

*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).*

**!!! Please read Spokesworker carefully and act on any items you feel strongly about. Find your councillors/MSPs at [writetothem.com](http://writetothem.com)**

## IMPORTANT EVENTS... one short, one medium, one long!

**All 3 events are fun in themselves – but they also help the case for more, better cycling conditions & routes.**

### **Short but big: Apr 26 Pedal on Parliament 2014**

See [pedalonparliament.org](http://pedalonparliament.org) and Mar 17 news at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) – why it matters and how to help. **Please contact PoP if you can help** – stewarding on the day, bike leafleting in advance, etc.

### **Medium: Apr 21 John Muir Festival launch**

The John Muir walk/cycle recreational route, now extended from Dunbar to the West of Scotland, is launched in Dunbar at 9.30am by First Minister Alex Salmond, with music, stalls, etc. Cyclists can carry flags on the first leg, Dunbar to North Berwick. More info and registration link at [www.johnmuirfestival.com](http://www.johnmuirfestival.com).

### **W'end: Apr 26-27 Solway/Forth Trailblaze Ride**

with bikebus transport from Edinburgh & luggage/support backup throughout. **For info & to book**, see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) Mar 5 news or go direct to [www.chain-events.co.uk/2014\\_scottishc2c.htm](http://www.chain-events.co.uk/2014_scottishc2c.htm).

NB - We regret the unfortunate clash with Pedal on Parliament, due to late approval of PoP date by the council, by which time it was too late for the organisers to change dates. 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: there's only 15 spaces on the bikebus from Edinburgh for the trailblazing ride, so book soon.

## ... ALSO FOR YOUR DIARY

**April 9 Edinburgh Local Access Forum** – news and discussion of path & access issues. 3pm. See after River Almond article below.

**April 17 Cramond Community Council 7.30.** Includes discussion of options to replace the River Almond Steps – see article below.

**June 12-22 Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** [www.edfoc.org.uk](http://www.edfoc.org.uk)

**June 14 St Andrews Ride** [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk/lepra-ride.htm](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk/lepra-ride.htm)

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

**June 21 Spokes 'Thank you for Shopping by Bike'** There will be a Spokes stall at the Farmers' Market [10.00-13.00] and goodies will be handed out at the bike racks to thank people for shopping by bike. [To volunteer at the stall and/or racks (if you are a member) contact [martyn.edelsten\[at\]jed.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten[at]jed.ac.uk) 228 5830].

## RIVER ALMOND STEPS

The Council is developing options to replace the long steps on the River Almond path between Cramond Brig and Cramond Village.

On **April 17, 7.30, Cramond Kirk Hall** the options will be outlined and discussed at the Community Council, open to the public. Please go along if this interests you – and particularly if you live in the area. See [www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-River-Almond-Walkway/339305972814515](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-River-Almond-Walkway/339305972814515).

An Aug 2013 council Finance Cttee report on the project is at... [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/40301/item\\_7\\_22\\_replace\\_ment\\_of\\_salveson\\_steps\\_on\\_the\\_river\\_almond](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/40301/item_7_22_replace_ment_of_salveson_steps_on_the_river_almond)

### ... AND OTHER PATH ISSUES : Weds April 9

The Almond project and many other path developments will be reported/ discussed at Edinburgh Local Access Forum (open to all) on **Weds April 9, 3pm**, at the City Chambers, High Street.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5r7ruu0nqlaifcq/Access%20Forum%20April.14.pdf>

## F'BRIDGE FUTURE

Plans for the huge site between the canal and Fountainbridge, east of Viewforth, are still at Fountainbridge Library **until April 11. Send comments/queries to:** [lisablyth@7narchitects.com](mailto:lisablyth@7narchitects.com) **by April 18.**

Here are some ideas already submitted by Spokes members – you may like to include some of them in your own comments...

- ♦ artist impression shows towpath blocked with trees, benches and bodies sunbathing(!), yet this section has very high bike use.
- ♦ cycle lanes marked on Fountainbridge along north end of site, but need continued both ways (outside this site boundary)
- ♦ need to consider segregated on Fountainbridge, especially from Telfer Subway, giving connection to North Edinburgh paths.
- ♦ the steps to towpath on east side of Viewforth need converted to a ramp which cyclists can use - the plans showed new steps
- ♦ widening towpath at the cobbled bit (over the proposed new big underground car parking) but with smooth surface.
- ♦ drawings appear to show the towpath paved with setts. Again, possibly just an artist's impression, but it's not acceptable.
- ♦ Need more housing in mix - site near city centre, good transport

## CANAL-MEADOWS

Richard Grant represented Spokes at a Feb 28 Council workshop to discuss options for this route, due for public consultation this year, construction 15/16. Below is his report [abbreviated to fit]...

