

# Spokes Action Update 12.08.15

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... 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 @.  
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**After a short Action-Update in July, there is now loads going on!! Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up. Item 1 is very immediate. We also need some volunteers [item 3] and more competition entries [item 2]. Then continue with items 4 and on!!**

## 1. GEORGE STREET CONSULTATION *This Thursday*

Drop-in consultation on 'key issues' for the long-term future of George Street.

Thurs 13 August, 2-7pm, Roxburghe Hotel, 38 Charlotte Square.

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1895/help\\_shape\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_george\\_street\\_layout](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1895/help_shape_the_future_of_george_street_layout)

In case you are confused about what's going on in George Street, here's the timeline...

- (a) Sep 2014 – July 2015 Experimental redesign of Geo St with 2-way seg cyclerooute
- (b) Aug 2015 Messy temporary solution around Universal Arts Festival venue
- (c) Sep 2015 - (??)2017 Interim George St arrangement with advisory cycle lanes – note that we unsuccessfully lobbied for (a) to remain in place until (d) was ready, but the Council decided that the necessary Traffic Regulation Order legalities to enable this were too complex.
- (d) (??) 2017 Final solution – probably with 1-way seg cycle lanes on each side.

The main aim of the Aug 13 consultation is to get public views for what should be in (d). Note that this is about *all aspects of the future of George Street* - not just cycling, not just transport.

## 2. SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION *Closing date 6 September – enter now!!*

Our great summer competition tradition continues. The theme this year is '**My Favourite Bike Ride.**' We hope to make winning entries into a booklet, like we did in 2005 when we last ran this topic for the competition, and which has proved very popular over the years. So by entering you'll be helping Spokes as well as yourself!

There's the usual range of excellent prizes including 1<sup>st</sup> class return travel for 2 on ScotRail, a £50 Bike Coop voucher, Camera Obscura tickets, and many more. There are also prizes of a Spokes map for up to 15 good runner-up entries. Since we normally get around 30 entries, you therefore have a very high chance of a prize!!

Please also ask friends and colleagues to enter. Full rules, details of prizes, and entry form here...

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

## 3. HELP NEEDED

- (a) **Linlithgow Canal Fun Day** – Spokes Stall – **Sun 16 August**, 12.00-3.30. ***We only have 2 volunteers for our stall.*** If you fancy a trip to Linlithgow (to see the cardboard boat race!) and can help setup and/or staff the stall please ASAP contact davedufeu[AT]gmail.com. [www.lucs.org.uk/canal-fun-day/](http://www.lucs.org.uk/canal-fun-day/)
- (b) **Shakespeare by Bike** - Aug 18-30 [The Handlebards](http://www.handlebards.com) [www.handlebards.com](http://www.handlebards.com) are Shakespearean players who tour the UK taking all their costumes and props by bike – even charging electrical equipment batteries by hub dynamos as they cycle! Their Fringe shows are part of a 1500-mile tour, London to Coupar Angus. They will perform open-air shows at the Botanics plus ***shows on Aug 18,19,25,26 where the audience cycles to a mystery destination.*** They need helpers for these 4 shows to lead groups of 12-14 people by bike from the Bedlam Theatre [Forrest Road] to a destination within Edinburgh [you will be given route details], starting at 4.30pm. You'll get a free ticket to the show. ***If interested in helping, please email ASAP to*** shane[AT]blether.org.uk.

- (c) **Bikes on tram** – Although delighted that Edinburgh is [the first UK tram to allow bike carriage](#) [off peak] we are disappointed with the decision to impose a blanket ban during big events such as the Festival [August 7-31] and on sporadic other dates during the year [e.g. Highland Show days] rather than allowing guards discretion when space permits. If this has inconvenienced you, [ask your councillor](#) to look into whether the rules can be made more flexible. **Secondly** – researcher Peter Atkinson from Leeds University is looking into integration of bikes with public transport and is keen to interview [presumably by phone?] a few people with experience of bikes on tram. If you'd like to be interviewed, email him at [tspa@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:tspa@leeds.ac.uk) or phone 07910 837060.

