

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.

FOR YOUR DIARY

SEE ALSO EVENTS LIST ON SPOKES WEBSITE

Sep 30 Art on the Paths Exciting Bike Station project for all creative-minded adults/kids! + Dr Bike will be there to give your bike a free maintenance check. <http://innertubemap.com/blog/post/472>

Oct 6-7 St Martins Ride see article overleaf.

Oct 6 Pentland 3-schools green event: Spokes stall If you live here please come & help! Judy.CantleyATbtopenworld.com 447 7108. [help also needed at Farmers' Market stall later in October]

Oct 7 Spokes Sunday Ride to Dave du Feu's lawn Linlithgow. Bring own picnic. Tea & coffee provided. *Sunday ride info:* see Spokes Bulletin or contact stuartATsnowcycle.co.uk 01314457073

Oct 25 Climate Lobby at Scottish Parliament. Join a mass lobby and speak in person to your own MSPs to call for more action on cutting carbon emissions – including by raising the 1% of the Scottish transport budget allocated to active travel. www.stopclimatechaos.org/getyouracttogether.

Oct 27 Spokes Autumn mailout – usual helpers will be notified or contact davedufeuATgmail.com.

Oct 25-Nov 1 Council/Police roadshows as part of autumn 'drive safe, cycle safe' campaign [spokes stall at some]. All 11am-2pm. *Thu 25 Western General; Fri 26 Ocean Terminal; Mon 29 Royal Infirmary; Tue 30 Ed Uni Kings Buildings; Thu 1 Nov Ed Uni Potterrow.* **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THESE EVENTS.** Contact Judy.CantleyATbtopenworld.com before Oct 6 if possible. After Oct 6 also contact symondsmarkAThotmail.com.

Nov 13 Spokes Autumn traffic count – usual helpers will be notified or contact b.darcy20ATgmail.com. You *must* be reliable at getting up early!

SNIPPETS

Bike Trailers on sale Transition Linlithgow is selling 2 nearly-new trailers, Bike Hod (£150 ono) and Roland BigBoy, (£130 ono) roughly 50% of new cost. alanATtransitionlinlithgow.org.uk.

Tandemist wanted Jimmy Milhinch is partially sighted. He is looking for a cyclist to pilot his tandem for rides. 0131 668 3275.

LoveToRide Challenge Cycling Scotland wants you to log cycling trips to work, school or college, individually or in work teams. Many prizes to be won. www.lovetoride.net/scotland/

Call for criminal justice system review An 'Early Day Motion', EDM407, has been lodged in the UK Parliament, calling for review of the criminal justice system. The CTC has much data on how badly the system treats cyclists who have been involved in road crashes, and now CTC, British Cycling, and other bodies are calling for a review. Please ask your MP (not MSP) to sign EDM407. Spokes members **Mark Lazarowicz MP** [Ed North & Leith] and **Sheila Gilmore MP** [Edinburgh East] have already signed. www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/407. Find your MP at www.writetothem.com.

Inspirational Real-life Cycling Stories What happened when Andy Finlay of Lothian Buses and Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon Chris Oliver took up cycling ... www.take30.co.uk/walking-stories

Spokes Bulletin 113 We still have lots of copies. Get in touch if you'd like 100+ to leaflet bikes in city centre or shopping areas.

Big Prizes £25k/£50k for bike security ideas [by Jan 18] and on encouraging workplace cycling [Oct 12] <http://bit.ly/Nwx2Bh>.

Drem to Gullane campaign for bike path dgcopath@gmail.com

SCOT BUDGET 13/14

Unlike last year's draft budget with its big active-travel cuts, this year's draft budget (for 13/14) brings a small rise. But cycle investment still looks to be under 1% of total government transport spending, bringing no hope of reaching the government target of 10% of all trips by bike by 2020. The budget statement wording is rather cryptic, but very unusually may also mean more funding in the current financial year – if so, we can expect an announcement in the near future, or councils will have little time left to use it!

For the full story (so far) see www.spokes.org.uk 20.9.12 news.

Please consider emailing your MSPs - explain why a step change in cycle funding is needed, and ask them to press for this in the budget negotiations which will now take place. Our submission to the Parliament's ICI Cttee (linked from the above website story) has some ideas on how the transport budget could be re-prioritised.

MARKET STREET

As Spokesworker 17.6.12 reported, following emails from many concerned spokes members and others, councillors rejected a plan which included car parking uphill on Market Street, to replace spaces lost through a proposed car ban at Waverley Station.

