

# Spokes Action Update 06.08.14

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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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[**Urgent** – If you are concerned about improving conditions adjacent to the inner Edinburgh canal, please see item 3[a] below. *Comments needed by this Friday 8 August*].

## 1. NEW SPOKES MAPS

Our new **East Lothian** cycle map is just out, together with a smartphone version of our forthcoming printed new **Glasgow** cycle map. *Both are available with special offers just now.*

Our **East Lothian map** is £5.95 in the shops, but just £5 including post from Spokes, St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG [by cheque] until 31 August. Our **Glasgow downloadable geospatial smartphone map** is free until the printed version is available [probably early autumn].

More details on these and our other maps at... [www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps/)

## 2. SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION – **Enter now!**

We've not yet had a huge number of entries, so you've a good chance of winning some first-class rail tickets, great food vouchers, film tickets ... even a hair-do (ideal if you wear a helmet perhaps!)

Everyone who cycles has many memorable moments – delightful, scary, exciting, or whatever. Your first ever ride; a pothole experience; cycling along Princes Street during the year that it was traffic-free; that time you tried cycling with your hands on the opposite handlebars; trying out a wonderful new cycleroute; and many more...

**Please tell us one (or two) of your most memorable!** We're hoping for a big range of entries which we can use to show the multifarious pleasures and pitfalls, fun and follies, of getting about by bike.

**Enter now!!** - quick and simple entries of 2 or 3 sentences are welcome, or you can go into more detail and/or include a picture or drawing.

Full details in the June 28 news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) – or go direct to...  
[www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/06/competition-my-memorable-moment/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/06/competition-my-memorable-moment/)

## 3. PLANNING APPLICATIONS *to comment* & PAN EXHIBITIONS *to attend*

Check out our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals, to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle, and for information on how to look them up on the council website ...

Find the page at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : current-pas-and-pans

or click this link to go straight there...

[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/)

**Some of the more important proposals** are listed below with dates of exhibitions [for PANs] and/or closing dates for comments/objections [for planning applications].

**See our above web page for more info on how to comment and for other planning proposals.** For more info from Spokes, email [peterhawk@phonecoop.coop](mailto:peterhawk@phonecoop.coop)

**[a] FOUNTAINBRIDGE [SITE BETWEEN CANAL AND F'BRIDGE, ON BOTH SIDES OF GILMORE PARK] 14/02814/PPP**

**[Planning application, comments by Friday 8 August]**

This major site has big implications for cycling. To find out more and to comment online, paste in the above reference number at... <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/>

Alternatively you can email your comments direct to the case officer, [jennifer.paton@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.paton@edinburgh.gov.uk). If so, you must quote the above application reference number.

*Some points you might consider making...*

- The towpath here is cobbled east of the lift bridge. Some of the cobbles could be replaced by a paved smooth path, or the path could be widened to provide a smooth surface beyond the cobbles [there is plenty space in the development site]. If a decent path is not provided as part of this project there is little chance it will be done in future, despite this being a vital artery – already used by around 800 bikes daily.
- There must be cycleable ramps to Viewforth from the towpath at both sides. This will become an extremely busy area with the new development - and the forthcoming new secondary school just to the west.
- Sufficient space must be provided along or beside Fountainbridge/Dundee St to allow for cycle routes – ideally including a segregated connection to Telfer subway
- There are internal changes of level within the site, and the plans speak of steps in residential areas. Ramps suitable for cycles must be included where steps are unavoidable.
- Routes through the site should have consistent surfacing, width and ramps, suitable for cycling – not like the very disappointing Quartermile development layout.

**[b] S. QUEENSFERRY, FERRYMUIR SITE 14/02623/PAN**

**[Exhibition 13 August, 4-8, S QF High School]**

Residential development & community facility, site bounded by A90 and B800. Important for bike access, storage & parking, and active travel priority in the development.

**[c] BALERNO, NORTH OF HARLOW GAIT 14/02373/PAN**

**[Exhibition 23 August, 12-7, Balerno Community Centre]**

Residential development on very big site [5ha] E of Bavelaw Rd, S of Malleny House. Important for land use questions and, if it does go ahead, for bike access, storage & parking, and active travel priority in the development.

## **4. EAST Lothian RAIL SURVEY [by 29 August]**

If you use rail services in East Lothian – whether for work or leisure – your views are wanted by the new East Lothian Community Rail Partnership [ELCRP]. It's a great opportunity to raise bike/rail issues, as well as any other rail issues that concern you. Please complete this survey...

[https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/east-lothian-community-rail-survey/consult\\_view](https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/east-lothian-community-rail-survey/consult_view)

ELCRP is only the second CRP to be created in Scotland, following the success of several in England. The objective of a CRP is to encourage more locals and visitors to use rail, and it can identify improvements which are needed to help achieve this, though it cannot do active political lobbying.

[http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/1687/new\\_east\\_lothian\\_community\\_rail\\_partnership](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/1687/new_east_lothian_community_rail_partnership)

You may also be interested in RAGES – this is a campaigning group to improve East Lothian rail services and for the opening of new local stations at East Linton and Reston. <http://www.rages.org.uk/>

## 5. EDINBURGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The council is working on a LDP which will guide land use and development in the city, including land allocated for new housing developments. This will be a major document with big implications for future cycling opportunities – or not! A consultation will run for 6 weeks, 22 August – 3 October. However you can already read the documents...

