

# Spokes Action Update 19.02.14

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... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address it 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 @.

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## A. SCOTRAIL FRANCHISE

Five companies are bidding for the ScotRail franchise, which expires in March 2015. This is our big opportunity to get major bike/rail improvements which could last for the next 10 years. And there are some hopeful signs.

Please read our website information...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/01/scotland-bikerail-the-future/>

and if bike/rail matters to you, please email the 5 companies yourself with your own ideas and relevant experiences. We have listed their email addresses here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/01/bikerail-scotland-update/>

## B. STATION BIKE PARKING – *act by Mon 24 Feb*

Quite separate from the above Franchise renewal process, ScotRail has a programme of improving station bike parking this Spring, like last year. They welcome any suggestions/comments. They are aiming for stations where there is existing unsatisfied demand or where numbers cycling to the station are thought to be less than they would be if there was more/better parking.

This programme is for local stations and does NOT cover Waverley, Haymarket or the Glasgow main stations, some of which are anyway not run by ScotRail. Incidentally, there are plans to reinstate and expand the previous rain-protected Haymarket bike parking soon.

*Additional bike parking in the Spring programme is currently planned for...*

Dumfries Perth Wallyford Huntly Leuchars Larbert Dunfermline-Town Gretna-Green  
Cowdenbeath Linlithgow [replacing existing] Muir-of-Ord Rosyth  
Dumbreck Corkerhill Mosspark Crookston Hawkhead

If you have comments on the above and/or other suggestions please email **by Mon 24 Feb** to [desmond.bradley@firstgroup.com](mailto:desmond.bradley@firstgroup.com) and [ewan@navyblue.org.uk](mailto:ewan@navyblue.org.uk) [Ewan is our bike/rail person].

## C. SPRING MAILOUT, with Bulletin 118

This is fixed for Sat 1 March. Volunteers for stuffing and delivery will be notified as usual shortly.

## D. FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1. Spokes Public Meeting - Monday 24 March

"*Understanding Cycling*" [major research study] by **Prof Colin Pooley** followed by *a response from Cllr Andrew Burns*, leader of Edinburgh City Council [and daily cycle commuter]. Full details and poster will be in mailout.

## 2. April 26/27 weekend Solway-Forth 'Trailblazing Ride'

A weekend ride **with bikebus transport from Edinburgh** to the start point at Annan. Full ride bikebus & luggage support, snacks included. Overnight at Peebles – info provided on accommodation options, from B&B to camping. Cost £75 including bikebus from Edinburgh or £50 if you make your own way to Annan (Cost does not cover accommodation & meals).

The background to the route [info from last year]...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/08/f2f-solway-to-forth/>

Provisional route map...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/1311-route-plan-C2C-F2F.pdf>

*Booking essential, especially if you wish to reserve bikebus space from Edinburgh. Booking available soon on this site...*

[http://chain-events.co.uk/2014\\_scottishc2c.htm](http://chain-events.co.uk/2014_scottishc2c.htm)

[also for enquiries]

## 3. Farmers' Market, Saturday Feb 22

If you are at the Farmers' Market at Castle Terrace on Feb 22, come along and say hello at the Spokes stall. If you'd like to volunteer to help on future occasions, contact Martyn, email [martin.edelsten@ed.ac.uk](mailto:martin.edelsten@ed.ac.uk).

## 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](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans)

*Two particularly important current proposals are as below.*

*Some are complex – if you wish to comment and want advice, contact Peter Hawkins, email [peterhawk@phonecoop.coop](mailto:peterhawk@phonecoop.coop)*

**1. Old Fruitmarket site** : 4 applications for different aspects 14/00546/AMC 14/00488/AMC 14/00487/FUL 14/00486/FUL. ***Closing dates for comment March 10 & 14.***

Big mixed development on huge site with scope to include part of a major east-west route parallel to the canal but avoiding the aqueduct - as well as the usual needs for access/ parking/ storage within the developments.

*Peter says, "huge east-west oriented site; at east end it will connect to old rail path which runs from Hutchison Crossway to Slateford Green (hence to Aldi, Sainsbury's, Medical Centre, Gorgie Rd). At west end it SHOULD connect to an underpass of Chesser Ave (existing, but fenced off) (former rail line) into the new housing dev't at New Mart Rd, which in turn has a link to the WoL path; and all we need then is the (mooted) new footbridge over the river to provide a longer-distance east-west route parallel with the canal, but avoiding the aqueduct. So getting this Chesser Ave underpass up and running in the present proposals is really important! "*

## 2. Fountainbridge / canal [reference 14/00309/PAN]

This proposal, at the pre-application PAN stage, is for a mixed-use development on the big vacant site between the canal, Viewforth and Fountainbridge opposite Grove Street. As part of the PAN process there will be a staffed **drop-in exhibition on March 27, midday-8pm at Central Hall, Tollcross**, followed by an unstaffed exhibition at Fountainbridge Library March 28-April 11. *Please go along and leave written comments, or email them in.*

If this area is particularly important to you, you might like to get involved in the Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative which is working hard for a people-friendly development here. See their website... <http://www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk/>.

Their next public meeting is on March 13, Viewforth Church, 6pm.

<http://www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk/node/19>

## **F. TRAM VIDEOS**

Edinburgh trams have released 'safety videos' for people walking, cycling or driving. You can find them all from the links at this press release...

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1457/tram\\_testing\\_set\\_to\\_increase](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1457/tram_testing_set_to_increase)

The videos are interesting but, unfortunately, as we know, the tramline layout in quite a few places is not properly designed for crossing at right-angles.

The background to the tram layout was covered in our website article late last year...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/10/tramline-traumas/>

The forthcoming Spokes Bulletin will include a radical long-term proposal for greatly reducing tramline crashes in Haymarket area.

## **G. A90 PATH TEMPORARY CLOSURES**

Further big upgrades are happening to the path to the Forth Bridge. As a result there will be temporary closures Feb 22-28 and most of April, with a lengthy signed diversion through the estate. A map of the overall route is here...

[https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?](https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?msid=210598812950465277633.0004d8ff4c0c27182e304&msa=0)

[msid=210598812950465277633.0004d8ff4c0c27182e304&msa=0](https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?msid=210598812950465277633.0004d8ff4c0c27182e304&msa=0)

## **H. BIKE BREAKFAST FEEDER-RIDES : *COMPUTER-SAVVY VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!***

This year's Bike Breakfast is Weds 18 June during National Bike Week and the Edinburgh Festival of Cycling.

For the last 2 years, Mike Smith organised feeder rides [ok, we know you get fed at the destination!] to the breakfast from local areas, using a Wordpress site with online sign-up

[<http://breakfastbikeride.org.uk/pwp/wordpress/> - not currently live but may reappear soon]. There were local leaders for each ride and emailed invites to the councillors for that area to join the feeder rides. Unfortunately Mike is no longer in Edinburgh. It would be great if someone else with the relevant web/social-media knowhow could offer to do the same this year. Please contact us if you can help.

## **I. TWITTER @SPOKESLOTHIAN**

We have an active twitter presence <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian>. Please check it out every so often, and RT any tweets you support. The latest Spokes tweets now also appear on our website in the right-hand column.

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Dave du Feu, Spokes 18 Feb 2014