we think) all council areas within Scotland. These will decide policing priorities both for the whole council area and also for individual wards within each council area. The priorities will depend in part on public feedback. They are prepared by the police, jointly with the local council.

If you are concerned about issues such as road safety, the way it is tackled, bike theft, etc, please try and have your say for your area's Local Policing Plan. In Edinburgh there is a series of drop-in consultation sessions across the city throughout November, ending Nov 29 in Wester Hailes... www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/1311-police-plan-consultn-dropins.pdf

We don't know the arrangements in other councils - contact your local police www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/ and/or your local council.

We have put more about this, particularly the Edinburgh consultation, on our website... www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/11/policing-plan-spokesworker//

Dave du Feu
Spokes 16 November 2013

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To campaign effectively Spokes needs as many supporters as possible. If you are not already a member, you like what we do, and you'd like to keep in touch with developments, please join Spokes. For details of membership benefits and to download a membership form go to www.spokes.org.uk/membership .