

# Spokes Action Update 28.08.15

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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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- Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up.
- This circular is a little earlier than usual - to remind you that you've only one week left to enter the Spokes competition!! (see 1 below)
- If you live or work in *the Lothians*, outside Edinburgh, there are several items that may 'specially interest or affect you – see 6-9 below.

**Stop Press great news!! ...** See our tweet <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/636600096763867137>

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

Only one week till the competition closes! We've not yet had as many entries as we'd like, so please be part of the last-minute rush. **Your entry stands a good chance of winning either a prize or a runner-up free map.**

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

There's a great range of prizes including **1<sup>st</sup> class return travel for 2 on ScotRail**, a **£50 Bike Coop voucher**, **Camera Obscura tickets**, and many more. Plus runner-up prizes of a Spokes map for up to 15 good entries.

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/>

## 2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- (a) We need **stall helpers** for CycleFest (Sep 19 & 20 – see 4a below). If you can help please contact Martyn Edelsten, [martyn.edelsten@jed.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten@jed.ac.uk)
- (b) **Cycling from Edinburgh to the December Paris Climate Summit?** Martyn Edelsten is considering doing this. If interested in joining him, email [martyn.edelsten@jed.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten@jed.ac.uk). See also 3 & 4b below.
- (c) **Spokes Summer Bulletin** – we have plenty spare copies. *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.

## 3. SPOKES AUTUMN PUBLIC MEETING, Nov 17 *Save the date now!!*

This will be a major meeting on the topic **Climate, Transport and Cycling**, as part of the lead-up to the world Paris Climate Summit in December and the big rallies being held in **Edinburgh** (28 Nov) and London (29 Nov).

- **Alison Johnstone MSP** - *Climate, Transport and Cycling: How the Scottish Government and Parliament are (or are not) responding*
- **Dave Gorman**, Director of [Edinburgh University Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability](#) – *How this major Edinburgh institution is responding*
- **Tom Ballantine**, Chair of [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#) – *What is happening in Paris and in the run-up in Scotland*
- **More details soon on our website when venue is confirmed [Augustine is unavailable]**
- *For related items see 2(b) above and 4(b) below.*

## 4. FOR YOUR DIARY

- (a) 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 <15 are free).
- (b) Sept 26/27 *To Paris and Beyond* – Training/information workshops in **Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness** about the Paris Climate Summit and local campaigning, by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. [www.stopclimatechaos.org/paris-training-weekend](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/paris-training-weekend)
- (c) Sat 24 Oct **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/>
- (d) Tue 17 Nov **Spokes Autumn Public Meeting** *Put in your diary now!! See 3 above*

## 5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS *to comment/object* & PAN EXHIBITIONS *to attend*

Check our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals every week or two to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle. We also explain how to look them up on the council website, using the Council reference numbers below. Find our page at... [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : *documents* : *local* : *current-pas-and-pans* or click here 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.

**Below are some current proposals, where cycle connections could be usefully incorporated. This is more likely to happen if members of the public (you?) comment and/or object.** See our above web page for more.

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

15/03725/PAN '**South Scotstoun**' (Provost Milne Grove, South Queensferry) Residential development - 3 huge sites on greenfield land. *Exhibition QF High School, 2 Sept 4.30-8pm and 5 Sept 10am – 1pm.*

**Little France Park** ... There is a **massive** proposed development for the Edmonstone / Little France area. It is vital that this includes 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, - to Edinburgh, to Midlothian and within the site. There are several exhibitions, for different sections of the whole site...

15/03214/PAN Exhibition now over, but comments can still be submitted

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).*

## 6. MIDLOTHIAN TRAVEL & CYCLING INFO

- [Cycling in Midlothian 2015](#) – comprehensive and attractively produced Council pdf on what is happening: new & existing routes; station link paths; bike-friendly tourist attractions; school initiatives; etc. This download and other cycling info are on the [Council cycling webpage](#).
- [Cycle Midlothian! 2015](#) – similar title but totally different content! This is a factsheet of destinations which welcome cyclists - cafes, attractions, bike shops, etc. From the [Visit Midlothian website](#).
- **Midlothian Travel News** An occasional Council email newsletter covering all aspects of travel in ML, including cycling. It is unfortunately not posted on a website, but to get on the distribution list email [karl.vanters@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:karl.vanters@midlothian.gov.uk). We put a recent issue with several cycling items on our website [here](#).

## 7. WEST LOTHIAN TRAVEL WEBSITE

- The new(ish) cycling officer, Deborah Paton, has drastically improved the Council's web pages on 'smarter travel.' Find them at [www.westlothian.gov.uk/smarter-travel](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/smarter-travel).
- Although not West Lothian, the planning proposal exhibition for the huge South Scotstoun proposals may be of interest – see 5 above.

## 8. 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. 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 are now online at <http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/smartertravel>. There is also an **online survey** at that website.

- 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

All sessions run 3-8pm. More info from, and comments to, [eastlothianonthemove@peterbrett.com](mailto:eastlothianonthemove@peterbrett.com).

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

[Consultation is underway](#) on the Main Issues to be included in a Strategic Development Plan for the whole of South East Scotland, from Fife to the Borders - including cross-boundary transport, housing location and much more. 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 website, but there are also [drop-in sessions](#) throughout S.E. Scotland, running till 17 September. September events include **Bathgate** (Sep 1), **Portobello** (Sep 2), **Waverley Court, Edinburgh** (Sep 3), **Currie** (Sep 7), **Edinburgh City Chambers** (Sep 9, Sep 14 - special event), **Bonnyrigg & Gorebridge** (Sep 16), Gilmerton (Sep 17). 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.

## 10. 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. Check our 'favourites' for particularly important or interesting tweets. 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.