

Spokes Action Update 06.02.15

... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address it may not yet be in our database, so this message may go to your old address or possibly to both.
... When using email addresses below, replace [AT] by @.

This circular is a little earlier than usual but there are some vital closing dates in 1 and 2 below.

1. BUS LANE CUTBACKS – OUR OBJECTION [*please object & contact your councillors*]

Awareness is growing over the Council plans to scrap Saturday bus lanes and cut the all-day weekday lanes to peak-hour only. Because this affects pedestrians as much as cyclists we have teamed up with **Living Streets**, who have now contributed to our draft formal objection. It will also be signed by **Greener Leith** community organisation, because the 'exemplary' Leith Walk will be compromised by the bus lane cuts; and by **FOE (Scotland)** who are concerned about pollution aspects.

Useful links for more info...

- (a) **Our draft objection:**
<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/1501-Bus-lane-TROs-objection-v3.pdf>
- (b) **New website article:** <http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/02/awareness-grows-on-bus-lane-cutbacks/>
- (c) **Previous article** [with details of how to object to the Orders authorising the plan]:
<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/01/buscycle-lanes-carlorry-lanes-unless-you-object/>
- (d) **Our main tweet:** <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/562902571208437760>

You can do a lot to help add weight to our objection...

- **Submit your own individual objection** – this can easily be done by email, as explained in (c) above
- **Speak to your councillors** – ask them to support you and speak to the Transport Convener. We have already had some interesting feedback as a result of members doing this – see (b) above.
- **If you use twitter** see (d) above and give us a further retweet.
- **If you belong to an organisation which might be concerned** (e.g. a cycling group, or a school or playgroup who might be concerned about more cars & lorries next to the footway as kids walk home) please draw this to their attention and ask them to object, speak to councillors, and tweet!

We cannot understand why the council, whose policies are *succeeding* in raising cycling, bussing and walking, and cutting car use, should suddenly retreat, make cycling conditions more intimidating, pavements noisier and more splashy, and risking Edinburgh's hard-won reputation as a top public-transport city. [For data on Edinburgh's progress see the census links in section 1 [here](#)].

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS *to comment* & PAN EXHIBITIONS *to attend*

Check out our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals every week or two to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle, and for information on how to look them up on the council website.

Find the page at spokes.org.uk : documents : local : current-pas-and-pans

or click this link to go straight there...

www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans/

There are currently a high number of particularly important proposals. These include the following [as always, there are more on the above page!]

a. Planning applications [with final date to comment/object; Ref No.; Location; Our brief notes]

Feb 13 14/05305/AMC **Granton, West Harbour Rd development** Includes vital east-west coastal route section

Feb 16 15/00304/ADV **Calder Road, large illuminated hoarding** Danger - distracting to drivers

Feb 23 15/00238/FUL **West Shore Road, new prom** Part of Council coastal route long-term plan

Feb 27 15/00322/FUL **Morrison St/Festival Sq, offices & open space to replace disused multistorey car park** Opportunity for N-S route via Chuckie Pend and E-W between Festival Sq and Conf Sq

b. PAN exhibitions [with exhibition date; Ref No.; Location; Our brief notes]

[really important!!] **Feb 24** 15/00225/PAN **International Business Gateway (IBG)** Full cycle network needed internally in this massive development, and connecting externally, including north side of A8. Also another opportunity to point out that the planned pedestrian underpass of the A8 to the new Gogar tram/rail interchange (and onwards to the IBG) should allow cycling rather than get-off-and-push [a fight we lost, and probably now too late, but worth reiterating the point and use it to argue for top-quality surface access to the IBG].

Feb 18 15/00353/PAN **Longstone Road residential develop** Possible connection Murrayburn Dr to Calder Rd?

Feb 16-17 15/00169/PAN **Lothianburn Club House, re-use of Golf Course for MTB trails & outdoor activity** Clubhouse could be a bike hub? [maintenance, spares, etc]

3. DONALDSONS SCHOOL SITE EAST-WEST PATH ... Council Ref 15/00090/PAN

[second exhibition, 19 March]

Many thanks to members who went to the Feb 3 PAN exhibition on this development, as notified in our last circular. The developers are now looking seriously at including this hugely valuable east-west path, which would provide an **offroad connection between the Roseburn Path and the West End**; from Wester Coates Gardens, through the site, to Magdala Cres.

We also got a report on STV Local !! [if the link below fails, google *stv local edinburgh cyclist cala*]

<http://edinburgh.stv.tv/articles/309083-spokes-cycle-campaigners-call-on-donaldsons-developers-to-include-path/>

There is to be a second exhibition, provisionally on 19 March, also 4-8pm, at Apex Hotel Haymarket, which is meant to show what the developers now propose. Please go along and leave written comments, or submit comments by email. [Please copy emails to spokes]. If you cannot attend, or wish further info, contact the developers direct... Richard.murphy@richardmurphyarchitects.com, 0131 220 6125.

4. 'SHOW THE LOVE' WEEK, FEB 12-19

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, and their many associated organisations, are holding many meetings of all types across Scotland, and some of the events are bike-related. Check out the programme at...

