

SPOKESWORKER 12.3.14 updated 25.3

The Action-Update of Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign

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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

Mar 24 Spokes Public Meeting – see article

April 26 Pedal on Parliament See Feb 27 news item at spokes.org.uk and see pedalonparliament.org.. **Please contact PoP if you can help:** stewards, advance bike leafletting, etc.

April 26-27 Solway-Forth Trailblazing Ride with bikebus transport from Edinburgh & full luggage/support backup on the ride. For more info & to book see March 5 news at spokes.org.uk.

NB - We regret the unfortunate clash with PoP, due to late approval of the PoP date by the council, by which time it was too late for the C2C organisers to change their date. Whether you spend the afternoon at PoP or the weekend on the trailblazing ride, you'll be helping push the case for more cycling and cycling facilities. Note too that there is only space for 15 or so on the bikebus from Edinburgh for the trailblazing ride [book early if you hope to go].

June 12-22 Edinburgh Festival of Cycling www.edfoc.org.uk

June 14 St Andrews Ride www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk/lepra-ride.htm

June 18 Spokes Bike Breakfast City Chambers, 7.45-9.45.

More: **Local Developments** article for consultation exhibitions

PUBLIC MEETING

- ◆ **Professor Colin Pooley** - findings from the pioneering and controversial *Understanding Walking and Cycling* research
- ◆ **Cllr Andrew Burns**, Edinburgh Council leader – response
- ◆ **More info:** [mknottenbelt1\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:mknottenbelt1[AT]gmail.com) 07501 381018.

Following on from their research, the *Understanding Cycling* team [from Lancaster, Leeds and Oxford Brookes Universities] made seven policy recommendations, including...

- ◆ fully segregated cycle routes on main roads in urban areas
- ◆ restrictions on car parking, speeds and access on other roads
- ◆ changing the system of legal liability, to protect cyclists and pedestrians (the most vulnerable road users) as in most Europe
- ◆ using planning legislation to ensure facilities are more local and to deter out-of-town centres
- ◆ campaigns to promote cycling and walking as 'normal,' not just for the super-fit or the dedicated.

The meeting was a great success, with 120+ people (according to the janitor, who had put out the chairs and had to use the gallery for latecomers). We'll put a report, Prof Pooley's slides, and feedback from Cllr Burns on our website once available.

CANAL : lots happening

- ◆ **Two separate PAN exhibitions**, Mar 27 [see opposite] about forthcoming major developments adjacent to the inner canal.
- ◆ The **Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative** is working hard for people-friendly development in the area, and particularly in the 14/00309/PAN site. See www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk.
- ◆ **Spokes is preparing ideas** to improve accesses and to reduce towpath congestion by improved conditions on adjacent roads
- ◆ Spokes member Bryce Morrison has been **leafletting towpath users** with our shared paths leaflet, getting good feedback from both walkers and cyclists. Printed copies are available, or download at spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : considerate.
- ◆ Richard Grant attended the Council workshop on the proposed year 2015 **Canal-Meadows connection**. We hope to include his report in the next Spokesworker [this issue is out of space].

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

We have a web page listing current Planning Applications and PANs which we think are relevant to cycling – for example, needing bike storage for residents / parking for visitors, or enabling a cycle access or route connection. Our web page also explains more about PAs and PANs, tells you how to look them up on the council website and find details of exhibitions, etc.

See spokes.org.uk : documents : local issues : current PAs **Or go direct to** www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans

You comment on **planning applications** direct to the council. PANs are a public consultation stage for big developments, prior to a Planning Application. PANs normally have an exhibition and you comment to the developer – they should then take account of this feedback in their subsequent planning application.

For more info contact Peter Hawkins, Spokes Planning Group, email peterhawkATphonecoop.coop.

Below are some important current proposals, also listed on our web page. Please comment on any that concern you. We can't show all here – check our web page now and weekly.

