

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

July 23 **Leith Walk plans** exhibition – see Local Development
July 24/25 **Fountainbridge** exhibition – see Local Development
Aug 4 **Tour de Forth ride** <http://tourdeforth.com/>
Aug 21 **Homelessness Tour** – see article
Sep 6 **Spokes Competition 2013** – closing date - see article
Sep 7 **Edinburgh Big Skyride** www.goskyride.com/EdinburghSkyRide

COMPETITION 2013

Remember to enter this year's Spokes summer competition – **Cycling with a Purpose**. If you've got a camera and a thoughtful or quirky mind, you could win a great prize (and modest fame!)

We want a **photo and caption about Cycling with a Purpose** – 'useful' cycling like shopping, getting to school or work, boosting health or lifespan, carrying something, getting somewhere, hauling a sack of potatoes.... We'd like lots of everyday useful entries, plus a few surprises! Each person is allowed 2 entries

Prizes include the following great selection. The top winner gets to choose their prize, second chooses second, and so on.

- **ScotRail:** Return 1st ticket for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- **Edin Bike Coop:** Revolution Tune-up advanced tool-kit
- **Sustrans:** Set of Sustrans Scotland maps
- **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket
- **Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant:** Lunch for 2
- **Peter's Yard:** Food hamper, voucher, keep-cup & baking book
- **Reiss Hairsalon:** Hair cut and finish
- **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2
- **Cameo:** Offpeak tickets for 2
- **Velo Ecosse:** Bike service
- **Bike Smith:** Bike service, value £20

The competition closes on Friday 6 September. For detailed rules and entry form, more about the prizes and other information see the July 2 news item at spokes.org.uk.

PRINCES ST FUTURE

Thank you to the many Spokes members who contacted their councillors in response our urgent email circular of 2 June about the proposed bike ban in the Princes St traffic-free area. The council has postponed a decision until August. We know no more yet than in our June 16 article at spokes.org.uk.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ♦ **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.

STOP PRESS - GEORGE ST / FESTIVAL

The council has announced that during the Festival George St will be entirely closed to traffic on one side [edinburgh.gov.uk, July 4 news]. In principle this is great, but we note that there is no mention of cycling, whilst it seems that full car parking will be preserved. Since the traffic-free side will contain tents and festival events it seems likely that cycling will be only possible as part of the general traffic flow, and so only one-way. This adds weight to another of our many concerns about the proposed ban on 2-way traffic-free Princes St cycling – any future George St cycle facility might be closed during events such as the Festival and Hogmanay, leaving Queen St and Rose St as the only cycling options.

SPOKES NATIONAL CYCLING PROPOSAL

please help!! [by 23 July]

The Scottish Government is preparing NPF3, its National Planning Framework, which will include a series of 'projects of national significance'. Spokes has proposed a national project comprising one cycle-friendly town in every Scottish council area, all linked by an enhanced national cycle network. Several other groups, such as Transform Scotland, submitted related ideas.

We put forward similar ideas some years ago for the earlier NPF1 and NPF2, but our ideas were rejected. This time, however, things look somewhat more hopeful – the government has in their latest draft NPF3 document provisionally accepted the idea of the national network - but largely as a tourism/leisure project whereas our proposal is geared to kick-start everyday cycle use in every part of Scotland, on top of the benefits for tourism and leisure.

A further consultation is now underway and, encouragingly, there is a question asking if higher priority should be given to boosting everyday cycle use (and walking).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please make your own response to the consultation – this will be really helpful! Welcome the inclusion of a national cycle network project but urge, as proposed by Spokes, that it is widened into a national initiative to boost everyday cycle use throughout Scotland as well as encouraging more cycle tourism and leisure.

For more information, links to the official reply form, and an easy guide so that it won't take you too long, see the June 24 news item 'Spokes National Cycling Proposal' at spokes.org.uk.

