

Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact spokesATspokes.org.uk.

PRIZE OPPORTUNITY!

You've not much time left to enter the Spokes 2010 competition and win a great prize, bike-related or art-related. And – you don't need to be an artist to enter – we're seeking imaginative ideas, not artistic talent, and ***we welcome entries in words alone*** (though a sketch etc is also welcome if you think it would help).

For full details, an entry form, and also to see the results of previous years' competitions, go to www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress then click on downloads – competitions [or see Aug 13 news item].

As you can see, our competitions produce many fascinating ideas, from the serious to the quirky, which help our campaigning and promotion of cycling. So – we'd like ***you*** to enter this year!

Closing date: Tue 28 Sept. You can submit up to 2 entries. Entry is open to all - please tell your friends too.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sep/Oct Take One Action film festival [www.takeoneaction.org.uk] includes **Sep 20 Mia and the Magoo bicycle-powered** (you can help to pedal) at the Botanics, 19.30. "Pure visual pleasure" www.takeoneaction.org.uk/site/event-details/mia_and_the_magoo/.

Sep 22 Dr Bike Get your bike checked, St Andrews Sq, 12-3.

Sep 23 Budget Summit for South Edinburgh (Southside to Liberton/ Gilmerton) 6.30-9pm. *Advance booking is essential:* donald.burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk or Mags Campbell 529 7182.

Sep 25 Painting Edinburgh Green OutoftheBlue, Dalmeny St, 11am-4pm. Come along and say hello at the Spokes stall, or to help please contact judy.cantleyATbtoopenworld.com.

Sep 28 SPOKES COMPETITION CLOSSES – see top article.

Sep 28 Working Together to Create Healthy Environments Living Streets 1-day conference, Edinburgh. Full details at... www.livingstreets.org.uk/our-services/conferences-and-training.

Oct 3 LinlithGO.info bike fun day 12-3. Linlithgow Bridge primary school. *Spokes contact:* DaveduFeuATgmail.com.

Oct 10 [10:10:10] World Work Party For Climate Action The place is wherever you live!! www.350.org.

Oct 10 Cycle 10:10:10 Ride www.loveghana.org/cycle10-10-10.

Oct 30 Spokes Autumn Mailout [Bulletin 108]

Nov 5 Cycling Scotland Conf www.cyclingscotlandconference.org

Nov 6 UK Cycle Campaign Conference ... We need volunteers and delegate accommodation for this Spokes-hosted UK campaigners' conference. *More info:* see Spokes website or contact rosie.telfordATgmail.com or leave message at 313 2114.

Nov 5/6 Big Climate Connection in Scotland - lobby of MPs. See www.stopclimatechaos.org/big-connection-scotland.

MORE SPOKES NEWS

TENEMENTS PROJECT.. Our bike storage solutions factsheet should be ready this autumn. *To help gauge the impact our work might have, please complete a short online survey* - whether you own a bike or not. The survey will be on our website very soon.

WEST LOTHIAN MAP.. A new edition is planned for 2011. We need volunteers to check the existing map [now rather old] and to survey sections of West Lothian. If interested, or if you have spotted even one inaccuracy or ambiguity on the existing map, please contact Tim Smith, timATvizualz.co.uk 554 7264.

UPDATES at www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress.. Many updates! See recent news items and in the LH column see 'Recent Updates' - Inspirational research, West Lothian info, considerate cycling, response to SESplan consultation, Scottish policy docs, etc...

YOUR HELP NEEDED!

TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS... writetothem.com.

Or see links – councils at www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress.

TRAIN BIKE SPACE TO NORTH BERWICK

Spokes, and several individual members, have put great effort into lobbying on bike capacity in the new Class 380 trains coming into service next year. Under present plans these would drastically reduce dedicated bike space from the existing excellent provision. ***Now there are rumours that bike space is to be doubled***, with two bike areas [of foldup seats] instead of the one previously planned (plus one bike allowed in each vestibule, as on similar Strathclyde trains already). ***However, these are just rumours and they should reinforce the campaign rather than sitting back.***

We intend to present data to the ScotRail Cycle Liaison Forum showing existing bike-use levels. ***If you use the line*** (regular, occasional or even one-off) ***please complete the form*** which should be on our website shortly [downloads – publictransport - rail].

INGLIS GREEN SUPERMARKET PLANS 10/02306/PPP

It may now be too late to submit formal objections, but if you feel strongly about this plan, email your councillors [contacts above]. They will decide on the plans probably in early December.