We were discussing options prepared by consultants. Overall, it was from our point of view very positive, though at an early stage.

There were about 25 to 30 people including a large contingent linked to the consultancy firm and the Council. There were also local representatives (including one local trader), Kings Theatre Manager + reps from PoP, Living Streets, Friends of the Meadows.

**Home St/Leven St** All 3 options here had a toucan crossing from Lochrin Pl across Home St followed by a 2 way segregated cycleway on the east side of the road to Tarvit St. The options varied in the width of the cyclepath (3m or, in one case, 4m) and where the space came from. One option also created a second bus stop to reduce the number of buses stopping in front of the Cameo since this sometimes leads to buses backing up and blocking Lochrin Pl. Loading/parking space is also an issue although the survey by the consultants suggest that this is being widely abused at present. Points to bear in mind:

- Is 3m on Home St wide enough?
- The form of separation
- Access to the toucan from Lochrin Pl
- The above bus stop issue

**Tarvit St** The preferred option here was to close the road at the Home St end, eliminating through traffic, and allow 2 way cycling while keeping the large majority of parking spaces. However there was some support for an option which simply had an advisory contra flow cycle lane. Points for us to watch out for are:

- How cyclists turn left or go straight across when travelling south or west to Gilmore Pl if the road is closed
- How the road might be closed and what exceptions would be allowed (Kings and emergency vehicles are essential)
- Any suggestion of an advisory contra flow cycle lane must be robustly rubbished.

**Brougham St** All options had a toucan crossing out of/into Tarvit St and the workshop favoured a segregated 2 way, 3m cycle lane from North Meadow Walk to the toucan crossing.

## TOWNS: ACTIVE TRAVEL

Spokes has been participating in consultations on the government's **Town Centre Action Plan**, which aims to help regeneration and economic activity in Scotland's towns. Our submission and other documents are at [spokes.org.uk:documents:national](http://spokes.org.uk:documents:national).

We were very disturbed that the TCAP classed Active Travel as a 'long-term' action - and, indeed, the only long-term action! We wrote to Planning Minister **Derek Mackay MSP**, who then arranged for us to meet senior officials involved in the TCAP.

The meeting felt useful - our notes are at the above link. We have also had an email confirming that **active travel can now be included from the outset in TCAP demonstration projects**.

*The government is keen to get the following...*

- Examples/ case studies (particularly from Scotland) where active travel has been used to assist in town centre activity.
- Active travel ideas centring around town centre accessibility which are likely to get local support and which could if successful be implemented on a wider scale and/or elsewhere.

**If you have information/ideas on (a) and/or (b) please email**

[Susan.Brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Brown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) & [Colin.Armstrong@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Colin.Armstrong@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) with a copy to Spokes. Note that the TCAP does not have much funding of its own - it relies on working with other government departments, national groups like Sustrans, and local groups.

We also raised with officials our wider concerns about poor linkage between transport and planning [Spokes Bulletin 118, p6-7]. These points will be considered, and there will also be a seminar at which we can present to officials our slide presentation on this.. [see [spokes.org.uk:documents:odds & ends:talks about Spokes](http://spokes.org.uk:documents:odds&ends:talks%20about%20Spokes)].

## TRAMLINE SOLUTION?

Tramline crashes are now less frequent than in 2013, with greater awareness by regular cyclists, and removal of the Haymarket taxi rank. Nonetheless they continue at a depressing rate. **Here are some comments from recent victims...**