Note: For more on NPF3 and the parallel SPP Scottish Planning Policy consultation, see Spokesworker 10.6.13 and Bulletin 116.

STOP PRESS : CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Another government consultation; ending 27 Sept. Details at www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current?rowId=1643#conRow1643
We welcome any comments for a possible Spokes submission.

4000 PEOPLE : no problem

An imaginative letter from Dave Holladay appeared in several papers following Pedal on Parliament 2103...

The delivery of at least 4,000 people to the Meadows in less than an hour, without gridlock, or parked cars blocking the streets, and the equally silent and invisible evaporation of the crowd from outside the Parliament at Holyrood makes a clear point about why we need to promote cycling for local journeys in towns and cities. Would we need to spend huge sums on by-passes and relief roads if transport policy planned for more local trips by bike?

The Belgian city of Hasselt, taking this line, cancelled the building of a relief road, ripped up tarmac and returned the inner ring road to its former state as a tree-lined boulevard. Rental values for commercial property went up and local tax revenues rose but the council's borrowing was reduced (no longer needed to build the roads), so it moved closer to balancing the books.

Even ScotRail delivered, as the numbers heading back by train (having cycled from Glasgow, Fife and further afield) had melted away by 7pm, soaked up by well-managed loading of the trains.

Effectively managed and executed by the Pedal On Parliament team and cycling police officers, it was a great day.

Dave Holladay, Cycling activist, Glasgow

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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

For any of the following that concern you please visit the exhibition and leave comments. If you missed or can't get to the exhibition, contact the developer (where known) to get info and to comment – also cc your email to Spokes. Initial comments below are mainly from Peter Hawkins, Spokes Planning Group, email peterhawk@phonecoop.coop.

July 23 Leith Walk – exhibition / consultation

Exhibition 2-8pm, McDonald Rd library. Revised plans for Leith Walk in early June were a big improvement, but left scope for further beneficial changes which were suggested by Greener Leith and supported by Spokes. [These documents are at spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : Leith Walk. See also Spokesworker 10.6.13]. Unfortunately there are rumours that subsequent changes have if anything moved backwards. We will find out at the exhibition: *please attend and leave your comments.*

July 24-25 Fountainbridge plans - exhibitions 13/02177/PAN and 13/02182/PAN

PAN 2177 is a mixed use masterplan covering the eastern half of the currently derelict cleared site between F'bridge and the canal, bounded at the east end by Edinburgh Quay.

PAN 2182 has more detailed proposals, including an 'aparthotel', commercial etc and is for part of the same site, bounded by the canal and Edin Quay, but not extending as far as F'bridge.

Public exhibitions: Fountainbridge Library, 137 Dundee Street, 24 July 4-8pm; 25 July 2-5pm

Suggestions: points to look for and to suggest in your comments...

- Cycle lanes on F'bridge
- Good access from the canal
- A path within the site, parallel to canal, from Gilmore Park to the F'bridge toucan at Edinburgh Quay - **this is a once and only chance for a path avoiding the existing towpath cobbles!**

If you attend the exhibition please leave written comments.

If you can't go (or have queries) email mail@michaellaird.co.uk.

AIRDRIE BIKE INFRA

Although outside our area, we have been asked for comments on improving cycling infrastructure between Airdrie town centre and the major employment areas to the south. Interestingly, North Lanarkshire council has taken on Dutch consultants for this study. **If you know the area, please contact them to fill in their survey form.** Email: project.PB1055@rhdhv.com.

HOMELESSNESS TOUR

We get many requests from charities to publicise sponsored rides etc, and usually can't do so, but we're giving a special mention to this one as it is particularly imaginative and bold.

Matt Fountain from Glasgow hopes to raise £100k for Shelter by cycling 2,000 miles around Britain, carrying all equipment on the bike, using a tent most of the time and sleeping rough other times. The route is designed to include areas most at risk of eviction and homelessness, where Matt will be talking with residents.