The council has now made a new deal with Network Rail, which instead allows short-term car parking in New St car park. www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/newsblog/post/375/Waverley-Station-access-on-track-thanks-to-Council-and-Network-Rail-teamwork

This in theory clears the way for an uphill cycle lane in Market Street - for which money is allocated in the council cycle budget, but which had appeared to be scuppered by the parking plan. Spokes is arguing that the cycle lane should now go ahead *and* that it should be Edinburgh's first mandatory lane – i.e. a solid white line which cars are not allowed to cross or park in at any time. If you agree, please contact your councillors!

BIKE SHED BANS

We have this year been contacted by no fewer than 6 families who have suffered severe anguish over bike sheds in front gardens - with orders for removal, refusal of planning permission and/or failed appeals. Some have spent many stressful hours talking to officials, councillors, neighbours. Some families have nowhere else to store bikes, except by carrying right through the house, through kitchens, etc. Parents wish to cycle to work, and for their children to get to use bikes regularly, aims which the council strongly supports – and then prevents!! Businesses have suffered similar problems with workplace bike sheds.

Whilst Spokes appreciates the need for conservation rules, they are going too far – for example, well kept wooden bike sheds totally invisible from the road have been ordered to be removed.

The council has planning policies, but it also has transport policies, including a hugely ambitious target for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020. Spokes is arguing for a compromise balancing these two policies; not one completely over-ruling the other.

Spokes is discussing this with councillors. **Our case will be greatly helped if other people who have suffered in the same way, or who need a front-garden bike shed so as to make regular bike use realistic, contact their own councillors as soon as possible, explaining their predicament.** Find your councillors at www.writetothem.com. Copy your email or letter to Spokes.

We particularly thank 2 councillors who are Spokes members and are working hard on this: **Cllr Gavin Corbett**, Craiglockhart-Fountainbridge) and **Cllr Jim Orr** (vice-chair of Transport Cttee).

LEITH WALK FUTURE

There has been extensive lobbying and public involvement on the future of Leith Walk, much of it thanks to www.greenerleith.org. See www.spokes.org.uk : documents : local issues : edinburgh : leith-walk

As a result, on 6 Sept, a meeting to discuss cycling issues was held with council traffic engineers, chaired by **Cllr Jim Orr**. Also present: Spokes, Pedal on Parliament and Greener Leith.

We learned that Council ideas are far less advanced than we had thought. They hope to have a draft plan in November - this will then be consulted with groups representing various interests (including walk, bike, bus, business) followed by a full public consultation. Thanks to the weight of emails and other pressure on councillors, they appear to be taking cycling much more seriously than had seemed likely when the Leith Walk revamp was first mooted. However, there was a lot of discussion about loading/parking as business needs – and wants – are very influential.

The Walk narrows significantly as it goes down. If anything, council thoughts seem to be heading towards some unidirectional segregated routes on each side near the top end, and cycle lanes near the bottom, but not a fully segregated 2-way Europe-style route. An option pressed by Greener Leith was a much widened pavement on the North side with a line demarcating a 2-way cycle section – what GL called the 'Middle Meadow Walk' solution.

It was recognised that uphill at London Rd rbt is one of the most difficult problems. We were told that signalising the rbt would cost £2.5m, so is not feasible: we queried this figure but it is confirmed.

The main options suggested by various people were as follows. Very roughly they are in order of preference for the groups at the meeting, but reverse order of what officers felt practical.

- Fully segregated 2-way route, width 2.5m or 3m. CEC felt 3m essential to avoid 2-way conflict, especially as this is a hill. Only feasible with severe parking restrictions at Leith end. Problems at junctions, but likely to attract most people to use bikes.
- On-pavement 2-way route on north side, width 2.5m, white line dividing peds/cyclists. Called 'Middle Meadow Walk' solution by Greener Leith. Needs severe parking restrictions at Leith end.
- Segregated 1-way 1.5m width cycle lanes both sides of the road. Avoids many (but not all) junction problems. Needs severe parking restrictions at Leith end. Segregated lanes to go behind car parking where parking is allowed.
- Uphill segregated as in (c) but downhill either wide bus lane or shared-use pavement with white line. Probable parking width implications at Leith end.
- Enhanced version of old layout - i.e. uphill coloured enhanced cycle lane, not physically segregated, and wide bus lane or shared-use pavement downhill. If this is final decision we requested mandatory sections (solid white line, no parking) where possible.
- Segregated-where-possible solution - some sections segregated, especially in wider sections of Leith Walk at top end. Elsewhere might be any of d,e above, as feasible.

