

Spokes Action Update 26.09.15

... 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.

... **Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up.**

If you live in...

- Midlothian or Borders - don't miss item 4a
- Edinburgh Southside – don't miss item 4b
- East Edinburgh or Queensferry – don't miss item 7
- Central Edinburgh – or if you ever cycle there – don't miss item 8

If you are concerned about...

- Climate change – don't miss items 3, 4d, 6a
- Pavement parking or double parking [Scotland-wide] – don't miss item 10
- Parking in cycle lanes, or city centre weekend kerbside car parking – don't miss item 9
- Government funding for cycling (too low) and or for trunk roads (too high) – don't miss item 1

Stop Press great news!! ... See our tweet <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/639754668856508416>

1. SCOTLAND CYCLING CASH UNCERTAINTY / TRUNK ROADS CASH CERTAINTY ??

It's all explained on our website, here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/09/scotland-cycling-cash-uncertainty/>

and here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/09/cash-for-cycling-or-for-trunk-roads/>

2. MY FAVOURITE BIKE RIDE - SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION RESULTS

Our big thanks to everyone who entered. We had 38 great entries and judging is now complete. The full story, list of prizewinners, and links to every entry will be in a news item on our website any day now!!

A selection of the entries would form the basis for a fantastic booklet of favourite local bike rides – like we did ten years ago when we ran the same competition. The graphic artist who did our previous booklet may not be available this time, so if you are interested in volunteering please get in touch. Some fairly skilled work would be needed, including creating outline sketch maps of the rides, and liaising with us on presentation and content.

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*

Full details now on our website here....

www.spokes.org.uk/2015/09/nov-17-public-meeting-climate-transport-cycling/

4. ASSORTED OPPORTUNITIES

a. BORDERS RAILWAY SURVEY

If you live in Midlothian or the Borders, please complete this survey .. <http://questionpro.com/t/ALhcsZStFd>

b. WEST CROSSCAUSEWAY 'CAUSEY' PROJECT – *28 Sept Meeting*

The next meeting, open to all, is 7-9pm this Monday 28 Sept.

The project has raised a large sum towards its aim of reducing traffic dominance and restoring space to walkers, cyclists and local activity. However although traffic will be reduced, the plans concern us in some respects..

- Chapel Street would be narrowed in this area, presumably removing the cycle lanes and causing potentially dangerous pinch points for cyclists at each end.
- It appears that the existing round-topped setts in West Crosscauseway would be relaid. This would remain a dreadful surface for many types of bike. Alternatives should be considered such as paved strips through the cobbles [like at historic Linlithgow Cross] or sawing the setts in half and relaying with flat sides up [this solution is being used in a historic area in Bristol].
- There will be a 25mm dropped kerb along the whole of Chapel Street, bordering the proposed triangular community space. This needs to be flush for cyclists turning eastwards toward West Crosscauseway.

c. CONCERNED ABOUT EDINBURGH AIR QUALITY??

Citi-Sense is a European initiative, with an Edinburgh local project, to enable citizens to contribute to improving local environments. The Edinburgh group, based at Heriot Watt University, would like concerned citizens to complete a short survey about perceptions of air quality in the city and/or to download an app enabling you to report air quality any time, any place in the city, thus creating a 'citizens air quality perception map.'

For more info and the survey and app, go to <http://edinburgh.citi-sense.eu/>.

d. CLIMATE LEADERS TRAINING SESSIONS – for 20-30 age group *Apply by 4 Oct*

Free training and development sessions covering leadership and other professional skills for climate change and low carbon economy training. Details [here](#).

e. SCOTTISH C2C GUIDE

This is an excellent new guide to the developing, and now largely signposted, route across Southern Scotland, coast 2 coast from Annan to the Forth Bridges. The author has included a free advert for Spokes maps, in exchange for which we are telling you about the book – but we have no hesitation in doing so as it is a very nice publication. Available from www.bikeridemaps.co.uk/publisher/excellent-books.

An earlier much more limited guide was [sent to Spokes members](#) some time ago.