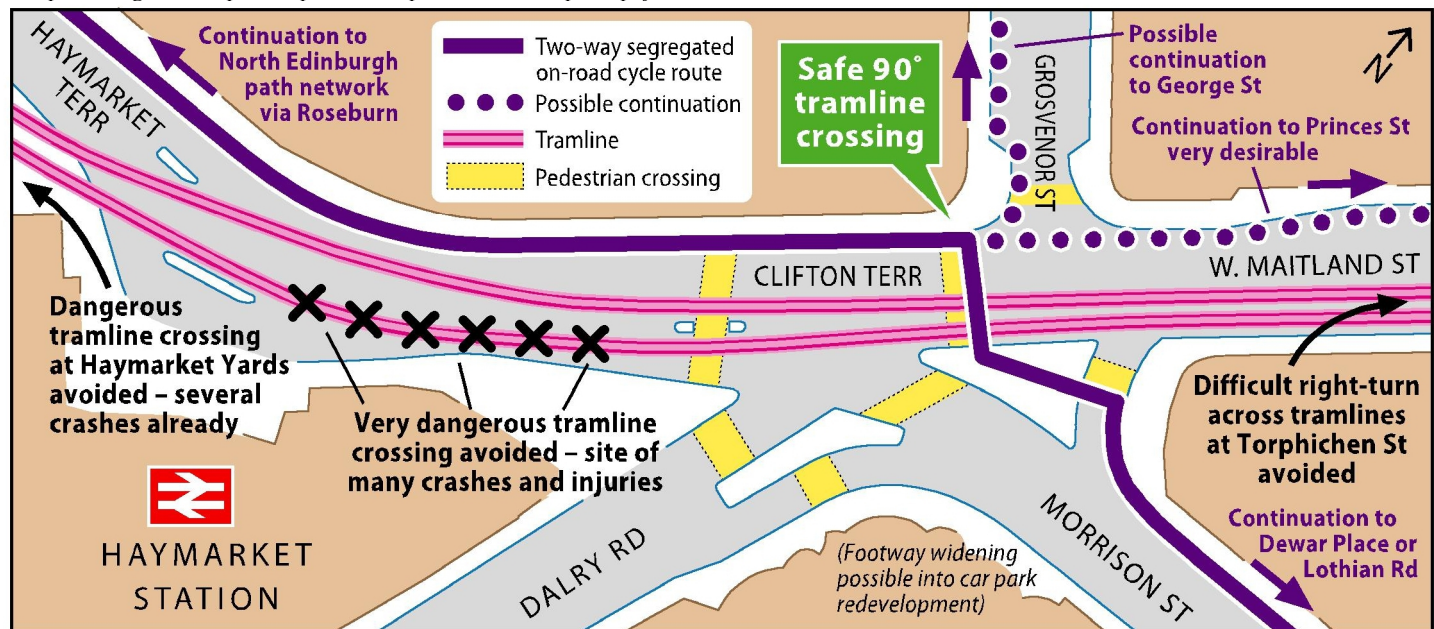
♦ [fractured cheek bone] *I am a very experienced cyclist and regularly commute 20 miles across Edinburgh*

♦ [stitches needed to chin] *Despite my awareness of accidents here and my best efforts to cross safely, I had a nasty accident*

A recent case is the first we have heard of where the crash resulted in being **hit by a passing car**, which ran over the victim's foot.

Spokes has proposed a segregated route in Morrison St and the north side of Haymarket Ter. Although ambitious [for Britain] this ties in with an option the Council is already considering for its east-west city-centre route. More info in Spokes Bulletin 118, p3. **However our idea has little hope unless councillors back it. So, if you support us, please tell your councillors** [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

The map below is on page 3 of Bulletin 118 - all councillors have received a copy, but you can also send them the link at [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/pall6.pdf](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/pall6.pdf).



## A CYCLING TOP JOB

Ian Aitken, CEO of Cycling Scotland, is moving on. Applications for the post close on 28.4.14. See [www.cyclingscotland.org:news](http://www.cyclingscotland.org:news).

**Key Responsibilities include [abbreviated]:**

1. Manage staff resources such that Cycling Scotland's aims and ambitions are developed in a challenging and strategic manner.
2. Recommend plans for effective implementation of the strategy and be responsible for sound financial management of budgets.
3. Produce and monitor a Business Plan and Risk Register.
4. Promote Cycling Scotland to current and potential stakeholders.
5. Work with the Scottish Government, Local Authorities, RTPs and others to deliver the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland.

## GLASGOW QS REBUILD

Glasgow Queen Street station is to undergo a massive rebuild to allow longer trains and to hugely improve (hopefully) the frontage onto George Square. Plans are at a very early stage and Network Rail is seeking comments from the public. After their failure to include a Bike Hub at Haymarket [repairs, hire, supervised storage, etc][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](http://www.egip.info/projects/we-are-redeveloping-queen-street-station).

Glasgow Cycling Campaign, **Go-Bike**, have a subgroup to lobby on this. **If you have ideas** contact convener[AT]gobike.org and copy in our spokes bike-rail person [ewan\[AT\]navyblue.org.uk](mailto:ewan[AT]navyblue.org.uk).

## BRIEFLY...

**PUBLIC MEETING** Our March 24 public meeting with Prof Colin Pooley and Council leader Cllr Andrew Burns was the best and ever, with over 120 people, latecomers having to use the gallery. Report + link to Prof Pooley's slides at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

**PUBLIC BIKE HIRE** Boris Bikes and Paris Velib are just 2 of 100s of schemes [worldwidewikipedia.org/wiki/Bicycle\\_sharing\\_system](http://worldwidewikipedia.org/wiki/Bicycle_sharing_system). With Glasgow starting soon, Edinburgh is feeling left behind and is seeking the necessary commercial sponsorship/support.

**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 from local areas, with local leaders for each ride, who also emailed councillors for the area, asking them to join in. Unfortunately Mike is no longer in Edinburgh. It would be great if someone could do the same this year. Mike's website would be easy to update, and he is available to advise by email... <http://breakfastbikeride.org.uk/pwp/wordpress/>

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