

Spokes Action Update 06.11.14

... 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 @.

1. SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING, NOV 20 – *please come!*

Our Autumn public meeting is about cycling development in the Lothians (including routes heading out from Edinburgh to the Lothians and to Fife). We have **top transport councillors** from all 3 Lothians councils and from Edinburgh, to speak and then answer your questions. The QA/discussion session will be chaired by Spokes member **Alison Johnstone MSP**, co-convener of the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Cycling.

This is a very rare opportunity to get these senior politicians from outside the city together to talk about cycling development - so please come along and help us make the best of it! - to impress the Lothians politicians and to help them learn from (and compete with) each other.

Here's how you can help...

- Come to the meeting
- Invite interested friends/ colleagues – especially those who live, work or cycle outside Edinburgh
- If you know any local organisations outside Edinburgh who might be interested – bike clubs or shops, for example – let them know about the meeting, send a poster, and invite them
- Tweet and/or give links to our website article (below) about the meeting
- Put up posters [we have lots of spares of the printed poster – email if you'd like some]

Full details and downloadable poster here...

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

- Thursday 20 November
- Starts 7.30, but open from 6.45 for coffee, stall and chat
- Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge

2. SPOKES BULLETIN, NO.120

Our latest Bulletin – which includes a 4-page supplement on Lothians cycling development – is now being delivered. It is also online – see this article and follow the links to download the bulletin and (separately) the Lothians supplement.

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/11/spokes-bulletin-120-budget-flim-flam/

3. EDINBURGH CYCLING & ACTIVE-TRAVEL FORUMS – *apply to join by Fri 14 Nov*

The Council is revising its cycle forum, and introducing walking and active-travel forums, in a more formal setup than previously. Each forum will meet for 1 hour on the same morning or afternoon, one after the other, walking, then AT, then cycling, to make it easy for someone interested in walking, or in cycling, to attend just the 2 hours of relevance to them. The meetings are during the working day, 3 times a year.

There are 4 places for members of the public. If you are interested, please apply: by Fri 14 November.

Successful applicants will be chosen by the council to represent different types of interest. (e.g. we presume some experienced, some novices; some who cycle for work or shopping or school or leisure – etc, etc. Other factors of possible interest might be experiences of domestic bike storage; or employer initiatives; etc).

For more info, and the online application form, go to the council website here...

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1693/be_a_part_of_edinburghs_active_travel_future

- Click 'complete the application form'
- Click 'apply to be a representative' [the other box is for organisations]
- Q1. Assuming your interest is cycling we suggest applying for the cycling and active travel forums
- Q2. Who would you represent? We suggest tick “*Myself as a member of the public*” - or *employer* or *community council* if those bodies agree. Do **not** tick *Lobbying or Campaign Group* (unless you wish to apply as a member of some other group) as Spokes already has a place, so you would probably be rejected.
- Q3 Why you want to be on the Forum? Concentrate on your own involvement in cycling – such as the examples above. They don't want everyone to be an experienced cyclist – they also want novices, those scared to cycle on some (or all) roads, etc. They don't want everyone to be a campaign activist, so if you are applying as a member of the public, just stick to that. Do mention anything that might particularly distinguish you, such as problems storing bikes (at home or work), regular bike/rail use, carrying young children, being a carfree family (or wanting to do so) and so on.
- Q4 -> The remaining questions are all fairly straightforward.

Best of luck!!

4. SCOTTISH DRAFT BUDGET 2015-16 – *email MSPs*

The draft budget is very disappointing. It is confusing, but the confusion appears to hide a drop in total funding as compared to the present year, 14-15, and, within that, an even bigger fall in infrastructure – i.e. in construction of cycling facilities. This is the type of money provided to Sustrans for its 50/50 grants to councils around Scotland. In Edinburgh, this means cyclistroute projects like Leith Walk, Canal-Meadows-Innocent (funding for these is approved) or the planned major east-west city centre route to connect the North Edinburgh Path at Roseburn through to Leith Walk (this is at a very early stage, and would need Sustrans funding next year or the year after).

The draft budget is now being discussed by MSPs and Parliamentary Committees, so please email your MSPs to say why cycling investment matters to you. Find them at www.writetothem.com.

If you are short of time, there is no need to read more – just email your MSPs urging an increase in cycling investment and explaining why this matters to you.

