

*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](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk).*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

SEE ALSO EVENTS LIST ON SPOKES WEBSITE

June 15-23 **National Bike Week** [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk) and

June 15-23 **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** [www.edfoc.org.uk](http://www.edfoc.org.uk)

**HELP NEEDED:** If you're going to an edfoc event, especially one of the talks, could you take a pile of the summer Spokes Bulletin to hand out as people arrive? Contact [DaveduFeuATgmail.com](mailto:DaveduFeuATgmail.com).

June 15 **Copenhagenize illustrated talk: Bike culture by design** 7.30. Cycling ambassador Michael Colville-Anderson, who lectures worldwide on how Copenhagen achieved its huge level of bike use [[copenhagenize.eu/lectures.html](http://copenhagenize.eu/lectures.html)]. Special offer to Spokes members: £5 discount on tickets. [edfoc.org.uk](http://edfoc.org.uk). Use code SPOKES.

June 15 **St Andrews ride** [www.leprahealthinaction.org](http://www.leprahealthinaction.org)

June 19 **Spokes Bike Breakfast** City Chambers, 7.45-9.45 **LATEST: Edinburgh Bicycle is running a prize draw at the breakfast, with EBC vouchers as prizes.**

June 22 **Heels on Wheels** 11-5, Meadows. Information, fun, competitions, mechanics, Spokes stall.... Open to all, but specially geared to women. Speeches 12pm by Sarah Boyack and Alison Johnstone [MSPs and Spokes members]. Buskers from 1.30pm.

June 10-28 **Planning & other consultations** : see opposite & over

July 23 **Leith Walk plans exhibition** – see overleaf

## PRINCES ST FUTURE

Thank you to the many Spokes members who emailed their councillors in response our urgent email circular of 2 June.

Top officials and councillors had decided to go ahead with their original *Vision for the City Centre* - a 1-way traffic system which banned cycling eastbound in Princes St entirely, with no cyclistoute in a huge paved area stretching from the shops to the tramlines.

Less than 24 hours before the Committee which was to approve this recommendation Transport Convener Lesley Hinds announced that a decision would be postponed until the next meeting [August] to allow further thought. The main factor was dissatisfaction by traders with the overall concept but, **thanks to the extensive cycle lobbying, cycling aspects will be re-assessed too, with greater awareness of the arguments and of the strength of feeling.**



Spokes Princes St mini-demo

photo: Chris Hill

In our above circular to members, we advertised a mini-demo for the morning of the Committee, to keep the issue high up the agenda. We added an extra poster to thank councillors for agreeing to a re-think. But we have no idea what will be the final decision. **WHAT YOU CAN DO** : see top of column 2.

## PRINCES STREET: WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ♦ If you have not written to your councillors about Princes St, please do so, telling them what you would like to see and why.
- ♦ If you bump into a councillor, for example at a meeting, collar them, ask what is happening and tell them what you want to see.
- ♦ We'll keep emailable members updated about opportunities as they arise. We are also talking with other relevant groups and hope to come up with a joint statement.

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Several major developments are being consulted on...

[NB: Some consultations are PANs – explanation at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : lobbying. To look up a particular PAN go to... <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxopa-web/> and then search for its reference (e.g. 13/01820/PAN)].

For any of the following that concern you please visit the exhibition and leave comments. If you miss an exhibition, use the email address, where known, to get info and to comment – also cc your email to Spokes. Comments below are mainly from Peter Hawkins, Planning Group, email [peterhawkATphonecoop.coop](mailto:peterhawkATphonecoop.coop).

### Royal Edinburgh 13/01468/PAN & 13/01470/PAN

The Royal Edinburgh campus master plan. The June 6 exhibition showed a 'Green Corridor' cycleway along the south of the site, connecting Morningside Rd to a new Myreside access – giving a pleasant traffic-free alternative to Balcarres Street. [Note: the community allotments will be kept but eventually relocated].

If you like this idea, please email the developers in support, to ensure this is included in their planning application, and if you have any questions. Please cc Spokes. Points to consider...

- ♦ The whole project has a 10-year timescale – ask for the path to be built as early as possible in the development
- ♦ Ask for a tarmac surface and suitable pedestrian/cycle width.
- ♦ Suggest connections you think would be useful to be provided and/or signed – e.g. possibly Tipperlinn Road.