<http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland/events>

SCCS also wants to know what it is that you love which is threatened by Climate Change. See what other people say, and add your own contribution at <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/fortheLoveof>

5. FOR YOUR DIARY

- March 26 **Cycling in the City Centre** Spokes Spring Public Meeting - the future for the immediate central area, George Street, Princes Street, etc. Headline speaker – **Cllr Lesley Hinds**, Transport Convener of Edinburgh City Council. Also **Professor Tom Rye** from Napier Transport Research Institute and **Richard Darke**, project manager for Essential Edinburgh. More details here... <http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/01/public-meeting-the-bicycle-in-the-city-centre/>
- Feb 21 **Space for Cycling, Campaigner Training Day**, 10.30-5pm. More info and to book: www.eventbrite.com/e/space-for-cycling-campaigner-training-day-tickets-15199725789 If booking, say you are a spokes member.
- Feb 28 **Spokes Spring mailout and Bulletin 121**. Delivery helpers will be notified nearer the time.

6. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 2015/16 BUDGET – SUCCESS (SORT OF) !!

We have been campaigning hard since the draft budget was published in October. Our detailed investigations showed clearly that, as it stands, total cycling investment in 2015/16 would be down from 14/15, with infrastructure investment suffering particularly badly. This could affect future funding for council projects across Scotland – for example, Edinburgh's planned city centre Roseburn-Leith route. Many members contacted their MSPs – *thanks if you are one of them!*

The final budget debate and vote were on 4 February, and the pressure worked, with **an extra £3.9m announced for cycling and walking infrastructure**. This brings total cycling expenditure in 15/16 up to equal its record 14/15 level. However, the total is still way below what would be needed to give a chance of meeting the government's 'vision' of 10% of trips to be by bike in 2020. Also the amount going to infrastructure still falls, as £5m was transferred from infra to 'Smarter Choices' at the time of the draft budget.

There is still a possibility of further cash, since there is a £20m 15/16 'Future Transport Fund' which is as yet unallocated. Last year the government provisionally announced that £5m of this would be for cycling infrastructure, and we have assumed that in our calculations. If it turns out to be more than £5m then total cycling investment in 15/16 will end up higher than 14/15, and we have some hope that this may happen.

On this topic, we've done an interesting article showing how government cycling investment has changed, from 2001 to 2015 – a real rollercoaster, though fortunately overall upwards

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/02/scottish-government-cycling-cash-2001-2015/>

7. SCHOOL STREETS CONSULTATION [*consultation ends 27 Feb*]

Edinburgh Council is to experiment with pedestrian/cycle-only zones outside 11 Primary Schools at opening and closing times – i.e. motor traffic will be banned at these times.

The lucky schools are... Abbeyhill, Bonaly, Buckstone, Clermiston, Colinton, Cramond, Duddingston, St John's, Sciennes, St Peter's, Towerbank.

If you are affected - or anyway if you like these plans - fill in the online questionnaire, attend the public drop-ins, and tell your councillors what you think. [Full consultation details here](#).

If you live outside Edinburgh - tell your councillors about the Edinburgh plans and ask them to do similar. NB – East Lothian Council already has a similar experiment [at Haddington schools](#).

8. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED [**Can you help?**]

- **Bike Breakfast feeder rides organiser** Our annual bike breakfast is likely to be 17 June [date not yet confirmed]. Last year we really missed having someone to coordinate feeder rides from local areas, and so very few happened, unlike in previous years. A website is available to coordinate and publicise local rides, ride leaders etc, so we need a person to look after this and to be in touch with local ride leaders, list local politicians who are joining in, etc.

9. MAJOR CYCLEROUTE DIVERSIONS

a. DALKEITH/ESKBANK – BORDERS RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

We have been sent the following info..

A diversion is in place around Hardengreen near Dalkeith. Hardengreen Lane will reopen fully, and as part of the National Cycle Network, at the end of May 2015. There may be access for pedestrians before that date. The work involved is the resurfacing of the lane and the construction of new footpaths leading to the new Eskbank railway station. For more information, visit www.bordersrailway.co.uk or call 0845 604 4146. You can find a map showing the diverted cycle routes here: <https://sustransscotland.wordpress.com/>

There are also road works on Dalhousie Road, between Edinburgh College and Hardengreen Lane. This is the widening of the footpath to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists travelling to/from Eskbank railway station. The works will last some weeks and are funded by Midlothian Council and Sustrans.

b. A90 ROUTE TO FORTH BRIDGE

The cyclerooute is closed between Burnshot Wood and Barnougle Gate for approx 10 weeks from Feb 2nd, with a long (and hilly) diversion through Dalmeny Park – not good if you are commuting, but pleasant on an afternoon leisure ride! The new path beside the A90 will have 'vaness' to deal with the glare from car headlights, which is a particular problem here. [or 'veins' beside this 'arterial' road, as someone put it!]

There is a map showing the diversion here...

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4615/a90_cycle_path_upgrade_020215

10. FINALLY ...

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We have an active **twitter** presence, [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). Please look every so often, and RT any tweets you support. The latest Spokes tweets now also appear on our website in the right-hand column.