At the 'Pre-Application Notification' [PAN] public consultation in April many people requested a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Water of Leith, to enable bike/foot-friendly supermarket access from a wide area of housing. The developers have refused this and are pushing to maximise car spaces. [They have agreed bike parking, in line with Council requirements].

If you'd like more details go to http://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/publicaccess/tcd/tcd_home.aspx. Click 'application search' then copy and paste 10/02306/PPP into 'application reference' [make sure no spaces] then click search, then 'to view'. Most of the information is under the 'associated documents' tab. One useful document is the 'Car Park Level Site plan.' For any queries, the officer dealing with the case is Jennifer Paton [email FN.LN@edinburgh.gov.uk].

In writing to your councillor, if you wish to quote official government documents about the importance of decent cycle access, see the transport section of 'Scottish Planning Policy.' www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/03132605 [esp. para 167].

BOLLARDS REPLACED BY BARRIERS

The Moray Place/ Great Stuart Street junction has been blocked with barriers for months, although pending return of the bollards a bicycle gap could easily have been provided. A member has been writing to the council about this, and if you are inconvenienced please contact your councillors too [contacts at top of this section].

PLANNING CONDITIONS NOT IMPLEMENTED

Spokes Planning Group is writing to the Council about developments where conditions attached to planning permission have been implemented badly or not at all – for example Napier University Craiglockhart Campus, and inadequate bike parking at several residential and public developments. Our letter also praises the public parking at Edinburgh Uni Informatics building.

If you know any bad examples, please tell Spokes.

COUNCIL MAP

Edinburgh council is preparing an incredibly useful map showing all manner of council opportunities, facilities and boundaries. It is hoped that cycleroutes will be added soon. The current version is here.. <http://88.208.222.252/website/gisatlas/viewer.htm>. The address and content are likely to change. To suggest additions/changes contact mike.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk.

EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The much-anticipated **Active Travel Action Plan** (including Cycle Action Plan) is due soon, also with a report* to councillors. We'll put a link on our website once the Plan is released, and hope to cover it in our autumn Bulletin (late Oct). The background is on our website: downloads – local issues – edinburgh [also July 21 news].

The Council also plans a huge trial **20mph area-wide zone**, from Blackford Hill to Bruntsfield and across to Holyrood Park. However, main roads (including even Melville Drive) would remain 30mph – though might be reduced in future if the trial succeeds in reducing casualties. A report is expected [on the council website*] in advance of the Sep 21 Transport Cttee. There will be opposition, as is clear from newspaper online comments, so contact your councillors [contact details overleaf] if you like the ideas, or if you wish extensions such as Melville Drive. If the report is approved on 21 Sept, public consultation will follow – further input will be needed then! <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scotland39s-first-mandatory-20mph-zone.6512968.jp>.

*For Committee papers/reports go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol then: agendas etc since 2003 – Committee Search – Transport Committee, meetings after September 1st (or whatever date).

CYCLEROUTE CLOSED

The **Roseburn path at Balbirnie Place** is to be closed for 12 months from Sept 20 for tram works. For details, comments and a map, see the Sept 2 news item at www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/.

If you use this area regularly note there is to be an Edinburgh Trams group monitoring the closure, and hopefully contributing to any resolvable issues over the 12 months. It would be great if a couple of regular bike users of the area had time to get involved in that. More details in the Edinburgh Trams info sheet on our website. Or, if you have suggestions about the closure/diversions, use the email address given there, and also copy to spokes.

The good news ... As part of the works Russell Road is also to be closed for 12 months, but thanks to lobbying it will now be kept open for cyclists as well as for pedestrians – originally it was to be closed to all ‘vehicles’ (i.e. including cyclists). Secondly, the link from Roseburn path down to Balbirnie Place immediately south of the A8 cycleroute bridge will be kept open.

The bad news ... The worst aspect of the closure is that the direct connection between Russell Road and Balbirnie place will be lost for the 12 months. *Cycling southwards from the north or from Haymarket Yards* will not be too much of a problem as you can get to Russell Road from Balbirnie Place via a short stretch of the A8 using entirely left turns, although there are parked cars to contend with in Russell Road. *However, in the opposite direction* you have an unpleasant right turn from Russell Road onto the A8, and then to avoid turning right off the A8 into Balbirnie Place you can take a steep detour left and up and over the Roseburn Path bridge. Some cyclists are likely to use the pavement from Russell Road round to Balbirnie Place, rather than risking a right-turn onto the A8 followed by a right-turn off or a gymnastic detour. We cannot recommend pavement cycling, but, for anyone who does this, for example with children, please be ultra-courteous and give way to pedestrians. Spokes will be discussing with TIE whether a better alternative is possible, but it seems unlikely.

