

Spokes Action Update 23.05.15

... 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 @.

1. BUS LANES DECISION DAY, 2 JUNE - *contact your councillors if concerned*

You will doubtless remember the Council's proposal to cut back all-day bus lanes to peak-period only, and scrap bus lanes entirely on Saturdays. Spokes put in a substantial objection, jointly with Living Streets, Greener Leith and FOE (Scotland). Many individuals also objected and/or contacted councillors.

Council processes grind forward slowly, but at last decision-point has arrived and the Transport Committee on Tuesday June 2nd will consider the objections and decide whether to go ahead with this 1.5 year trial. **We are asking them either to scrap the plan or to hold a public consultation on various options** rather than going ahead with just the one option chosen by the Council, peak-period bus lanes only.

Our case has been greatly strengthened recently by Glasgow City Council, who also wished to rationalise bus lane hours but, unlike Edinburgh, first consulted on 3 options: peak-only, 24/7 or 7-7-7 (7am-7pm, 7 days a week). The consultation showed that peak-only (i.e. Edinburgh's plan) was *the least popular option*, and Glasgow has now decided to go ahead with 7-7-7.

Spokes has drawn up a new briefing paper highlighting Glasgow's decision and the inadequate consultation which has taken place in Edinburgh. You can find our briefing paper, the joint objection, and other useful documents, in this article on our website... www.spokes.org.uk/2015/05/glasgow-7-7-7-shows-the-way.

If you support us please contact your councillors urgently. Briefly explain your concerns and ask them to support you and to speak to the Transport Convener, Cllr Lesley Hinds, or to their colleagues on the Transport Committee. Find your councillors at www.writetothem.com. If you wish to go further, ask your councillors if you can speak to them about it by phone, and how/when is the best time/number to call them.

2. BIG SPOKES DATES – *please come!!*

- ◆ **June 15 Bike/Rail Integration - Spokes Summer Public Meeting** – speakers from ScotRail, Sustran and Transform Scotland, then QA/panel discussion chaired by Spokes member Sarah Boyack MSP. Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, 7.30. Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat. Full details and poster here www.spokes.org.uk/2015/05/bikes-rail-june-15-spokes-public-meeting/
 - ◆ **June 15 Annual General Meeting** – An AGM will be held from 6.00-6.30pm, before the public meeting, at Augustine United. The meeting will be asked to approve Spokes moving towards becoming a SCIO [[Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation](http://www.scio.org.uk)] - this will limit liability if we are ever sued, and it will allow us to reclaim tax from donations. Any current member is entitled to attend the AGM. Further information about the meeting will be emailed to members in advance. [You are a current member if you are receiving this email. If there is a renewal form in your next mailing (end of May) then you are nearing the end of your grace period for renewing!]
 - ◆ **June 17 Spokes Bike Breakfast**, 7.45-9.45, City Chambers, High Street. All the usual stalls and activities, plus short speeches from Council Transport Convener **Cllr Lesley Hinds** and Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Cycling Group co-chair, **Alison Johnstone MSP** [just confirmed]. A poster can be downloaded here www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BikeBrek-FINAL.pdf.
 - ◆ **Spokes stalls** – come along to buy a map or just to say hello. We always need more volunteers to help at stalls. If you can help, please email martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk or volunteer at a stall.
- Forthcoming stalls...**

Sat June 6 – Meadows Festival www.meadowsfestival.org

Sat Jun 27 – Canal Festival www.edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk

Sat July 25 – Farmers Market, Castle Terrace <https://twitter.com/EdFarmersMarket/>

3. May 27 CLIMATE RALLY, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 12-2pm [1-1.30 most important]

- ◆ 2015 is a really important year, with the UN climate talks culminating in Paris in December, and the Scottish Government reporting on their progress (or not) towards meeting their emissions reductions targets set out in the Climate Act.
- ◆ MSPs will be present to speak to, and thousands of messages from people all over Scotland will be handed to the Minister.
- ◆ Full details... www.stopclimatechaos.org/holyrood-rally

4. June 11-21 EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF CYCLING www.edfoc.org.uk

- ◆ A fantastic, diverse, jam-packed celebration of cycling – technical, political, social, inspirational, educational – films, rides, meetings, skills, talks – what more can we say except that Spokes is proud to be an EdFoC supporter
- ◆ All members will get a printed programme in their mailing in late May, or pick up a copy now in most bike shops, or find out more online at www.edfoc.org.uk – some events are already nearly booked out.
- ◆ Our June 15 public meeting and June 17 bike breakfast above are part of EdFoc.