5. MORE FOR YOUR DIARY

- Oct 4 **Spokes Sunday ride**, with picnic lunch-stop in Linlithgow in Dave du Feu's garden (tea/coffee provided, bring your own food). More info: <http://snowcycle.co.uk/>
- Oct 24, 7.30-11.30pm. A ceildh to celebrate 20 years of the **Sustrans National Cycle Network** and to raise funds for Sustrans. St. Bride's Community Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 2DZ. Band - Ceilidh Calerie, community band of Scots Music Group. Tickets £10 - book online at <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/events/ceilidh-edinburgh> or by phone from St. Bride's, 0131 346 1405.
- Nov 17 **Spokes Autumn Public Meeting** *Put in your diary now!!* See 4 above
- Nov 28 **Scotland's Climate March** – Scotland's part in international community pressure in the lead up to the December Paris international summit. www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-climate-march

6. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- (a) **Cycling from Edinburgh to the December Paris Climate Summit?** Spokes member Martyn Edelsten is organising a group to do this. If interested in joining him, email martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk. Or see <http://edinburgh2paris.org/>
- (b) A **skilled graphic artist volunteer** to help create a booklet of favourite bike rides – see (3) above

7. 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 : *documents* : *local* : *current-pas-and-pans* or click here to go straight there... 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.

15/03929/PAN “off Greendykes Rd” – **actually west of The Wisp** residential development – potential to improve cycleroutes. *Exhibition October 6th*, Hays Business Centre, Craigmillar, 3.30-7.30pm.

15/04234/AMC **Fishwives Causeway/ Portobello High St** Planning application for residential development adjacent to planned Family Network route – opportunity to greatly upgrade Fishwives Causeway for cycling. *Comment by 12 October.*

South Queensferry, Builyeon Rd [not yet registered with the Council??] Huge proposed residential/ employment/ school development - Public exhibition **echline primary school, bo'ness road, south queensferry** on friday 2 oct, 16.00-20.00 and saturday 3 oct, 09.00-3.00. More info: alan.farningham@farnmac.co.uk.

8. GEORGE STREET CONSULTATION *Attend on 2 October*

Drop-in consultation 2-7pm, Assembly Rooms, October 2. This is billed by the Council as "*a final chance to meet the designers, landscape architects, planners and civil engineers working on a long-term vision for George Street.*" Council news item...

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1934/have_your_say_on_the_future_layout_for_george_street

In case you are confused about what's going on in George Street (we don't blame you!) here's the timeline...

- (a) Sep 2014 – Aug 2015 Experimental redesign of Geo St with 2-way seg cycleroute
- (b) Sep 2015 - (??)2017 Interim George St arrangement with advisory cycle lanes – note that we unsuccessfully lobbied for (a) to remain in place until (c) was ready, but the Council decided that the necessary Traffic Regulation Order legalities to enable this were too complex.
- (c) (??) 2017 Final solution – this is what is now being consulted on. Council officials have now several times said pretty clearly that the final solution is expected to incorporate 1-way seg cycle lanes on each side. If you like the idea, it's worth going along and saying so – verbally and in writing.

9. PARKING CONSULTATION 1 – EDINBURGH *Comment by 31 October*

The Council is consulting on a draft Parking Action Plan, which will implement some of the commitments made in the Council's Local Transport Strategy, including introducing city-centre weekend parking restrictions – one of the aims being to make conditions safer and more attractive for walking and cycling.

Our Planning Group has not yet drawn up its response and would welcome your thoughts – but most important, please do make your own response. One member who looked at the draft plan had these thoughts...

- Good news on evening and weekend car parking restrictions
- Should the areas covered be wider?
- There is very little on the vital issue of enforcement, except that fines will be used to increase this. It's important to point out that enforcement of existing regs for parking in cycle lanes is inadequate.
- Action no.33 (parking in cycle lanes) - good that this is 'priority 1' but disappointing that the date given is 2017. It's not clear if that is when the action begins or when it is due to be completed! - but we should certainly ask for early attention to it. A similar action is in the Council's Active Travel Action Plan, ATAP, which makes it doubly important.

The consultation details are here... <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/parking-action-plan>

This includes a short **online survey** for completion by individuals.

There is also a public exhibition Sep 21-30 at the Central Library, followed by drop-in sessions across the city during the first 2 weeks of October – details at the above website.

10. PARKING CONSULTATION 2 – SCOTLAND, PAVEMENTS & DOUBLE PARKING

Please comment by 6 November

The Footpath Parking and Double Parking (Scotland) Bill has moved to its next stage in the Scottish Parliament, scrutiny by the Local Government and Regeneration Committee.

The Committee is seeking public comments, and it is vital that supporters do this since there are sure to be objections too. You may also have improvements to suggest – we have not yet looked carefully, but there is an argument that it should be toughened up, for example removing some of the proposed parking ban exemptions.

Full details here...

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/91536.aspx>

including a simple online survey

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FootwayDoubleParkingBill/>

Note that detailed submissions should be in word format and e-mailed to lgr.committee@scottish.parliament.uk, which is also the email address for any queries.

If you are on twitter, please add to our many RT's!

<https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/643385278686736385>

11. 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. Check our 'favourites' for particularly important or interesting tweets. The latest Spokes tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ◆ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook soon.