

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

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

Nov 17 Central Belt Rail – discussion, about government cuts to EGIP rail project. 14.00-17.00. www.railfuturescotland.org.uk

Nov 22 NPF3 drop-in event [see overleaf, *National Project*]

Dec 3 Leith Walk Future, exhibition [see article]

SEE ALSO EVENTS LIST ON SPOKES WEBSITE

MAPS IN BULK

Several Spokes members have ordered 10 or 20 maps, e.g. for sale to friends or colleagues [you can profit for yourself or a charity] or for sale in a shop. Another idea is to sell to local B&Bs through a tourism forum. *Please think about your opportunities and contact us for a bulk order at the prices below.* Email timATvizualz.co.uk.

Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian [cover price £5.95 each]

10 copies £4.15 each; 11–24 £3.85; 25–49 £3.60; 50+ £3.25.

East Lothian, Glasgow [current prices £4.95 each]

[new £5.95 EL edition soon, new Glasgow edition Spring 2013]

10 copies £3.50 each; 11–24 £3.25; 25–49 £3.00; 50+ £2.75.

LOCAL AREA IDEAS

LIVE IN LEITH AREA?

Local community groups can apply for funding up to £1200 in the *Leith Decides* community budgeting process. If an application is accepted it goes forwards to a public voting day on March 2. If you have ideas for community projects involving cycling [e.g. communal bike storage??] this could be an opportunity. More info... www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/leith/about/leith-decides

SOUTHSIDE CYCLING PROJECT

Braidwood Bikepark Group are local cycling enthusiasts who are proposing a bike skills area in the Southside, between St Leonard's and Dumbiedykes, fringed by the Western edge of Holyrood Park.

They aim to clean up the woods, draft initial design plans for the site and conduct a feasibility study so that local schools and young people can develop their cycling skills. A number of key partners have already expressed willingness to participate alongside certified activity providers once it is up and running.

The immediate hope is greater community participation in developing an accessible resource for local residents.

Ideas for the area include...

- A bike track - a small mountain bike/bmx course set up with numerous bumps, jumps, and berms.
- A Woodland trail (continuous loop through woods)
- Technical features (jumps/log skinnies etc)

Find out more and/or get involved...

- See the plans at Craggs Sports Centre, 10 Bowmont Pl, EH8 9RY, on **Saturday Nov 3** between 12-2.
- Email any suggestions, enquiries etc to info@hoda.org.uk
- For more info see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n6jsmshrobzq6c0/Braidwood%20Bikepark%20presentation.pdf>

CITY CENTRE

The Council's City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership is creating an 'environment forum' – we're not sure of the remit but it could be a good opportunity to keep up pressure for a more bike-friendly city centre, as in the council's Jan Gehl report [See spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : city centre. Also p1 of Spokes 114].

For more info, and/or if interested in being on the forum, contact Partnership Development Officer alan.dean@edinburgh.gov.uk 529-7519.

WoW HELP!

Can you help with next steps in the *Weans on Wheels* project?

We aim to encourage more families to try cycling for everyday travel, as well as fun. To date, work has included demonstrations and training for parents through the Bike Station, plus two fact-sheets on getting kids cycling as well as child carriage by bike [available at spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : cycling with kids].

Next steps include developing family-friendly route advice in the Lothians, to go on the WoW website, and a new mini-leaflet aimed at promoting cycling to teenagers.

We are looking for help ...

- suggestions for routes suitable for young cyclists (5-20 miles)
- online mapping skills to show the routes on the website
- graphic designers / illustrators / cartoonists

More info... www.weansonwheels.blogspot.co.uk; Twitter @WeansOnWheels
Email familycycling@spokes.org.uk, Phone: Spokes answerphone.

ST MARTINS CARDS

Spokes is based at St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road. The church is fundraising to improve the premises...

As you know we have been fundraising to convert our worn out building at St Martins into a far better Community Resource, with good toilet and kitchen facilities, and disabled access to both main levels. The children of St Martin's have designed a wonderful Christmas Card (below) which has been professionally printed,



Christmas Cards

With thanks to the children of St Martin's congregation for designing this card.