5. MORE FOR YOUR DIARY – see also the events column at www.spokes.org.uk

- ◆ **May 27 Gogar Station Road celebration** The dreadful surface here has now been replaced, and the road redesigned with cycle lanes on both sides, and no central white line. It is hoped that cars will be careful of cyclists as they will have to encroach on a cycle lane in order to pass a motor vehicle going the other way. Henry Whaley who works nearby and has done a lot of lobbying about the state of the road is asking anyone pleased with the project to come and celebrate at 8am on Weds 27 May. More info... https://twitter.com/hank_chief/status/601477750545854464
- ◆ **June 1 Edinburgh – Fit for Walking?** Public meeting of Living Streets Edinburgh, 6pm at Quaker Meeting House. More details... <https://twitter.com/LivingStreetsEd/status/601826320075661312>
- ◆ **June 11 Leith Walk Consultation drop-in** 4-8pm, McDonald Road Library. This is for phase 4, Pilrig to McDonald Road, which will include segregated cycle lanes. More info... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/newsblog/post/797/proposed-designs-unveiled-for-next-phase-of-leith-walk-improvements
The drawing: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5432/design_proposals_for_leith_programme_phase_4.pdf
To avoid confusion, please note that the bottom drawing, with tramlines, is just a 'concept' to show that it is possible to fit tramlines in. *If* the tram to Leith later does get approval, detailed plans would be issued for consultation at that time – and, incidentally, if that happens it gives us an opportunity to argue that the new segregated lanes should be extended to the Foot of the Walk when the road below Pilrig is again dug up for the tram.
- ◆ **June 19 Craggs All Ability Bike Event** – a great collection of pedal-powered machines to try out, especially for people with disabilities. At Craggs/Skelf Centre, 10 Bowmont Place, 10am-3pm. More info here... <https://twitter.com/POPScotland/status/601704688854130688>
- ◆ **June 19-21 CycleHack Edinburgh** – part of the global CycleHack movement – your ideas and inspiration to boost cycling. Details soon at <https://twitter.com/cyclehackED>

6. SPOKES OFFICE

We are extremely grateful to everyone who responded to our request for volunteers to redecorate the Spokes office - especially Judy Cantley who coordinated the work and Bob Allen from St Martins Centre. The room is now virtually finished, and we have held a small thank-you 'room warming'. The volunteers, in addition to Judy and Bob, are... Goff Cantley, John Wilkinson, Martyn Edelsten, Tim Smith, Laurence Smythe, Rosanna Rabaeijs and Alec Mann.

7. BIKES ON TRAMS (off-peak)

As far as we know the one-month trial has been going well, and it seems likely it will now continue indefinitely, although there may possibly be a hiatus at the end of May. Several members have reported trying it and all told us it went well. "No one batted an eyelid" said one, despite 2 buggies also being on board.

8. SNIPPETS

- ◆ **A90 Cyclerooute, Roseburn to Forth Bridge.** Work on the difficult section between Burnshot Wood and Barnougle Gate is now complete, and the route reopened. The new path has 'vanes' to deal with the glare from car headlights, which is a particular problem here. Everyone who has told us about the new section says it is wonderful!
- ◆ **Spokes member Chris Oliver** has been appointed *Honorary Professor Physical Activity for Health* at Edinburgh University. He will be working within the [Physical Activity for Research Health Centre](#). PAHRC is a research centre within Edinburgh University's Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences and is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in the field of physical activity for health. It aims to provide evidence of how to encourage people of all ages to 'sit less and walk more (and cycle)' - major public health objectives. You can follow Chris (or should that be Prof Oliver!) on twitter at [@CyclingSurgeon](#).
- ◆ **Sustrans Scotland Community Links projects** are now summarised in an online map here... <https://sustranscommunitylinks.wordpress.com/2015-16-projects/> For earlier years, click *Community Links Projects* further up that page.
- ◆ **Booking bikes on ScotRail trains** – the revamped website lost the ability to book bikes, though we are assured this facility will be returned as soon as possible. However you *can* book bikes on ScotRail trains if you buy your ticket on some other rail sites, such as Virgin East Coast!
- ◆ **Spokes traffic count** – Many thanks to the volunteers who undertake our bi-annual traffic count. The results this may found bikes to comprise the highest ever proportion of vehicles, with car use falling at all 4 count points. www.spokes.org.uk/2015/05/traffic-count-bikes-highest-ever

9. EAST LoTHIAN, NEW ROODLANDS HOSPITAL

A Haddington member tells us there has just been an exhibition of initial plans for the above. He reports that all the proposals have the main entrance on the north side of the complex but show a cyclepath to the south - an extension to the Longniddry railway path. This path could be extended further to Haddington so providing foot and cycle access to the hospital. Foot/cycle access could also be greatly improved by locating the hospital entrance close to this path, rather than oriented to the car park as at present.

Our member has commented about this and would like any others who know the area to do the same, and maybe to come up with other ideas. Outline details (not a map, unfortunately) can be found here... www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/OurOrganisation/PropertyDevelopments/CurrentProjects/EastLothianCommunityHospital/Pages/default.aspx. For more information, and to submit email comments, the contact is... Andrew Milne, Project Director at Andrew.Milne@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk.

The East Lothian Courier had a news item with a few more details... www.archive.eastlothiancourier.com/news/roundup/articles/2015/04/16/529747-new-hospital-to-open-by-late-2017

If you'd like to contact our local member to share ideas, email donald.smith.mail@gmail.com.

10. 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/

For once, there are few significant proposals (at the time of writing)!

11. FINALLY ...

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We have an active **twitter** presence, [@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.