

# Spokes Action Update 24.04.14

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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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***Final reminder...***

**PEDAL ON PARLIAMENT 2014**

**Saturday 26 April, 12.00 noon, The Meadows**

**Why it matters** - [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/02/pop-2014/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/02/pop-2014/)

**The PoP website** - <http://pedalonparliament.org>

There are **local feeder rides** from all over the city – and many from further afield...

<http://pedalonparliament.org/the-route/getting-there/#feeder-rides>

The Scottish Government [announced additional cycling investment in autumn 2013](#) – as a result of growing pressure from many directions, including PoP1 and PoP2. The investment is being snapped up by councils (etc) across Scotland whose bids have already oversubscribed the available funding by over 50%. Amongst many other councils **Edinburgh has succeeded in its bid for 50% funding for the Canal-Meadows-Innocent route.**

But to raise cycle use on European scales, and to give any hope of meeting its [2020 cycle-use objective](#), the government needs to be investing at European levels – [around £20 per person per year, or 5% of the total £2000m annual transport budget](#). In fact it is investing 1.1% in 2013/14, increasing to 1.5% in 14/15. **But, despite the growing demand, investment is currently due to fall back to 1.2% in 2015/16.** More detail on these figures in [Spokes Bulletin 118](#).

## OTHER THINGS...

### A. BIKE BREAKFAST FEEDER RIDES

Talking of PoP feeder rides, we also hope to again have feeder rides to this year's Bike Breakfast on June 18. For the last 2 years, Mike Smith organised feeder rides to the breakfast from several local areas, with local leaders for each ride, who also emailed councillors for the area, asking them to join in. Unfortunately Mike is no longer in Edinburgh. Could someone do the same this year, using Mike's website ... <http://breakfastbikeride.org.uk/pwp/wordpress/>.

The website should be easy to update for a competent web user. Also, Mike is available to advise by email. We can help the volunteer by asking in a circular for local ride leaders, but we need the overall coordinator first.

## **B. EDINBURGH COUNCIL STREET DESIGN GUIDANCE – CONSULTATION ENDS 30 JUNE**

The Council has prepared new guidance to be used in street design by the council itself and by developers. This is a large but vital document which replaces many previous documents including the Council's Cycling Design Guide. From a first look it seems pretty encouraging, but there may well be issues of detail which need improved.

More information and the draft document are at... <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/streetdesign>

### ***HOW YOU CAN HELP...***

- **Complete the survey** at the above council web page
- **Submit detailed comments** – and any **queries** – to [streetdesign@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:streetdesign@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- **Apply to attend the Council's May workshop** – see above council web page
- **Please – send Spokes your thoughts** [large or small] so that we can include them in a Spokes response

## **C. CREATE A LOCAL PROJECT TO ENCOURAGE CYCLING – APPLY BY 2 JUNE**

Funding is available from Cycling Scotland for *Cycle-Friendly Community* projects which aim to increase trips made by bike and, if possible, reduce single-occupancy car trips.

[www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project](http://www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project)

Spokes would be happy to assist any members (within our voluntary capacity) - for example, to ask in a circular for additional volunteers for the project.

**Innovative ideas are especially welcome.** For example, Spokes is running a '*Thank You for Shopping by Bike*' event during Ed Festival of Cycling...

[www.edfoc.org.uk/events/event/spokes-thanks-you-for-shopping-by-bike](http://www.edfoc.org.uk/events/event/spokes-thanks-you-for-shopping-by-bike)

A small enthusiastic group of people could apply for funding to build on this with similar events at various shopping centres in different parts of the city, probably also seeking sponsorship from one or two local shops at each venue.

## **D. BIKE PARKING FOR YOUR WORKPLACE OR OTHER ORGANISATION – APPLY BY 23 MAY**

Funding is available to provide racks, each accommodating 10 bikes, to encourage bike use after the Commonwealth Games – so called 'legacy funding.' Organisations have to pay just £100 towards the cost. Details here...

[www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/workplaces/legacy-cycle-parking](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/workplaces/legacy-cycle-parking)

## E. SOUTH WEST EDINBURGH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – CONSULTATION

If you live in or visit the area, please complete the survey at...

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/southwestLCP>

For more info, and/or to submit more extensive comments or queries, contact...

[sarah.mcdonald@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mcdonald@edinburgh.gov.uk) or 0131 527-3800

## F. A90 CYCLEROUTE EDINBURGH – FORTH BRIDGE

The council is consulting on options for phase 3 of this major project, **comments by 2 May**.

Construction begins **on 6 May** on phase 5 of the project, meaning path closures and diversions.

More info and background to all the above on our website at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk), April 14 news item [updated today 24 April].

## G. LOANHEAD-GILMERTON CYCLE ROUTE

Work begins shortly on this major project to link up Midlothian Council's path (from the City Bypass to Loanhead and Roslin) with quiet roads and paths in Edinburgh's Gilmerton area.

This will include...

- new railway path from Lasswade Rd to the bypass
- enhancement of the bridge of Lasswade Rd, and link to the path
- onroad improvements in Gilmerton Dykes area

Work begins April 28, lasting approx 8 weeks. There will be weekend road closures of Lasswade Rd, between Gilmerton Station Rd and the bypass on Sat 3 May and Sun 22 June.

## H. BIKE SHEDS IN FRONT GARDENS

We are delighted to say that the Council has granted planning permission for 2 bike sheds (one after an appeal) which almost certainly would not have got permission prior to our big campaign over the last 2 years. One of the sheds met exactly the 5 criteria in the Spokes factsheet, and the other was very close to them. However another shed, which is well outside the criteria, we expect to be refused and we can understand the council's concerns in this case as it does look very out of place.

These developments show how vital it is that anyone considering a front garden bike shed is aware of what is and is not likely to get permission. ***Please do pass this information on to all your friends who own bikes, or would like to, but only have the garden option for storage*** – otherwise they could be told to remove the shed and possibly also lose £192 planning fees. Full details here... [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/01/bike-sheds-need-to-know/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/01/bike-sheds-need-to-know/)

## **I. RIVER ALMOND STEPS – CONSULTATION DROP-IN TUES 29 APRIL**

A spokes member who attended the recent community council meeting reports on proposals to replace the massive flights of steps on the path between Cramond and Cramond Brig by a relatively level path. Three options were presented...

- Ramped structure going over the outcrop, cost £1.1m;
- Elevated on brackets going round the cliff, cost £0.9m [favoured at the community council]
- Causeway going round bottom of cliff, cost £0.5m;
- Two bridges over Almond to bypass outcrop, cost £1.6m.

Note that **the proposed width** [in all options??] is only 2m, despite catering for pushchairs, bikes, etc – this is certainly worth commenting on.

There is to be a drop-in where the plans will be on display and comments can be submitted - 29 April at Cramond Kirk Hall - arrive any time between 5.30 and 7.30.

## **J. 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.

Dave du Feu, Spokes 24 April 2014

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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](http://www.spokes.org.uk/membership).