Note on 'enhanced' provision... if any of d-f are adopted, then measures which were suggested for consideration included..

- where there is parking/loading, take cycle route/lane behind cars
- where segregation is not feasible, and parking can be removed, make the cycle lane mandatory - i.e. solid white line.

If you have views or ideas on how cycling should be treated in Leith Walk, contact your councillors. www.writetothem.com

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Get Your Child Cycling This new Spokes factsheet is aimed at parents of children old enough to cycle independently. See the June 25 news item on Spokes website for more info and to download the factsheet. Printed copies also available on request. It's in the same series as our 2011 factsheet 'How to be a Cycling Family' about cycling with younger children – also still available.

Waverley Route: The Life, Death And Rebirth Of The Borders Railway highly praised book by former Transport Scotland chair, David Spaven. Includes comment on need for cycleroutes to stations. See *Waverley Route* at argyllpublishing.co.uk

ST MARTINS RIDE

Spokes is based at St Martin's Church, Dalry Rd, where we have a small unstaffed office to store materials and for Resources Group meetings. St Martins has asked us to publicise the following. Please consider sponsorship and/or join in some or all of the ride.

The Pisky Peleton

The 2012 Tour de France may be over but the challenge has just begun for three other cyclists and their friends. John Conway (Rector), Bob Allen (Church Warden) and George South (Vestry) from St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church plan to cycle back 110 miles from north east England. On Fri 5 Oct they will head north from Alnmouth. The pace may be leisurely for some (a mere 60 miles daily) but will allow the team, combined age 175 years, to visit churches in Eyemouth, Dunbar, Haddington, Musselburgh and Edinburgh. They hope to gather encouragement and other cyclists en route, and finish at St Martin's on Sat 6 October.

Sponsorship is to transform the outdated St Martin's building into a welcoming community hub, with modern facilities to house ongoing work with charitable partners and community groups from across Gorgie/Dalry. Run by the community for the community, a resource for all. Please sponsor generously, using the Charity Choice button on the bottom left of the following page... <http://stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk/the-pisky-peleton>.

CONSULTATIONS

Please send in your views – don't leave it all to Spokes!!

Bottle deposits to cut glass waste – ends 28 September

The Scottish Government is consulting on its Waste Strategy – “to support the environment and the economy”. *This is an excellent chance to write in asking for bottle deposits – which have been found to reduce glass on roads and paths in countries which have deposit laws.* The easy way to do this is via the WWF website... http://scotland.wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/campaign_with_wwf_scotland22/let_s_cut_scotland_s_waste/ or see and reply via the full government consultation documents... www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/4215/0

Reducing the drink driving limit in Scotland - ends 29 Nov

The Scottish Government is seeking views on proposals to lowering the drink drive limit in Scotland.

See <http://scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> [6.9.12] For more info contact Jim.Wilson2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk 0131 244 7050.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Friends of the Earth Scotland, Director Closing date 1.10.12 www.foe-scotland.org.uk/director2012.

Lothian and Fife Green Network Development Officer – closing date 1.10.12 www.elgt.org.uk/about-us/vacancies

HELMETS

After the hastily-withdrawn spur-of-the-moment comments by **Bradley Wiggins** about compulsory helmets, a more measured and thoughtful perspective came from former olympic gold medallist **Chris Boardman** on BBC1 London 07/09/2012. See the video.. www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjaHH8YR7Pg&feature=youtu.be. Here are some snippets [*these are computer-translated from voice, then tidied up, so are not exact*]...

“It is tragic whenever there is a death from a road accident. We have to put it into context. Over £4bn spent on the health service; 35,000 deaths from obesity related illnesses. Cyclists 100 deaths.

You are as likely to have a head injury from cycling as in a mile of walking. It is very safe. Helmets - make people feel uncomfy, is it this dangerous? If you're walking you do not wear body armour. Question should be, why are we talking about helmets? In Denmark they are not using them and everyone is happy. It is the environment we have to change. ... In Denmark they had a major traffic issue in the 70s: they changed the law. If there is an accident between a bike and pedestrian, the bike is at fault. If between a car and a bike, the car is at fault. A duty of care up the chain.”