#### 4. FOR YOUR DIARY

- (a) Sun 16 Aug **Linlithgow Canal Fun Day** – Spokes Stall – see 3(a) above.
- (b) Sat 22 Aug **Farmers Market, Castle Terrace - Spokes stall** – 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](mailto:martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk) or volunteer at a stall. <https://twitter.com/EdFarmersMarket/>
- (c) Sept 19&20 **Edinburgh CycleFest** – Not to be confused with the **Festival of Cycling**!! Cyclefest is basically a big exhibition by bike suppliers of all types – together with entertainment, bike events, kids cycling, etc. **There will be a Spokes stall**. There is an entry fee. Accompanied children under 15 are free.

#### 5. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CHOICE: TRUNK ROADS OR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT?? – email your MSPs

Chancellor George Osborne in his Summer Budget 2015 announced a **Roads Fund for England**, which will see Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) – which, ironically, is to some extent a tax on pollution – spent exclusively on motorways and major trunk A-roads from 2020. Scotland will have a choice how the VED cash raised here will be used - Chancellor Osborne said that the UK Government would “*engage with the Devolved Administrations on how the money is allocated there.*”

Seven Scotland-wide charities [Transform Scotland, Sustrans Scotland, WWF Scotland, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Ramblers Scotland, Paths for All and Living Streets Scotland] [have called for a Scottish alternative](#) - “*an approach which reflects Scotland’s world-leading ambition on climate change*”.

**This really matters – it will be a huge sum of money. How should it be used??**

In a [letter to the Scottish Government](#), the charities call for the VED revenue to be spent on

- infrastructure to increase walking and cycling
- better integration of sustainable transport modes (bus, rail, walking and cycling)
- a repair fund for the existing local road network and footways.

***If you agree...***

- [Email your MSPs now](#), and ask them to speak to Finance Secretary John Swinney and Transport Minister Derek Mackay about this.
- With Holyrood elections coming up next year it's also worth emailing the opposition parties to ask them to put this in their manifestos. **Labour** Mary Fee MSP and David Stewart MSP; **Conservative** Alex Johnstone MSP; **Lib Dem** Willie Rennie MSP; **Green** Alison Johnstone MSP. Find their email addresses [here](#).
- If you use twitter, give us a RT [here](#).
- Send us any useful replies.

## 6. EDINBURGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Edinburgh is divided into 12 [Neighbourhood Partnerships](#) which aim to improve the quality of life in their local area. Each includes representatives from the local community, local Councillors, the Police, Health, voluntary sector and other local organisations. Each NP has council support from officers and also [budgets for small local projects/improvements](#). They also have cash for small local infrastructure changes, such as dropped kerbs.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and get involved in NP local projects/ subgroups/ action groups. Click [your local area NP web link](#) to find the date of the next meeting and/or your NP contact persons.

Each NP has developed a *local community plan* for the area, most of which include encouraging more use of bikes and walking. Find the plans [here](#). **Have a look at your local plan and contact the NP if you'd like to get involved in any of the proposals.**

### CITY CENTRE NP GETS CYCLING/WALKING CASH – *ideas to use the cash?*

The City Centre NP recently applied successfully for 'Smarter Choices Smarter Places' cash to encourage more walking and cycling in the area – this money is primarily for local behavioural change initiatives, whilst the Council centrally deals with infrastructure projects. There is an emphasis in this particular project on walking, but cycling too can be included. For more info, to pass on ideas, or to get involved email the NP contact [here](#).

## 7. EAST LoTHIAN ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN *drop-in consultations, Aug 27- Sep 10*

Like Edinburgh, East Lothian has set up '[Area Partnerships](#)' covering the whole county. Each AP will be drawing up its own local Area Plan - this is at an earlier stage than Edinburgh's.

Drop-in consultations are being held in each area to look specifically at sustainable travel – cycling, walking, bus, rail, etc. You are welcome whether you live in, work in or visit the area. The results of the consultations will *also* feed into an [East Lothian Active Travel Improvement Plan](#), ATIP.

The drop-in sessions have been notified to us in an email but the Council doesn't seem to have them online yet. More information is available by email from [eastlothianonthemove@peterbrett.com](mailto:eastlothianonthemove@peterbrett.com). We suggest you check before travelling a long way to any of these sessions or for any other queries, or to make suggestions. All sessions run 3-8pm.