Matt is working with Natalie Byrom, of Warwick University Centre for Human Rights in Practice, to write a book from the ride.

You can help by sponsorship and/or joining in at Edinburgh, Glasgow or other parts of central and southern Scotland.

REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINING IN

Matt cycles from Glasgow to Edinburgh on Aug 20. **On Weds 21 there will be a photoshoot, then a ride** to accompany Matt out of Edinburgh. Meet 10am Castle Street for the photoshoot and the ride. **Further details about the ride** [distance, route, lunch, etc] will appear at www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk in mid July - and/or contact Mike Lewis mike@cycling-edinburgh.org.uk 0131 343 2520. The ride is free, but consider a donation to Change Homelessness.

For more info about Matt's project, to donate, or to join him on other sections, see www.changehomelessness.org.

LOTHIANS CONSULTN

Many councils have a 'consultations' web page. To find yours, google (e.g.) *Midlothian council consultation*. **Check the page every month or so!** Here's what we found today...

EAST LOTHIAN eastlothianconsultations.co.uk

Musselburgh Town Centre strategy [ends 31 July]

Haddington Community Survey [ends 31 July]

MIDLOTHIAN www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open

Midlothian Local Development Plan [ends 31 August] This is a very important document covering future land use policies throughout ML, with many implications for transport and cycling.

WEST LOTHIAN

www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/consultations

No current consultations

CITY OF EDINBURGH See *Have your say* at edinburgh.gov.uk and also www.edinburgh.gov.uk/consultation/open.

Includes some of the consultations mentioned in Spokesworker.

SNIPPETS

SPOKES BIKE BREAKFAST

Our June 19 bike breakfast was a great success, with the biggest ever number of people and lovely weather! For a report and links to photos see the June 24 news item at spokes.org.uk.



Winners of the prize draw for Edinburgh Bicycle vouchers were... Mr C McMaster, Leith; Ian White, Polwarth; Barbara Seel, Leith.

STRICT LIABILITY

Spokes Bulletin 116 included a centre-page pullout on Strict Liability. If you support Strict Liability, please sign the Roadshare petition to the Scottish Government Find it at <http://ow.ly/ISnFG> or search for Strict Liability at www.change.org/en-GB/petitions.

ADULT BIKE TRAINING

Cycling Scotland, in conjunction with 4 Edinburgh bike shops, is running a variety of individual and group adult cycling courses, geared to new or returning cyclists. Some are free, others charged. www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/training-courses/adult-cycle-training-2.

CAPS : CYCLING ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND

The new CAPS2013, as expected, is something of a damp squib, with no new funding allocated, and therefore absolutely no hope to achieve the government's 'vision' of 10% of all trips by bike in 2020. Government cycling investment is around £20m p.a. yet they plan to spend £3000m each to dual the A9 and the A96.

For the a relatively positive view of CAPS2013, see this press release: www.sustrans.org.uk/news/transport-minister-launches-new-cycling-action-plan-scotland. For a more sceptical view see citycyclingedinburgh.info/bbpress/topic.php?id=10500.

STIRLING CYCLE HUB: CORRECTION

Spokes Bulletin 116 is wrong in saying that the Bike Hub cannot do spares and repairs as a stipulation of its government funding – in fact this was a conscious decision in order not to compete with local traders. For info on the Hub see www.stirlingcyclehub.org.

BIKE-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

See <http://bedsforcyclists.co.uk/>.

CYCLING AND (TRAN)SPORT

Politicians often argue that sport events such as the Olympics or Commonwealth Games will boost everyday cycling, but there is little evidence, and indeed a counter argument suggests some people will think that cycling is only for the very fit. New data suggests that public sport participation (including recreational and competitive cycling) has in fact declined since the 2012 Olympics. www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/13/fewer-playing-sport-since-london-olympics www.sportengland.org/media/162237/06_once_a_month_aps7q2.xls