

06.08.15

To: Spokes members in and near West Lothian

[please read items 1 and 3 soon!!]

1. Linlithgow Canal Fun Day, 16 August – Spokes stall – *Help vital !!*

We have been offered free space, table provided, for a Spokes stall at the above. Someone from Edinburgh can bring all the necessary materials out in advance and take them back the next day. It's a great opportunity to publicise Spokes, our West Lothian map and cycling in general. There is always a big turnout because the event includes a cardboard boat race!

The materials need to be carried to/from my house on the day, the stall set up and staffed, so at least 2 people, ideally 3, are needed. I can be one but unfortunately none of our Edinburgh stall organisers are available, and I've had no offers so far from an email to members in Linlithgow. We need to take the materials from my house around 11.30 a.m., and the event ends around 3.30-4pm.

If you can help some or all the time, please let me know asap - otherwise we will cancel the stall.

2. My Favourite Bike Ride – Spokes summer competition – *WL entries needed !!*

Despite the great prizes, we've not yet had any entries from West Lothian - please make sure we do! Last time we ran this comp (10 years ago) two of the prizewinning entries were West Lothian. Note that as well as the main prizes there are Spokes maps as consolation prizes for other good entries. Full details...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/07/comp-my-favourite-bike-ride/>

3. Queensferry 'placemaking exercise' **Sat 8 August, 9am-1pm, QF High School**

Help decide the future of the town and its local area at this community planning event organised jointly by the Council, Community Council and local group Queensferry Ambition. Details here...
<http://planningedinburgh.com/2015/07/24/queensferry-placemaking-exercise/>

I think the idea is you can drop in at any time, and will then be put into a group of others, but conceivably you are meant to be there the whole time.

4. Sesplan 'Main Issues' consultation - drop-ins

Sesplan links the 6 councils in South East Scotland and is drawing up an overall development plan which will include issues like the location of housing and cross-boundary transport links (including cycleroutes). They are now consulting the public on a 'Main Issues' report which describes the main issues as Sesplan sees them. During August/September there are drop-in consultation sessions where you can find out more and make comments. See these useful links...

<http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/main-issues-report> - the Sesplan 'Main Issues' website, including downloadable copies of the Main Issues Report and also an 'easy-read' version.

<http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/get-involved> – a list of the consultation drop-ins.

The West Lothian drop-ins currently planned are...

Mon 10 Aug, 2-7, **Livingston** Civic Centre

Thu 20 Aug, 6-8pm, **Linlithgow** Burgh Halls

Tue 1 Sept, 6-8pm, **Bathgate** Partnership Centre

Please check the above web link before attending as some times/locations may change [and others may be added if there is local demand]

5. Livingston 20-milers

Volunteers from West Lothian Sustrans group organise monthly free rides (first Saturday of the month) which you are very welcome to go along to. They say that the rides *"are at the easy to moderate level, suitable for occasional and less experienced cyclists to encourage cycling for leisure and commuting. We favour easy paths and gentle gradients where possible, and aim to avoid heavy traffic. We will wait on stragglers, help with punctures. The rides are not suitable for unaccompanied children."*

Full details at <http://livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk/> or email [livi20milers\[AT\]outlook.com](mailto:livi20milers@outlook.com).

6. Council cycling page

West Lothian Council's cycling web page has been improved a lot over the last year. Find it here...
<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/4251/Walking-and-Cycling>

7. Spokes West Lothian + Livingston map

It is difficult getting our map out to local book and bike shops, and we hear of people who have tried unsuccessfully to find one. We're thinking of asking for local volunteer(s) who could check their local bike and/or book shop(s), ask if they would like a supply, and keep a check if they run out. Arrangements still to be worked out, but please get in touch if you'd like to help.

8. Spokes on twitter and facebook

Twitter...

<https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian>

Facebook...

<http://www.facebook.com/#%21/pages/Spokes-the-Lothian-Cycle-Campaign/169099526468801>

Website...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/>

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