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20164/proposed\\_local\\_development\\_plan/1050/second\\_local\\_development\\_plan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20164/proposed_local_development_plan/1050/second_local_development_plan)

The Council has also prepared a video and fixed up a series of drop-in sessions around the city, so people can find out more and make comments...

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20164/local\\_development\\_plan/633/timetable\\_and\\_engagement](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20164/local_development_plan/633/timetable_and_engagement)

*Briefly, the drop-ins are...*

- **North West Edinburgh** 26 August, 3.30-6.45pm - Rosebery Hall, Queensferry
- **West Edinburgh** 28 August, 4 - 7pm - Drumbrae Library Hub
- **South East Edinburgh** 1 September, 4-7pm - Kings Manor Hotel, Milton Road
- **South West Edinburgh** 3 September, 4-7pm - Gibson Craig Hall, Currie
- **South East Edinburgh** 4 September, 4 - 7pm - Faith Mission Hall, Gilmerton
- **General city wide Session** 22 September, 4-7 pm - Urban Room, Waverley Court, East Market Street

Spokes would appreciate seeing your comments, for possible inclusion in an official Spokes response.

## 6. 'RESILIENT EDINBURGH' SURVEY & DRAFT FRAMEWORK [by 29 August]

Edinburgh Council is drawing up a framework to make the city more resilient to natural or other disasters. You can find out more and submit comments here...

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/resilientedinburgh](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/resilientedinburgh)

Bikes have had an important role in the aftermath of several disasters, such as New York Hurricane Sandy, as they can start operating immediately, without need for petrol or perfect roads. This is not mentioned in the Edinburgh document, but is a valuable side-effect of a city containing many bikes.

## 7. REGULAR VOLUNTEER – you?

We still need a 'regular' volunteer for the task below. This is really important to enable Spokes to function effectively...

The person who handles email to the spokes address is wanting a change, so we need someone to take over this important and responsible task. Obviously a handover and advice can be provided. If possible we need somebody who has been a member for a while and who expects to be able to do the job for some time. Ideally (but not essential) also willing to attend *either* Planning or Resources group (every 3/4/5 weeks), to be in good touch with spokes activities. The task involves passing on emails to the relevant person/group as appropriate, and also responding directly to some enquiries, ensuring that people contacting us are not left without a reply for longer than necessary – we may be able to prepare some model answers for common queries.

## **8. UPPER TWEED PATHS VOLUNTEER WORKCAMP – *NOTE CHANGE OF DATE* – now starts 20 September**

If you fancy helping build a cycle route, led by Sustrans founder John Grimshaw, there is a workcamp to help convert an initial 4km section of the Peebles-Lyme disused railway. This will be a useful alternative to the main road, and another improvement to the Solway-Forth C2C route [for which a map was sent to all members in the summer mailing].

For more on the Upper Tweed Paths Project see <http://uppertweedrailwaypaths.org.uk/>

For more on the workcamp, click here...

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=7d93db0a3b5c57968a0ab93a5&id=66a1669d31&e=375539ae3c>

and email [david@chain-events.co.uk](mailto:david@chain-events.co.uk).

*"The work will involve clearing overhanging vegetation and shrubs from the track-bed and bridges, sorting out blocked drains, drilling weep holes in tunnel, removing the brick portal from tunnel, laying stone path etc .. counting bats .... guddling salmon .. all good fun and camaraderie!" ... "Persons with additional skills and relevant qualifications especially welcome .. First Aiders, chain sawers, digger/dumper drivers, etc."*

## **9. WEST LOTHIAN SCHOOL PUPILS – CYCLE AWARENESS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, Aug 26-28**

Police Scotland are running road safety courses at Howden Centre, Livingston, for West Lothian senior school pupils, many of whom are learning to drive, or soon will be. There will be presentations from police, ambulance, insurance, etc. Volunteers are needed to give the cycling perspective, such as the need to give adequate cycle space.

Last year Donald Urquhart from CTC Scotland did this, but he cannot manage these dates this year and is looking for volunteers to cover some or all of the 3 days, even if only morning or afternoon – particularly the Tuesday. Breakfast and lunch are provided and Donald will give a full briefing on what he did last year.

If you can help or want further info, please contact Donald a.s.a.p. [donald\\_u@yahoo.com](mailto:donald_u@yahoo.com) 07702-793553.

## **10. FORTRESS WAVERLEY – email your MSPs if you've not yet done so**

Several MSPs are taking up our concerns over Network Rail's Waverley Station cycling ban on the entry ramps - forcing bikes, pushchairs, luggage and large numbers of commuters and tourists onto the narrow footways whilst the wide adjacent roadway is vacant. The story has now also reached The Guardian – our website news item below includes a link to the Guardian story.

If you are affected, please do contact your MSPs – the more emails the better! It is very important that we keep up the pressure on this.

See our 4 July news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) or go direct to

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/07/fortress-waverley/>

## **11. FINALLY ...**

- Remember to check out our website every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk).
- We have an active twitter presence <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian>. Please look every so often, and RT any tweets you support. The latest Spokes tweets now also appear on our website in the right-hand column.