Other tram/bike info – see our tram documents website page – go to downloads – public transport – tram.

BIKE CRASHES

Tramlines – Several people have asked Spokes about claiming damages after crashes due to the Princes St tramlines. We have now prepared an information sheet: see downloads – advice – crashes at www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress.

Collisions – Also on that web page is our collisions advice note.

Emergency Phone Numbers – Many people now carry a mobile instead of a diary, but if you are seriously injured the emergency service won't know which of your (many?!) contacts to phone. Paramedics in many areas now check phones for a contact called ICE (means *In Case of Emergency*) – or ICE1, ICE2, etc – so include that in your contacts, with number of partner, parent, etc.

A CYCLING FUTURE??

A Scottish Government paper on how to meet Climate Change Act targets has been leaked to the Sunday Herald. Their article, and a link to the document, are at... <http://www.robedwards.com/2010/09/winning-the-war-on-cars-how-ministers-plan-to-cut-climate-pollution.html>

This is a discussion document, and many ideas will meet great opposition – but it's remarkable to see they are even considering road pricing (having abolished bridge tolls!), lower major-road speed limits, workplace parking charges, etc. And, amazingly: *“To increase spending on cycling & walking infrastructure ... sufficient to provide a level and quality of cycle infrastructure similar to that found in countries such as Sweden, Germany and Belgium (Flanders), where most urban households live within 400m of a high quality safe cycle route (either segregated from traffic or on roads with a 20 mph/30 kph limit) within a wider network of routes serving all key destinations. This policy would seek to achieve 20% of all trips (25% for trips under 7½ miles). This may require an increase in spending by 1% of the annual transport budget per year to a total of £90m per year by 2022.”*

The suggestion to **increase cycling investment by 1% of the total transport budget each year** (till it reaches £90m a year) is remarkable, when current cycling investment is less than 1% !! (roughly £20m – see Spokes Bulletin 107). A sign of battles to come – especially in this autumn's Spending Review.

Meanwhile the Scottish Government seeks ideas on how to cope with the public expenditure reductions this autumn...

<http://blogs.scotland.gov.uk/publicspending/the-issues/>

A Spokes member has added their thoughts [Aug 23 entry] – why not do so too – maybe with ideas from the above discussion paper!

MONEY ON OFFER!!

Set up your own local project to boost cycle use! Contact Spokes if you want advice or to be in touch with other members in your area to discuss your idea for a potential project.

MEET THE FUNDERS Thu 30 September 2-4.30, St Thomas Church, 75-79 Glasgow Road, Edinburgh EH12 8LJ.

A drop-in market place for the public and voluntary groups, to meet funders such as Waste Aware, WREN Environmental, Princes Trust, Scottish Youth Business Trust, Age Scotland, Working with Families, Comic Relief, Voluntary Action Fund, Bike Club and the Community Grants Fund. Jim Connor 469 5602.

CYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY FUND [apply by 22 Oct] Cycling Scotland grants of up to £5,000 for projects promoting cycling for health, and personal & community development. There is significant extra money under the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland, so more applications than last year are likely to be successful. Further information and application pack at... <http://cyclingscotland.org/cyclefriendlycommunitiesfund.aspx>.

COMMUNITY MAPPING Cycling Scotland may also support groups to work on electronic mapping of local cycle routes and infrastructure – we *think* this is under the cyclestreets umbrella. “Cycling Scotland will provide equipment and expertise to advise local groups with an interest in this.” More info at the above link.

YOUNG PEOPLE

The Bike Club is a new project using cycling activities to engage with young people and challenge them to try something new. It is being delivered by a consortium of CTC, Youth Scotland, ContinYou and others. Bike Club aims to embed cycling into the everyday lives of children, young people and their families through youth clubs, schools and other groups. They are particularly keen to target groups typically under-represented in cycling – including young women, BME groups, young people with disabilities and those from families on low incomes.

Local Bike Club officer Amy Hickman covers Edinburgh the Lothians, Fife and Falkirk. She provides support and advice for groups wishing to set up a bike club. Grants up to £2000 to fund the cycling activities may be available.

Phone 07766 405 369 or email amy.hickman@bikeclub.org.uk.

