

Spokes Planning Group Meeting – 24th January 2011

Attending – Sandy Scotland (Chair), Peter Hawkins, Alec Mann, John Love, Marion Preez, Liane ????, Euan Renton

1. **Planning Committee Decision Making Process Consultation** The Council is consulting on changes to the planning process up to 25th February. Details are online at the Council's web site.
2. **The Council's Final Open Space Strategy is available on line**
3. **Access Forum ???**
4. **Westfield Avenue to Water of Leith Cycle Path** - Changes to the path are planned and seem to improve things but we need to ensure a write of access is maintained. Peter to write to the Council
5. **Napier University off Calder Road** – new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been prepared by the Council – no controversial aspects so no action proposed.
6. **Dropped Kerbs and Pavement Parking Bill** – Sandy to write expressing Spokes support for the proposal to prevent the blocking of dropped kerbs
7. **Newcraighall -2 Major Housing Developments** – Peter wrote objecting on behalf of CTC because the developments are sucking up green belt and making car dependent communities. Also it proposed the destruction of the railway bridge abutments which really should remain and become part of a strategic off road route from Edinburgh eastwards No Spokes objection was to the plans and in discussion it was agreed that where A CTC objection was being made but it was not possible to do a fully independent Spokes one, an endorsement of CTCs position by Spokes would be made rather than no objection being made. A further discussion noted that Peter had written to the Council to ask why the Urban Design Panel had supported the destruction of the bridge. Spokes needs to try and influence this group if strategic issues are at stake.
8. **Cycling Walking and Safer Street** – Likely preservation of this funding stream in the proposed Scottish Government was noted along with the need to ensure COSLA did not undermine this position.
9. **Quality Bike Corridor** – The exact reason for new TROs was unclear at the meeting. Richard Grant has since then clarified that they relate to Statutory Elements only and further consultation will inform other TRO requirements.
10. **Canal Towpath Consultation** – Submission for Spokes by Richard Grant gratefully noted.
11. **Travel Expenses Payments for Students from SAAS** – These can include costs for public transport but not money to buy a bike. Euan to write asking for clarification from a Government minister as this is contrary to the stated objectives
12. **Restoration of Lining and Surfacing** – Correspondence from a member suggests the Council is not acting on reports of defective restoration of markings. Sandy to sign off a letter seeking clarification.
13. **New Fountainbridge Development** - Fits well with existing development and should help to provide a good path from Haymarket Station to the canal. No action proposed.
14. **Meeting with Planning Officials about Poor quality cycling infrastructure** – Sandy to chase up a note of the meeting and follow up action
15. **Slateford Gait Development** – A resident has warned the developer is trying to back out of providing a through site cycle path – Sandy to write to Planning
16. **Crossing the Tram Tracks at the Mound** – A positive meeting with the Head of Transport had been followed by a negative letter from same. Clarification was being sought.

Next Meeting – 7th March, 8.00PM, 19 Saughtonhall Terrace, Edinburgh