

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

Nov 9 Abelio Dutch Railways Talk by Abelio's Mike Connolly – they have a great record on bike/rail and are bidding for the ScotRail franchise. Railfuture Scotland Autumn Mtg, 14.00, Royal Overseas League, Princes St. *Info:* Jane Ann Liston 01334 472546.

Nov 19 Spokes Autumn Public Meeting – Cycling Investment. Barclay Viewforth Church, Bruntsfield Place, 7.30. Doors open 6.45 for stall, coffee, chat. *Details:* Oct 1st news at spokes.org.uk.

Nov 29 Edinburgh Integrated Transport Cllr Lesley Hinds, Transport Chair. 7.30, Light Rail Transport Assn, Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace. *Info:* George Murray 538 2375.

See also: **Local Development & Police** articles - consultn dates

RED SURFACING

Spokes continues to receive complaints that the Council's new method of colouring cycle lanes and ASLs, red chips embedded in the surface, is insufficiently bright (except in certain conditions such as the sun behind you on a dry day). The method has advantages – it is permanent and it is cheap to install *if* a road is anyway being resurfaced (though costly otherwise). However, if the colouring effect is not obvious to motorists then its primary purpose is lost, so the advantages of chipping become irrelevant.

The case for and against red chips is discussed in a Spokes paper submitted to the council in April but *still with no formal response*. We seek a **review of colouring methods, balancing initial and ongoing costs against visual effectiveness**. Find our paper at: spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : CECcycle policy : 1304.

Meanwhile, red chips continue to appear in cycle facilities – including projects where the road surface is specially dug up, and therefore relatively costly.

Furthermore if the council does not consider this urgently then chipping will be the default for the huge Leith Walk rebuild project – which is to include coloured onroad cycle lanes between Pilrig and Foot of the Walk. At the very least, a brighter method should be used at road junctions and other particular danger points.

The already completed Constitution St part of the Leith Program has used chipping, and the results can be seen in the picture [if you are reading this in a printed black/white version, see the colour picture in the online online copy at spokes.org.uk : Spokesworker].



If the Council colouring policy concerns you [and not just in Leith Walk] please contact your councillors. Feedback from individuals could overcome CEC's apparent reluctance to hold a review. Find your councillors at www.writetothem.com.

NEWS VIDEOS at spokes.org.uk

CYCLING INVESTMENT DEMO VIDEO

There's a great video of the Oct 30 lunchtime protest calling for cycling investment at a level which might enable the Scottish Government to reach its own target for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020. See our website Oct 30 news item and, if you agree, email your MSPs, as suggested in the article.

HAYMARKET TRAMLINE TRAUMAS

The new Haymarket tramline layout is dangerous – See Oct 17 news item - with 2 videos and the background to why it happened.

Our article also suggests how to tackle these crossings as safely as possible, though our suggestions all involve a delay. If you have other ideas, let us know. Experienced and confident cyclists may have other approaches, but note that many tramline crashes are to experienced cyclists who are shocked to find they have been caught out – maybe due to traffic pressures, wetness, a slightly raised tramline, or some other factor that particular day.

The council is trying to come up, after the event, with ideas to ameliorate the situation, in addition to the signs recently installed.

CEC TRANSPORT CTTEE

Notes from Edinburgh Council October 29 Transport Cttee. To see the papers go to edinburgh.gov.uk : About : Agendas.

7.1 City Vision [Princes St/ George St] For a 1-year experiment Princes St will remain largely unchanged (buses bikes taxis 2-way) but George St will have a 2-way segregated cycle route, motor traffic 1-way and a wider north pavement. Details are still to be worked out, including the critical question of how to get to/from the George St cycle route. It is also unclear whether this route will be segregated from walkers or shared – send us your thoughts.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds said walking, cycling and public transport should be encouraged in the city centre and cars reduced progressively. We hope the Council will stick to this when actual plans come forward, for example at Picardy Place.