Contact: [Fraser.Littlejohn@montagu-evans.co.uk](mailto:Fraser.Littlejohn@montagu-evans.co.uk) 0131 229 3800

### June 10-14 North Sighthill residential 13/01820/PAN

Exhibition: June 10-14, 12-2pm at Gate 55, Sighthill Rd.

Huge site where high-rises used to be, north of Calder Rd. Need for east-west cycle route through the site, Sighthill Court to Broomhouse Rd, to link Napier campuses and towards city centre.

### June 20 New Boroughmuir High School

Public mtg for people living near: 7pm, St Brides Community Centre, Orwell Terrace. Also staffed drop-ins: Fountainbridge Lib June 11, 3-5pm; June 19, 2-4pm; June 24, 4-6pm.

NB - this is a council consultation, not a PAN. Lots more info: search for Boroughmuir at [edinburgh.gov.uk](http://edinburgh.gov.uk). Email queries and comment by 12 July to [newSchoolBuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:newSchoolBuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk).

Canal towpath needs widened or separate cycle path in school area? Cycle routes/access to school also crucial & difficult.

### June 24,26 Edinburgh BioQuarter and S.E. Wedge Parkland

Council draft policy on developing the huge area between Craigmillar and Edmonstone/Danderhall. Many cyclistoute implications. Public drop-in events below. Draft document at...

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/10635/bioquarter\\_and\\_sew\\_parkland\\_sg](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/10635/bioquarter_and_sew_parkland_sg)

Mon 24 June, 4-8pm, Craigmillar Library, 101 Niddrie Mains Rd.

Wed 26 June, 4-8pm at Moredun Library, 92 Moredun Park Rd.

More info & email comments to: [Kate.Hopper@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Hopper@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### June 27 Student accomm, Bernard Terrace 13/01513/PAN

Exhibition: 3-7.30pm, Lutton Court, Bernard Terrace.

Site between Bernard Terr and Lutton Place. Need to ensure access to Lutton Place & adequate bike parking resident & visitor.

# POLICY CONSULTNS

[more background in Spokes Bulletin 116, p6]

**By 14 June: Edinburgh Local Development Plan** – crucial plan guiding future of land use & transport in the city for years to come. Unfortunately Spokes has not had time to do a detailed response, but will submit main points. The plan includes a **Proposals Map** <http://217.174.251.127/planning/EdinburghLDP.htm> showing proposed paths/cycleroutes, which are then safeguarded from development. [Use your keypad arrow keys to move around the map].

One of the safeguards is for **footways/cycleways through the Astley Ainslie hospital site** [see blue dotted lines on the map]. We understand that there are objections to this safeguard – **if you support keeping this proposal please submit comments** [ditto if you have any other comments on the map or plan].

**Full plan details at** [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan). Comments/objections should be made on the Representation Form at the above site. *Comments after 5pm on June 14 may not count.*

**By 28 June: Central Edinb parking survey** – great to see this survey asks about problems *caused by* parking, not just problems *for* car parkers! Open-ended qns 6,10,18,20,21 allow comments.

**By A.S.A.P.: RPP2 Final Version** – the Scottish Government will shortly publish RPP2, its plan to meet its Climate Change targets. The consultation on the very disappointing draft RPP2 is over [see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : submissions : national : 1302] and Ministers are deciding now what changes to make. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland asks you to email or tweet MSPs, preferably during June 10-14. See [www.improveRPP2.org](http://www.improveRPP2.org). If tweeting, use hashtag #ImproveRPP2.

**By 23 July: Scottish Government NPF3 & SPP**

See the article on p6 of Spokes Bulletin 116 for background and web links: please look at the documents and consider commenting.

**A member has sent us the following thoughts** [abbreviated to fit] ...

These Planning docs are meant to underpin the climate change policy [RPP2 above] and help deliver those targets through a shift to less carbon intensive modes. There is a lot of positive rhetoric in NPF3 and SPP but it is not always translated into strong policy and so will probably again fail to deliver the required targets/outcomes. There is heavy emphasis on 'sustainable' economic growth through infrastructure investment (mostly roads and airports).

**The consultation on NPF3 and SPP offers some opportunity** but the options are limited and it is clear where the govt is heading: faster connections between cities; increased air traffic; little overall direction change for active travel (other than recreation) and leaving a lot of the actual work to Councils.

