

# *Spokes circular to members in West Lothian*

18.02.14

## **A. Weds 26 Feb. Malcolm Fraser: Town Centres talk in Linlithgow**

Malcolm Fraser chaired a working group to produce a report for the Scottish Government last year on boosting town centres, and will talk about this. Since then the Govt has brought out a Town Centre Action Plan – Spokes has commented on this, as we are not happy with its treatment of cycling/walking. The relevant documents, including links to the Town Centre report and Action Plan are all here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/campaign-submissions/national/>

The talk is 8pm at Linlithgow Burgh Halls, and is the annual lecture of Linlithgow Civic Trust. More details...

<http://www.lct.org.uk/programme.htm>

Please note – at the time of writing the above programme says Tues 26<sup>th</sup>, but it is in fact Weds 26<sup>th</sup> (it may be corrected by the time you read this).

## **B. Fri 28 Feb. Canal and Greenspace talk in Linlithgow**

Steven Cole of the Scottish Waterways Trust will speak on *Canal And Greenspace Development* – his work in West Lothian and Falkirk areas.

7.30pm, Linlithgow Canal Centre, Canal Basin.

More info at... <http://www.lucs.org.uk/events.htm>

The above page include a link to a pdf with more info about the talk and Steve's work.

## **C. Cyclist killed on B800, Kirkliston to Queensferry**

<http://www.linlithgowgazette.co.uk/news/local-news/police-appeal-over-road-death-1-3309145>

<http://citycyclingedinburgh.info/bbpress/topic.php?id=12240>

## **D. Beecraigs : access issues**

The path from Linlithgow to Beecraigs, starting off Preston Road at the end of the built-up area, has been surfaced all the way and is now suitable for cycling though you need gears for the gradients in places. A welcome alternative to the narrow, twisty and too-fast road.

Unfortunately a cyclist has come down too fast with a resulting crash, and so the council is installing chicanes. Apparently these are designed such that you can cycle through them without much difficulty if you are going slowly – e.g. uphill!

I couldn't find anything about the new path on the Beecraigs site, but was disappointed to find that the 'How to get to Beecraigs' page concentrates on car and has no mention at all of cycling.

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/tourism/countryparks/beecraigs/visitorbeecraigs>

If anyone has time to follow this up please do so. It is a common problem on visitor websites. Spokes has had some success at a few locations in Edinburgh, and we have lots of useful ideas here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/links/green-travel-to-public-sites/>

## **E. Cycle access at other public sites**

If anyone has the time to check up on the websites of all known visitor and other public attractions in West Lothian, you could do a great job as above. It would be interesting to have a report on what the present situation is and on what success you have in emailing to suggest changes – you could for example give organisations the link to the above Spokes website page. Please let me know if you are interested in doing this, as such a report could be used to encourage similar in other places.

## **F. Council applications to Sustrans**

The Council has applied to Sustrans for match-funding for the projects below. Apparently Sustrans has had about 50% more applications than they can fund, so if West Lothian's applications are of average quality, we can expect about 2/3 of them to get funding.

1. B7010 Fauldhouse to Longridge - Provision of Missing Cyclepath Link
2. B8084 Whitburn to Armadale - Cyclepath Provision and Link to Railway Station
3. Bathgate Hills - Cycling/Walking Friendly Roads
4. Blackridge NCR75 Realignment and Access to Railway Station
5. Broxburn Links to Union Canal Towpath
6. Cellars Path to Union Canal - Upgrade Core Path
7. Golf Coarse Road & Braehead Park Links to Union Canal Towpath Linlithgow
8. Linlithgow Academy & Sports Centre Links to Union Canal Towpath
9. Livingston Network - Wheeling Ramps to Steps
10. Meadowhead Grove, Addiewell – Link and Access to Railway Station
11. Chapelton Drive, Polbeth to Harburn Drive, West Calder - Upgrade Cyclepath
12. Riddochhill, Blackburn to Wester Inch, Bathgate - Cyclepath Provision
13. Starlaw West Roundabout to Boghall Roundabout - Cyclepath Provision

Spokes was asked for comments on the list, but a extremely short notice, so consultation with members was not possible. The response is here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/members-campaigning/west-lothian/>

## **G. If you have time, check the council website every so often for anything where comments may be useful...**

**Planning applications** – see the latest list here

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1210/161/PlanningApplications/>

Do plans for new developments, shops, businesses, etc include bike parking and/or storage?  
What about access or connections to nearby networks, etc, etc?

There's a Spokes factsheet about commenting on Planning applications...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/advice/lobbying-councils/>

**Other council consultations** [none current at this time]...

[www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council\\_and\\_government/consultations/](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/consultations/)