7.8 Winter Weather Thanks to the Council cycle budget, last year for the first time the North Ed paths and Innocent were given priority snow clearing status. **Many people thanked councillors - the report mentions that the gritting was welcomed by cyclists; and the council decided to continue the practice this winter.**

7.9 Road prioritisation review This report outlined a new method for deciding which roads/footways would get major resurfacing each year. Minor roads should benefit, whereas bus lanes will still have a priority, but less than previously. *Spokes emailed all councillors on the Committee asking that decisions should be taken before next year's report on also adding a weighting for those roads particularly important for cycling – councillors agreed to this, although the report had proposed putting it off indefinitely.*

7.10 Road and footway investment 2014/15 Although the report is about structural road maintenance, it states in passing that 7% of the total transport budget will go to cycling - the first written confirmation. This is thanks partly to the fact that **councillors get positive public feedback** about cycling investment and projects (obviously often accompanied by suggestions for doing better!)

SMALL ADS [ads free in Spokesworker]

Tandem Owner Wanted Tandem seeks enthusiastic owner(s). Unusual terms and conditions!! See www.blether.org.uk/tandem.html

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

We have a new web page listing current *Planning Applications* and *PANs** which appear relevant to cycling - for example there may be potential cycle access or route connections, bike storage provision/management needs, bike parking for visitors, etc.

You comment on *planning applications* direct to the council. **PANs* are public consultations by developers for big schemes, prior to their Planning Application. For *PANs* there is normally an exhibition and you comment to the developer - they should take account of the consultation feedback in their planning application.

It is important for concerned citizens (you!) to comment on planning proposals affecting where you live, work or visit. Our new page explains more about *PAs* and *PANs*, tells you how to find them on the council website, get exhibition dates, etc.

To find our new page see the Oct 29 news item at spokes.org.uk or go to documents : local issues : current *PAs*.

Below are two current major developments. Please comment if they concern you. Find the details to do this on our web page. The points below are from Peter Hawkins of Spokes Planning Group, email peterhawk@tphonecoop.coop for more info.

Morningside-Myreside : new East-West path??

There are 2 current planning applicns for the Royal Edinburgh site: 13/04292/PPP - Royal Edinburgh Hospital Masterplan [by 8 Nov] 13/04232/FUL - Royal Edinburgh Hospital Phase 1 [by 12 Nov]

The Masterplan shows a new east-west pedestrian/cycle route connecting Morningside and Myreside! A great opportunity - but the plan needs improved further. Also, under the current plan, only a cul-de-sac section will be built soon, in Phase 1 - the whole path could take 10-15 years if it is not given priority.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you would find this route useful, please do the following...

- ◆ Go to the council website and submit your own comments on one or both applications. Our new web page tells you how.
- ◆ Go to the Nov 5 public meeting on the plans, Morningside United Church, Holy Corner. Exhibition from 6.30, meeting starts 7.30. Chaired by Jim Eadie MSP [who in the Parliament is a great supporter of improved cycling conditions]. We have already notified emailable local members about the meeting.

REH Masterplan: Spokes comments are below [abbreviated] ...

We object to this application on a number of grounds...

1 Early completion of whole cycle route:

The cycle route east-west along the south side of the site should be completed at an early stage. Phase 1 proposes building only from Myreside Rd to the shelter belt where Phase 1 ends. This is not acceptable and would cause frustration for staff and public. The stated objectives of the Master Plan include to encourage active travel to/from the site, especially for staff and visitors.

2 East end connections:

The east end of the cycle route should connect to Maxwell St as well as to Morningside Terrace; this would have the advantage of a more direct route in from Morningside Cross, and would also use a quiet residential cul-de-sac with little traffic; this would benefit staff and visitors and encourage the active travel mode;

3 Footbridge to Balcarres St:

There is a strong case for a pedestrian and cycle footbridge from Bruce Street (cul-de-sac off Balcarres St) into the heart of the site. Alternatively, the access could be from the Council's redundant depot on Balcarres Street. Apparently, there is a new service-pipe-bridge already proposed, and the developers are already in negotiation with Network rail on this, so that bridge could go a step further and take pedestrians and cycles too.