PAN CONSULTATION EXHIBITIONS

For more details of the exhibitions go to our new web page, then look up the PAN on the council planning website. **If you cannot attend an exhibition or are too late for it**, you should be able to find an email address for the developer on the council site, and can email them for more information and to submit any comments.

14/00612/PAN 27 Mar [was 20 Mar] Tollcross Comm Ed Centre 2-7pm Exhibition of changes to planned W.Tollcross residential development [was ref 11/03094/FUL]. Very important as could provide better (or worse) connection to the Canal-Meadows route, and connections to Lower Gilmore Place and Lochrin Place.

14/00309/PAN 27 Mar Central Hall, Tollcross 12-8pm. Also an unstaffed exhibition, 28/3-11/4, Fountainbridge Library. Mixed use site bounded by Viewforth, canal, Fountainbridge, and east to Grove Street. Very important site: adjacent to the canal and basin, it could include a segregated path beside the towpath, avoiding the cobbles and a potentially congested towpath once the new school is open just along from here. It could also allow space for mandatory or segregated Fountainbridge cycle lanes. *Please go along and leave written comments, or email them in.*

14/00885/PAN 3 May Ratho Community Centre, 10.30-17.30. Residential Development, Ratho. 14-acre site on west side of Baird Road, bounded by old cement works to north.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To find current applications where you may wish to comment – go to our above web page for details and how to comment.

GLASGOW QS REBUILD

Glasgow Queen Street station is to undergo a massive rebuild to allow longer trains and to improve the George Square frontage. Plans are at an early stage and Network Rail is seeking comments from the public. After their failure to include a Bike Hub [with supervised storage, maintenance, etc] at Haymarket [although there will be improved bike parking] can Network Rail do better in Glasgow? Submit your comments at...

www.egip.info/projects/we-are-redeveloping-queen-street-station.

And - can Glasgow City Council work with the developers to ensure this, and to improve on Edinburgh? If you live in Glasgow, suggest it to your councillors! www.writetothem.com.

TRAMLINE TRAUMAS

Tramline crashes are now less frequent than in 2013, with greater awareness by regular cyclists and with removal of the Haymarket taxi rank which forced cyclists into the tramlines. **Nonetheless they continue at a depressing rate** and we have had the first case where the victim was hit by a passing car, which ran over her foot. **The worst locations for crashes appear to be...**

- ◆ Cycling from Morrison St, past Haymarket, to Haymarket Ter
- ◆ Turning right from Lothian Road into Princes Street
- ◆ Travelling east in Princes Street at South St Andrew Street.

It is vital to take every precaution and not believe you are immune. Many crashes are to experienced cyclists, some of whom use the same route every day and never expect to become a victim. Here are comments from recent victims:

- ◆ [fractured cheek bone] *I am a very experienced cyclist and regularly commute 20 miles across Edinburgh*
- ◆ [stitches needed to chin] *Despite my awareness of accidents here and my best efforts to cross safely, I had a nasty accident*
- ◆ [bad grazing and bruising] *Experienced member of a cycle club.*

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ?

Now that the tramlines are being handed over to the council by the contractors, the council can make changes without the high penalty clauses which had applied to changes to the contract. The Council is looking at all locations where complaints have been received, and has allocated £50k for initial work in 2014/15. Some improvements are relatively easy and cheap; others would involve major changes to traffic and significant roadspace re-allocation.

At **Haymarket** small sums could improve current arrangements somewhat – for example, improved signing, lining and coloured surfacing for the 'semicircle' route recently marked just beyond the Haymarket 'jug-handle.' This could reduce crashes but certainly won't stop them all. Our longer-term solution [Spokes Bulletin 118] with a Morrison Street/ Haymarket Terrace segregated cycleroute would need roadspace re-allocation, consultation, traffic Orders, money and courage by the council. **If you support our idea, please ask your councillors to get it considered alongside the council's east-west cycleroute proposals.** www.writetothem.com

TRAM VIDEOS

Edinburgh trams have released 'safety videos' for people walking, cycling or driving. They are all at this press release...