The St Martin's Community Resource Centre is a partnership of organisations seeking to respond to the need in George Dalry, in the west of Edinburgh, for an inclusive resource that provides activities, services and space to support people of all ages and backgrounds. Once developed, the refurbished accommodation will provide a base for voluntary organisations, groups and the congregation of St Martin's working together to promote community cohesion and enhance health and wellbeing.

We continue to raise funds for our short-term redevelopment project knowing that its completion will provide a sustainable and flexible resource for the long-term future. To our generous supporters we owe our sincerest thanks.

St Martin's Community Resource Centre
232 Dalry Road Edinburgh EH11 2JG
www.stmartinschurch.org.uk

Sold in aid of the St Martin's Community Resource Centre
Scottish Charity No. SC042335



and our latest fundraising project is to sell these in packs of 10 for £4.50. To support our fund raising efforts by buying some cards, please send your order to Bob, email pennygren@talktalk.net.

LEITH WALK FUTURE

The following circular is from the Leith Walk planning team. They promise to keep up-to-date information on the Leith Improvement Programme at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/leithimprovements.

"Work is progressing on a preliminary design for a new road and pavement layout with suggested improvements on Constitution Street, Leith Walk and Picardy Place. The preliminary design takes into account the wide range of stakeholder feedback received so far. It strives to balance the needs of all who use these streets, and to deliver the best improvements for the area as a whole.

Consultation on the preliminary design will start in November. Focus groups will be held with attendees from the area, followed by a wider public survey in libraries and online, backed up by on-

street surveying. Specific approaches will be used to reach less vocal individuals and groups within the wider community.”

Spokes has little idea what will emerge for cycling in the design due out in November, despite wide pressure for greatly improved conditions, ideally segregated. Some of the story so far is at...

spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : Leith Walk.

A drop-in exhibition will be held in McDonald Road Library on Mon 3 Dec, 10am-8pm. Council officers will be there to discuss the proposed design and get views. Put it in your diary!!

NATIONAL PROJECT

The Scottish Government is starting work on developing **National Planning Framework 3** which will include a set of projects 'of national significance' for Scotland's 'spatial strategy'.

Spokes, possibly working with other groups, may propose a national project on the lines of a truly cycle-friendly town in every Scottish council area, all linked by the National Cycle Network.

It would be really valuable for individuals to put in your own suggestions – possibly on the above lines if you like the idea. We put in a similar proposal at the time of NPF2, but it was not agreed. Submissions from individuals could make the difference this time!

For more details and a response form see scotland.gov.uk/npf3 [closing date 14 December]. There is also a public drop-in event on Nov 22 [click events on the above web page].

INFRASTRUCTURE

A Canadian university report looks at cycling risks in different types of street and bike facilities. It also highlights the risks presented by tramlines. The press release [abbreviated below] is at www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/2012/10/18/bicycle-infrastructure-can-reduce-risk-of-cycling-injuries-by-half-ubc-study. For the full article [sadly not free] search for 'bicycle infrastructure' at ajph.aphapublications.org.

Bicycle infrastructure can reduce risk of cycling injuries by half: UBC study

Certain types of routes carry much lower risk of injury for cyclists, according to a new University of British Columbia study.

The study, in the *American Journal of Public Health*, analyzed the cause of 690 cycling injuries in Vancouver and Toronto from 2008 to 2009 and various route types and infrastructure.

The greatest risk to cyclists occurs when they share major streets with parked cars, with no bike lanes present – like on Broadway in Vancouver or Dundas Street in Toronto. Without a designated space on the road, cyclists face a heightened risk of injury from moving cars and car doors opening, according to the study.

In contrast, infrastructure designed for cyclists – including bike lanes on major streets without parked cars, residential street bike routes, and off-street bike paths – carries about half the risk, while cycle tracks (physically separated bike lanes) carries the lowest injury risk for cyclists, at about one-tenth the risk.

“Cycle tracks and other bike-specific infrastructure are prevalent in the cycling cities of Northern Europe, but have been slow to catch on in North America,” says Kay Teschke, a professor in UBC’s School of Population and Public Health and lead author of the study. “Safer route infrastructure would prevent crashes from occurring in the first place, while encouraging cycling. Since cycling offers major health benefits, this is a win-win.”