REH Phase 1 application: As well as early path completion you may wish to comment on other issues including bike parking, storage and proposed car parking numbers. A Spokes member says *Car parking is to be increased from around 360 spaces to 470, in spite of travel plans and a supposed critical assessment of the minimum number to meet Health Board's requirements. It is also disappointing that Lothian buses cannot be accessed in the site, as at the Western General and Royal Infirmary. A shuttle bus will be*

provided but it is unclear how far this will reach and how far the public can catch it at remote bus stops.

West Harbour Road, Granton

13/04320/AMC Granton Harbour [closing date 8 Nov]

This application finalises the road, path and open space detail of an already-approved major development. It fails to include a vital east-west cyclistroute along the north side of West Harbour Rd.

Comments from Spokes Planning Group [abbreviated]...

1. **Documentation.** The description refers to 'design and configuration of public and open spaces, access, road layouts, footpaths and cycle routes.' However in fact there is nothing on access, footpaths, and cycle routes; and very little on public spaces etc; it is all about siting and height.

2. **Vital cyclistroute.** The overwhelming need is for an east-west pedestrian/cycle route along the north side of West Harbour Rd. The coastal 'promenade' notion is not mentioned but, in practice, one assumes this would not keep to the waterfront here, since it would be a significant deviation; also there is an existing concrete wall about 2m high which "promenaders" could not see over.

The only sensible solution is to take the 'promenade' along West Harbour Rd for the length of the development. There appears (from a site visit) to be sufficient land for this, but it needs to be tidied up, with a continuous path at least 3m wide along the whole length; and a crossing of West Harbour Rd at the junction with Waterfront Avenue and Chestnut St. **Planning permission must not be given unless the developers include this east-west route.**

PAN CONSULTATION EXHIBITIONS

For more details of these exhibitions go to our new web page, then look up the PAN on the council planning website.

Nov 20 13/03816/PAN Lothian Rd/F'bridge - retail & offices - need bike parking & access

Nov 26 13/04194/PAN Frogston Rd Esat - residential - big greenfield site

Nov 27 13/04204/PAN Gilmerton Dykes Rd - residential - greenfield

Dec 2 13/04218/PAN Ratho - residential - huge greenfield site - near canal, so needs good links & towpath upgrade if permission given

Dec 4 13/04203/PAN Duddingston Pk South - residential - needs good connection to Asda path

Dec 17 13/04323/PAN Royal Mail site, McDonald Rd area - residential & commercial - qns of access, bike storage+parking, car parkng limit

Stop press: POLICE CONSULT

Nov 8-29 drop-in sessions round the city to consult on *Edinburgh Local Policing Plan 2014-17*. Important for road safety, bike theft, etc. Details at spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : security.

SNIPPETS

STRICT LIABILITY DEBATE

Thanks to Spokes member Alison Johnstone MSP, Parliament debated Strict Liability [or Presumed Liability as some prefer] - with excellent and less-good speeches. The differences were between individual MSPs rather than between parties - e.g. an excellent speech from Tory John Lamont but a disappointing one from his colleague Margaret Mitchell. Find the transcript at..

scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8582.

The video: bbc.co.uk/democracylive/scotland-24729466 [expires soon?]

Also see theedinburghreporter.co.uk [search for strict liability].

EDINBURGH SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

A member asks us to mention that the workshop redevelopment phase 2 is well underway - it will include a cafe opening in 2014. See forthcoming noticeboard on the Hawthornvale North Ed Path.

MOTORING HELMETS

The copenhagenize.com story on helmets for motorists has again surfaced. www.copenhagenize.com/search/label/motoring%20helmet.

PLANNING ADVICE

Planning Aid Scotland has a much-improved website. See www.planningaidscotland.org.uk/advice

BREAKFAST IN THE MEADOWS

A driver was video'd eating his cornflakes on Melville Drive!! Search for 'cereal' at road.cc [Nov 1 news item].