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1457/tram_testing_set_to_increase

The videos are interesting but, as we know, the tramline layout is not properly designed for crossing at right-angles. The reasons why it is as it is are in our Oct 17 news item at spokes.org.uk.

TRAINLINE TRAUMAS

As if the tramlines were not enough, **several cyclists have been injured** by the rising bollards recently installed in the Waverley south ramp. Cyclists are now meant to use the north ramp, but unfortunately the sign at the south ramp is far too small, and is particularly easy to miss in the evening. Anyone caught out should email joanna.noble@networkrail.co.uk. Please also copy to our bike/rail person., ewan@navyblue.org.uk.

GRANGE-PRESTONFIELD

Spokes member Graham Dann is convenor of Grange/Prestonfield Community Council's Roads & Transport subcommittee. He welcomes suggestions and would like to speak to any local resident interested in joining the CC. There are often cycling-related topics on the agenda – cycle sheds, theft, routes etc.

Contact: g_dann@sky.com. www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk.

Meetings are the 3rd Weds of the month, 7-9pm, at Cameron House Community Centre, Prestonfield Av, and open to the public. **Wednesday 19th March 2014** - Paul Matthews from the City Council will describe planned cycle routes in the south of the city – including a link from Pollock Halls to Ratcliffe Terrace.

OTHER COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Consider joining your local community council. Find them, Edinburgh or Lothians, at www.spokes.org.uk/links/council-links.

BIKE REPAIR STATIONS

Inspired by similar structures in North America and Australia, the **Edinburgh College Sustainability Department** has built four bike repair stations, hoping that having a set of tools and a pump at all campuses would encourage staff and students to cycle to work.

Built from recycled metal by the college's facilities team, at around £150 per unit, the structures include tools to change tyres or tubes, screwdrivers, spanners, etc. A pump is built in, ensuring it cannot be stolen. The stations have proved very popular and other institutions across the city now look set to follow the college.



The repair stations are open 24/7 for anyone to use - not just college members. Fortunately, 3 of the 4 campuses lie near busy cycle routes. **Granton campus** is connected to the Telford and Ferry road path and to Crumond promenade. **Sighthill campus** is near the new tramline path east to Murrayfield and an existing path west towards Edinburgh Business Park. The Innocent railway path connects the city centre to the college's **Milton road campus** near Portobello. Thousands of cyclists use these paths every day, and signs will point them to the repair stations. Two stations are near the main entrances of the **Milton road** and **Midlothian** buildings and the other two campuses get their stations shortly.

For more info email sustainability@edinburghcollege.ac.uk.

CYCLEHACK : June 20-22

Led by a team of regular cyclists, Cyclehack is a 48-hour event to make cities more cycle friendly. We aim to crowd-source ideas and innovations to improve the cycling experience, with designers, developers, pedestrians, drivers, and all who make journeys. More info: www.cyclehack.com. johanna@cyclehack.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact Spokes if you can help...

BIKE BREAKFAST 'FEEDER' RIDES The Bike Breakfast is June 18, in National Bike Week & Edinburgh Festival of Cycling.

For the last 2 years, Mike Smith organised feeder rides to the breakfast, with local coordinators/leaders who also invited local councillors to join. <http://breakfastbikeride.org.uk/pwp/wordpress/>

Sadly Mike is now away, but can advise by email if someone could take this over. The website should be easy to update,

CIVICRM We are considering using this software to allow an online membership option. If anyone has experience using it and could offer comments/ useful advice please get in touch.

JIM ORR & ADAM McVEY

As mentioned in our recent members' email circular, **Cllr Jim Orr** resigned from the Council SNP Group and so lost his position as Transport Cttee Vice-Convenor. **We thank Jim for the important role he played supporting Council cycling policies and the cycle budget.** New Vice-Convenor is Leith councillor **Adam McVey**. It is not yet decided if he will have a special cycling responsibility and/or chair the Council Cycle Forum. **In any case, cycling issues are best first raised via your own councillors** www.writetothem.com.