However, if you are interested, we have found what appears to be a mistake in Finance Secretary John Swinney's budget speech, in which he promised an "additional £10m" for walking and cycling "infrastructure". Our investigations strongly suggest that much of this is *not* for infrastructure but for 'behaviour change', and some of it may well not be useable with councils. The £10m is also only 'additional' in a very limited sense. The reality looks very much like a decline in total 15/16 cycling cash as compared to the 14/15 total. We have written to the government about this.

More info...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/10/budget-infrastructure-fear/>

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/10/scottish-draft-budget-spokes-submission/>

5. SPOKES STALLS

There will be a Spokes stall at Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Castle Terrace, on the morning of **Sat 15 November** and **Sat 13 Deember**. Come along to say hello and, if you can help, please contact [martyn.edelsten \[AT\] ed.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk).

6. SPOKES TRAFFIC COUNT

We have a good team of volunteers for our twice-yearly morning peak-period traffic counts, but could do with 2 or 3 more people. If interested please email [b.darcy20 \[AT\] gmail.com](mailto:b.darcy20@gmail.com).

Please only volunteer if you are certain you can turn up on time; not if you are the sort of person who has an occasional inadvertent sleep-in!! It has happened once or twice and makes life very difficult for our organisers. Obviously it is very important that we get reliable data.

The next count is imminent - November 11 – but volunteers for future counts also welcome.

7. SPOKES OFFICE REDECORATION

For many years Spokes has rented a room at St Martins Church [now St Martins Community Resource Centre] as our office. We have no staff, but it is used for storage, dealing with post, and occasional Resources Group and other working meetings.

We have been asked if we could redecorate the room. It is not very large, but has a very high ceiling. There will also be other preparatory work, such as removing old wall fixings and tidying up the plaster.

Are any Spokes members willing to help? Ideally we need an organiser/expert with suitable knowledge, plus a small band of volunteer workers. We guess it might take a couple of weekends, though probably some volunteers would only be for part of the time. In any case the room is not big enough for a crowd!

If you can volunteer – either as an expert or a worker – please email [judy.cantley \[AT\] btinternet.com](mailto:judy.cantley@btinternet.com)

8. ROAD DANGER EVENTS

Nov 12 : *Glasgow Go-Bike public meeting on Cycling and the Law*

8pm [approx] at the Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo St, Glasgow G2 7DA

www.gobike.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/GB-AGM-2014.jpg

Speakers: **Brenda Mitchell** of the Presumed Liability campaign, on civil law
Donald Urquhart of the Road Justice campaign, on criminal law

Nov 16 : *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims*

Organised in UK by www.roadpeace.org. There will probably be a (religious) remembrance service in Edinburgh. For details contact June Ross 01224 330680

9. 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://www.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/

Below are some of the more important current proposals. [See above page for how to look them up]. Note that we only circulate an action-update email every few weeks, and our time is limited, so we can't tell you about every important planning proposal. ***Please check the above page every week or two if you wish to keep up to date with relevant planning proposals.***

[a] BOTHWELL STREET SITE 14/03754/PAN

[Exhibition 11 November, 2-7pm, McDonald Road library]

Demolish warehouse and erect student accomm. ***Important for links to future Powderhall Line cyclerooute***

[Note: there is also another exhibition same place & date, 3-7pm, to amend the permission for a development at Shrub Place. There may be cycling relevance for access, visitor parking, etc. *Reference: 14/03607/PAN*].

[b] CORSTORPHINE ROAD, CARE HOME 14/04205/FUL

[Planning application, comments by Friday 21 November]

The site lies between the main road and the Pinkhill railway path. We are pleased to see path connections to both, open to the public. However, there are steps at the road connection – a ramp should be included. Also unclear what they mean by "Cycle parking bays" next to one of the paths.

[c] CRAIGS ROAD/CAMMO WALK 14/04156/PAN & NEAR TRAM DEPOT 14/04157/PAN

[Two exhibitions, both 26 November, 3-8pm, Marriott Hotel]

Two huge residential developments on green belt land. Apart from the question of principle there is also the question of cycling accessibility – and possibly bike storage, depending on the type of dwellings proposed.

10. FINALLY ...

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We have an active **twitter** presence, [@SpokesLothian](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.