

# Spokes Action Update 25.09.14

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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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## 1. CANAL – MEADOWS ROUTE *Consultation ends 24 Oct + Drop-In Session 2 Oct*

Edinburgh Council has published for public comment its detailed plans on the above route, due for construction in 2015/16. This follows a workshop earlier this year, attended by Spokes and other relevant local and city-wide interests, looking at main options for the route. We haven't yet scrutinised the new plans in detail, but overall they look very positive, with segregated cyclist routes on the main-road sections, and the closure of Tarvit Street to through motor traffic. The Council web page, which leads to the detailed consultation leaflet, is here...

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20135/cycling\\_projects/1129/meadows\\_-\\_canal\\_ncn75](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20135/cycling_projects/1129/meadows_-_canal_ncn75)

All houses in the area will be sent the consultation leaflet (which includes a reply-card) and there is also an online survey by clicking 'Have Your Say' at the above web link.

There is also a **drop-in session** at [Barclays Church](#) (Pillar Hall) on Thursday 2 October 2014 between 4pm and 8pm where you can see large-scale plans and discuss them with the Council's project team.

Meanwhile after a positive consultation on the **Meadows-Innocent** plans we expect to see construction in Spring 2015...

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20135/cycling\\_projects/503/meadows\\_-\\_innocent\\_path\\_ncn1/4](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20135/cycling_projects/503/meadows_-_innocent_path_ncn1/4)

## 2. COMPETITION RESULTS

See our amazing and inspiring collection of Memorable Moments with a bike at...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/09/many-memorable-moments/>

## 3. 20MPH CONSULTATION – *ends 17 October*

Edinburgh City Council is consulting on widespread 20mph implementation within the city, following the success of the South Edinburgh wide-area 20mph scheme. The City's plans are well ahead of most (all?) other UK cities as they include not only residential and shopping streets, but also other streets if used by significant numbers of pedestrians and/or cyclists. However there is certain to be heavy opposition to some of the proposals – indeed the Evening News said it is “expected” that some streets, such as Leith Walk, will remain at 30mph despite being at 20mph in the consultation. **Therefore if you support the proposals - or want them extended further – it is really important to respond to the consultation using the online questionnaire and/or by email. The public meetings and exhibitions are now all finished.**

Please read our website news item which gives extensive detail on the consultation, some of our own suggestions as to where the plans are under threat and where they could be strengthened, and the ways in which you can get involved including a link to the Council's web pages and questionnaire.

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/09/20mph-have-your-say-now/>

#### **4. SPOKES AUTUMN PUBLIC MEETING – *put Nov 20 in your diary now!***

Our public meeting will be on Thursday 20 November at Augustine United Church in George IV Bridge, on the topic of **cycling developments in the Lothians** (including links between Edinburgh and the Lothians). We have the transport Convener or their Deputy from all 4 local councils to speak (for around 12 minutes) followed by an hour's QA and panel discussion. There's now an article with more details and background on our website..

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/09/public-meeting-cycling-development-in-the-lothians/>

We hope lots of members from the Lothians, as well as from Edinburgh, will attend to question councillors and see how the different Lothians councils compare in their level of ambition and achievement!! It's also an opportunity for Edinburgh residents to tell Lothians councillors what you do/don't like about cycling in and to the Lothians areas, and what improvements are needed.

#### **5. PHOTOS NEEDED – *by 6 Oct would be ideal, but later welcome too***

If you are visiting the new **A90 path past Burnshot** and/or the new **path from Lasswade Road to the City Bypass underpass** (for Loanhead and Roslin) we would appreciate some photos for possible use in Spokes literature or website. We are looking for pictures which include one or more people on bikes, and looking as ordinary as possible – the ideal would be 2 or more people of mixed sex and/or age and without helmets (or some with and some without).

#### **6. ROADSHARE PETITION**

Spokes supports the campaign for 'presumed liability' so that a cyclist or pedestrian injured in a crash with a more powerful vehicle would normally not have to go through a lengthy legal procedure to receive compensation for injury and damage. This is the normal position in almost every other European country and is quite separate from the question of criminal liability for the crash. The Roadshare campaign has recently highlighted this in the tragic context of 3 cyclist deaths on 'A' roads in Scotland in September...

<http://www.roadshare.co.uk/blogposts/deadly-cycling-accidents>

*If you support them, please sign the petition below* and pass it to interested friends – the campaign is needing to reach 10,000 signatures...

<http://www.change.org/p/pass-a-member-s-bill-for-strict-liability-between-motorists-cyclists-and-pedestrians>

#### **7. OLD BIKES NEEDED**

Edinburgh Bike Station is experiencing high demand for bikes and is running low on stocks. If you know of unused, unwanted bikes languishing in a shed or cupboard (or indeed anywhere!) please pass them to the Bike Station, who will refurbish them and get them back on the roads, or cannibalise them for spares if not re-useable. Full details here...

<http://www.thebikestation.org.uk/edinburgh/>

## **8. 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/)

## **9. EDINBURGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - *by 3 October***

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! The consultation runs for 6 weeks, 22 August – 3 October. The documents are here...

[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)

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

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

Several MSPs and MPs 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! Our member **Mark Lazarowicz MP** has received a hint that they may consider changing delivery arrangements to the station, which could then allow better cycling and walking access from Waverley Bridge. It is very important that we keep up the pressure on this to get real change.

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

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

## **11. SPOKES STALLS**

There will be a Spokes stall at Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Castle Terrace, on the morning of 27 September; and we are also doing several stalls at University events...

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability/includes/news-includes/cycle-roadshows>

If you can help, please contact [martyn.edelsten@ted.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten@ted.ac.uk).

## 12. REGULAR VOLUNTEERS – 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.
- We also need one or two people to join Resources Group. We organise stalls, public meetings and other events; sometimes do a lot of paperwork; and take on occasional projects such as our factsheet on cycle storage for tenement dwellers, or our forthcoming video on bike awareness for motorists. We meet roughly every 3-4 weeks.

## 13. 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.