**The active travel agenda** would require Local Authorities to identify cycle routes and show them in Development Plans, with policies to deliver them, including identifying funds. Other than this there is not a lot different from now – and that is failing to deliver. There is no overall direction, no targets, no real obligation to make the policy work even if does appear in the final document.

There will still be a reliance on the *Designing Streets* document to deliver cycling/walking environments in developments but this is working poorly as a delivery mechanism – most gains are due to campaigners objecting at application stage (and really to be effective at the PAN stage) rather than councils by default implementing this policy. It certainly has not brought about a step-change in how we design liveable places.

Also **national car parking standards** have not been altered. To encourage active travel, urban carparking ought to be progressively reduced, alongside better and more high profile cycle and walk facilities. There is no extension of current national cycle parking policy, which relates only to retail and business development.

It is good that a **network of cycling/walking routes is a National Development in NPF3** [see Spokes 116, p6] along with the *Central Scotland Green Network*, but mostly this is routes already in place. There is also huge emphasis on recreation and tourism (=direct economic benefit) rather than on active travel (just a nodding glance to the health and economic benefits). And I know Spokes is disappointed that their request that each council should have a pilot sustainable-transport town was not included in NPF3.

There is nothing really bad but the documents are bland and fail to be 'good'. One big concern is **the emphasis on 'sustainable' economic growth**, which may override environmental concerns.

If economic concerns become Material Considerations there could be major negative impacts on how Planners consider proposals.

## BIKE TRIP DELAYS

If you encounter a delay or diversion on a key route (onroad or offroad) and would like other cyclists to be informed, you may be able to get it reported on radio or twitter traffic bulletins.

**Edinburgh Travel News** [edinburgh.gov.uk/edintravel](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/edintravel)

See the website for current major diversions to roads and key paths [e.g currently the A90 path closure/diversion is listed]. Also a live twitter feed @edintravel to which you can send reports.

**BBC Travel News** [www.bbc.co.uk/travelnews/scotland](http://www.bbc.co.uk/travelnews/scotland)

Report cycling delays/diversions on key routes to:

Tweet @BBCTravelScot; Phone 08000 929588; Text 80295.

## GREAT NEWS!!

### North Meadow Walk

The rebuild of North Meadow Walk is a big step forward, and it's great to see a wider and pothole-free path! The Council is also promising 'Family Network' onstreet connections west to the canal and east to the Innocent path – hopefully in year 2014/15 but dependent on applications to Sustrans for match-funding.



*North Meadow Walk rebuilt Photo: Anthony Robson*

The path rebuild is costing £360k, and it is worth remembering how the council got hold of this money at relatively short notice. [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2012/09/cycling-up-very-slightly-in-budget](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2012/09/cycling-up-very-slightly-in-budget) The money is only there because many Spokes members and others lobbied the government hard about the active travel cuts it planned in the 2012/13 budget 18 months ago, followed by PoP1. We were fighting for more investment in general – little did we or anyone know then that this would be one of the projects to benefit!

### Leith Walk

Revised plans for Leith Walk are a big improvement (walking & cycling) with many points now included from the joint submission by Greener Leith, Spokes and others [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 14.1.13 news]. See [greenerleith.org.uk](http://greenerleith.org.uk) [8.6.13] a commentary on the new plans.

Many junctions are improved, notably removal of London Road roundabout; and there are significant stretches of segregated cycle route. A big disappointment is that the lower section of the uphill bike lane is not traffic-separated. However it is 1.75m wide instead of the usual 1.5m, and we will argue for a hatched area between it and the parking bays. Also, we don't yet know what is planned at and beyond Picardy Place roundabout, where the plans end.

**The new plans result from two factors:** heavy lobbying, led very effectively by Greener Leith, and Sustrans's insistence that they would only get involved if the original plans were made far more cycle and pedestrian friendly – and if the Council intended future extensions and links from Leith Walk towards other areas.

**The new plans cost significantly more, especially because of roundabout removal, and require a Council application to the Scottish Government for additional cash** – this might or might not be partly or entirely in the form of Sustrans match-funding.

#### **Leith Walk: HOW YOU CAN HELP**

♦ Look at the plans. **If you want to see them happen, email your MSPs** [[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)]. Ask them to speak to the Transport Minister about assisting Edinburgh Council to fund a project which could provide lessons for all councils if carefully monitored. This being an innovative scheme, an assessment of what goes well and what could be done better in future would be really valuable.

♦ Visit the exhibition : July 23, 2-8pm, McDonald Rd library.