- Aug 27 N Berwick, Community Centre
- Sep 1 Tranent, Fraser Centre
- Sep 2 Dunbar, Bleachingfield Centre
- Sep 3 Musselburgh, St Andrews High Church
- Sep 7 Haddington, John Grey Centre
- Sep 10 Port Seton centre

## 8. SESPLAN - SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - *drop-ins*

[Consultation is underway](#) on the Main Issues to be included in a Strategic Development Plan (including cross-boundary transport, housing location and much more) for the whole of South East Scotland, from Fife to the Borders. The best way to see quickly what it is all about is the '[Easy-Read Guide](#)' – transport is covered on pages 13-14 and 'green networks' on page 12. The full document is the [Main Issues report](#).

You can comment online at the above site, but there is also a series of [drop-in sessions](#) throughout S.E. Scotland running through till 17 September. There are too many to list here, but in August they include Dalkeith (Aug 18), Linlithgow (Aug 20), Corstorphine (Aug 24), Edinburgh Waverley Court (Aug 27) and so on... Click the above link to find places, dates and times.

If you have thoughts you'd like included in a Spokes response please email [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk), and/or cc us if you submit a personal response to the consultation by email.

## 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS *to comment/object* & 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, using the Council reference number which we list. Find the page at..

[spokes.org.uk](http://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/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans/)

As explained there, a PAN is the stage before a Planning Application. It involves a public exhibition and consultation on a major development before the developer is allowed to submit their planning application.

**There are several significant proposals on the go at present, where cycle connections could be usefully incorporated, and this is more likely to happen if members of the public (you?) comment and/or object.** Some are listed here, but see our above web page for more.

15/02777/PAN **Dundee Street student accommodation** – chance to improve surrounding cycle routes. *Exhibition 19th Aug., 2 – 7.30pm, Fountainbridge Library*

15/03458/PAN **Balerno, Newmills Road** Huge residential development (on green belt?) *Exhibition Balerno High School, 19 Aug, 4.30-9pm*

15/03314/PAN **Haymarket Goods Yard** – looks like permission to amend previous plans (possibly only affecting the buildings not the public space?) *Exhibition 20 Aug, time tbc, Hilton Grosvenor.*

15/02778/PAN **Winton Gardens** residential development – need cyclerooute connections. *Exhibition 25 Aug., 3.15-7.30pm, Oxfords Library.*

15/03332/PAN **Curriehill Station Road** residential development – potential to improve cyclerooutes. *Exhibition 2 Sept, 2-8pm, Currie Library (staffed), and also at Library 3-11th Sept (unstaffed)*

Also... **LITTLE FRANCE PARK** PAN exhibitions

There is a **massive** proposed development for the Edmonstone / Little France area. It is vital that this includes relevant sections of an Edinburgh-Midlothian link, as well as cycle-friendly development of the whole area so that bike becomes a normal means of travel for residents. We know that Midlothian Council planning department are speaking to the developer about links on the Midlothian side, but the more public pressure the more likely this is to happen. There are two exhibitions, for different sections of the whole site...

15/03214/PAN *Exhibition 18 August, 3.30-7.30 pm, Hays Business Centre (Hay Avenue, off Niddrie Mains Rd).*

15/03231/PAN *Exhibitions on 1 September at The White House, Craigmillar (4-7.30 pm); and on 2 September at Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Moredun (4-7.30 pm).*

continued on next page

## 10. SPOKES SNIPPETS

- ◆ **Spokes Midlothian map – correction.** The map incorrectly shows a station at Heriot on the new Borders Railway. The Scottish Government's original plan had no stations between Gorebridge and Galashiels. There were strong local campaigns for intermediate stations at Heriot and Stow, and at one point both seemed hopeful. However, although the Stow campaign succeeded, Heriot failed.



- ◆ **Spokes Summer Bulletin –** we have plenty spare copies available. *Please contact us if you could use a supply* – for example to leaflet bikes parked at shops and other destinations in your local area (or any area you are visiting). This would be especially welcome in the outer areas of Edinburgh and in the Lothians.



## 11. FINALLY ...

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://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 also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ◆ The **Spokes Facebook page** is now back in operation. If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc! Initially it will mainly be repeating stories from the website, and we hope also to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook soon.