Teschke says that increased injury risk also exists with streetcar or train tracks, and where there is construction. “There is renewed interest in streetcars for urban transportation, and the associated tracks were found to be particularly hazardous for cyclists,” she adds. “There is also higher risk when construction impacts road traffic. Safe detours for cyclists need to be provided.”

WINTER CYCLING FILM

We've been contacted by <http://n0tice.com/> which calls itself “a new social network from The Guardian, like a noticeboard for local communities.” They plan a film encouraging people to keep using bikes in the winter, focusing on what is great about cycling in winter – if possible also relating that to the local community.

They are keen to hear from anyone who'd like to be involved. If you're interested, contact rina.jensen@lbi.com.

SNP POLICIES

The resolution below [slightly shortened to fit] was passed at the recent SNP national conference, proposed by Edinburgh MSPs **Marco Biagi** and **Jim Eadie**, also **Fiona McLeod** from Bishopbriggs. The motion is very welcome, but does not seek the reprioritisation of the government's transport budget which is necessary to achieve the “extremely ambitious” cycle-use target of 10% of trips by bike by 2020 in the government's *Cycling Action Plan*, CAPS.

“Conference believes that greater use of walking and cycling for shorter journeys offers real benefits to Scotland in public health, carbon reduction and quality of life, and notes the currently much higher levels in many cities in continental Europe. Conference therefore welcomes the extremely ambitious *Cycling Action Plan* for Scotland put forward by the SNP Government.

Conference recognises that targets can only be achieved through a partnership approach involving local authorities and commends the City of Edinburgh Council in recognising local demand and committing 5% of its transport budget to projects designed for pedestrians and cyclists.

Conference urges all other administrations with SNP involvement to make similarly clear commitments based on local priorities, setting out plans for cycling using measures such as targeted investment in infrastructure, planning powers, extension of 20mph zones and other steps to making Scotland a more cycle-friendly nation.

Conference also welcomes financial commitments by the SNP Government to support changes to greener and healthier modes of transport, including the new £50m Future Transport Fund and the additional national funding given during the 2012-15 Spending Review to cycling infrastructure.

Conference looks forward to further resolute action being taken at all levels in the coming years to make Scotland an ever safer nation for pedestrians and cyclists, and to make our towns and cities ever more sustainable and healthy places in which to live.”

Spokes says: If you live in a council with full or partial SNP control now's a good time to ask what steps they are taking on the SNP national manifesto commitments for the May 2012 council elections [May 18 news at spokes.org.uk; click *All councils*].

- work with relevant stakeholders on improving cyclist safety, to help encourage a shift to more active travel alternatives
- all SNP councils will have a green transport plan to cut carbon and encourage walking, cycling or alternative forms of transport.
- ensure all our school pupils are offered on-road cycle training.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

20'S PLENTY FOR US seeks organisers/ committee members to set up a 20's Plenty for Lothian, or small areas; they already have local groups 20's Plenty for Dunbar and 20's Plenty for Cockenzie and Port Seton. There are 150 existing local groups campaigning for wide-area 20mph limits without road humps.

The 20's Plenty national organisation provides professionally branded campaign support free to local groups, including... a memorable email address eg Lothian@20splentyforum.org.uk, local template website with on line petition, mailing briefings to the local press (optionally with your details for comments), petitions, leaflets, stickers, posters, loan of speed guns and more including a free start up pack of briefings and stickers. They also say...

“20mph limits save 12% of fuel, reducing pollution and climate change emissions, smoothing traffic and cutting congestion. Noise is 40% less and road maintenance and signage/lighting costs fall. Improved accessibility, helping the vulnerable and community cohesion, are further quality of life gains. They are recognised as Department for Transport and EU best practice for residential roads or where there are likely to be vulnerable road users. NICE also says 20mph is best practice for child protection. Portsmouth had 22% fewer casualties two years after its community wide 20mph limit implementation. Slower speeds provide the basis for active travel, lowering obesity, heart disease and stress.” **More info...**

www.20splentyforum.org.uk/campaigning.htm or contact Anna Semlyen, Campaign Manager, 07572 120439 Anna.s@20splentyforum.org.uk

WWW.ROADPEACE.ORG is a highly respected national charity supporting and lobbying for road crash victims. Events are held every year on *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims*, but in Scotland only in Aberdeen. Contact RoadPeace if you could set up something in your local town for the 2013 day.