

# Spokes Action Update 22.11.15

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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.

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

- Tue 24 Nov – Roseburn to Canal drop-in consultation – see 4 below
- Th 26 Nov – **Roseburn to Leith Walk** [Roseburn] drop-in consultation – see 3 below.
- Tu 24-Th 26 -Various PAN planning proposal drop-ins – see 5 below
- Sat 28 Nov – **Scotland Climate march** – see 2 below
- Wed 2 Dec – **Roseburn to Leith Walk** [Haymarket/ West End] drop-in consultation – see 3 below.
- Tue 8 Dec – **Roseburn to Leith Walk** [City Centre/ East End] drop-in consultation – see 3 below.

## 1. SPOKES AUTUMN PUBLIC MEETING REPORT

Despite the very wet evening over 100 people came to what turned out to be one of our best ever public meetings in terms of chatting, speeches and an excellent QA session. There is a full report, including videos of the speeches, on our website here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/11/public-mtg-calls-for-fairer-funding/>

We've also tweeted it, with pictures of the 3 speakers. If you use twitter, please RT!

<https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/668042831378972672>

## 2. SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE MARCH, SAT 28 NOVEMBER – *see you there*

Full details here... <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/march>

The Spokes banner will be on the march. We need help carrying and accompanying it – we intend to have the banner visible somewhere on or near Middle Meadow Walk by 11.45 on Saturday. We'd also appreciate help then handing out the autumn Spokes Bulletin (which has a transport/cycling/climate supplement) to interested people as they assemble. If you will definitely be able to help, and can let us know in advance, please email Mies [mknotenbelt1 AT gmail.com].

**Correction:** In a previous circular we said to meet from 12.15. That is wrong – meet from **11.45**. By 12.15 there are likely to be literally 1000s of people and it will be hard to find anyone.

There will also be a Spokes stall in one of the marquees in Princes St gardens at the end of the march. Come and say hello!

There is a new briefing about why the Paris climate summit matters, and what Scotland should be doing, at...  
[stopclimatechaos.org/sites/default/files/SCCS-Paris-briefing-Nov2015.pdf](http://stopclimatechaos.org/sites/default/files/SCCS-Paris-briefing-Nov2015.pdf)

### 3. EAST-WEST CITY-CENTRE CYCLEROUTE CONSULTATION – *responses are vital*

We stress the importance of individuals (like you!) responding to this Council consultation – undoubtedly the most important ever by Edinburgh on a cycling project, providing a largely segregated route from Roseburn through the city centre via George Street, and continuing to the segregated lanes promised on Leith Walk and Picardy Place. The project will take significant amounts of space from parked and moving motor traffic, and as such there is likely to be significant opposition to the plans, so support is vital.

In our cycling 'bubble,' where cycling has so many positives, it can be difficult to imagine how opposition can build up – often from taxi firms and/or shopkeepers. But in parts of London, posters have appeared and public meetings been held calling for plans to be scrapped; for example see this recent Guardian article...

[www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/oct/05/bike-lane-blues-london-local-businesses-cycle-enfield-green-lanes](http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/oct/05/bike-lane-blues-london-local-businesses-cycle-enfield-green-lanes)

We very much hope things will not reach that stage in Edinburgh, but it emphasises the need for maximum support for the proposals from large numbers of individuals, as well of course as the main Spokes response. Some councillors are nervous about the likely level of opposition, and so maximum support is vital.

Of course, you may well have comments on how the plans could be improved – if so, please do make your suggestions – that is what the consultation is for! - but please do so in a positive context, saying how pleased you are to see the Council coming forward with an ambitious scheme like this [assuming you are!] and then pointing out how you would like it improved further.

Details of the consultation are here ... <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/roseburntoleith>

#### How to respond...

- Online survey at the above website ... and/or ...
- Email to [cyclingprojects.consultation@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cyclingprojects.consultation@edinburgh.gov.uk) [If you respond by email, we'd like to see a copy of your comments so we can consider including them in the Spokes submission] ... and/or ...
- Attend one of the drop-ins below.

#### Drop-In consultation sessions [more details at the above Council consultation website]

- **Roseburn section** – Th 26 Nov, 3-8pm, Murrayfield Church, 2B Ormidale Terrace
- **Haymarket/West End section** – Wed 2 Dec, 3-8pm, Haymarket Station
- **City Centre/East End section** – Tue 8 Dec, 3-8pm, St Andrews & St George's West, 13 George St.

### 4. NORTH-SOUTH ROSEBURN-CANAL CYCLEROUTE CONSULTATION – *please respond*

The Council has surprised us with another major consultation – a year or so earlier than we were expecting it! This is for a very ambitious connection from the North Edinburgh Network to the Canal. This time the ambition is in how much it is likely to cost, due to several new bridges.

There is likely to be much less opposition than for (3) above, since this mainly doesn't use road space. **However, it is still important to respond**, to say how useful this will be and to suggest any improvements. We aren't sure where the money will come from – it would almost certainly be too costly for the Council's cycle budget. However there are some other possible sources, including a City Region bid which could bring Edinburgh and the nearby Councils a huge sum for infrastructure investment of many kinds. If this cyclerooute project is seen as being valuable to many people, that increases the chances of getting cash from such sources.

Details of the consultation are here ... <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/roseburntounioncanal>

#### How to respond...

- Online survey at the above website ... and/or ...
- Email to [cyclingprojects.consultation@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cyclingprojects.consultation@edinburgh.gov.uk) [If you respond by email, we'd like to see a copy of your comments so we can consider including them in the Spokes submission] ... and/or ...
- Attend the drop-in at St Brides Community Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace, Tue 24 Nov, 3-8pm,

## 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.

**There are some current proposals *where cycle connections could be usefully incorporated, including at...***

- Riccarton [PAN exhibition/consultation Nov 24]
- Dundas Street/ Eyre Place/ Royal Crescent [PAN exhibition/consultation Nov 26]
- Edmonstone/ The Wisp [planning application]

**and others *where large numbers of houses are planned far from facilities such as shops, schools etc, so encouraging car dependency...***

- Ratho Station [2 developments – both PAN exhibitions Nov 25]
- Balerno [2 developments, both are planning applications]

*See our above web page for details of the above and more.*

## 6. EDINBURGH - AN ATTRACTIVE CITY TO WORK IN – *send us any useful information*

Unlike most UK and Scottish cities, Edinburgh has no inner city motorways. Its city-centre industries are moving from those requiring heavy transport, and with relatively few staff, to those working electronically and with many more staff for a given area.

For example, the former Brewery in Holyrood Road, became the Scotsman offices (with less machinery and with more staff) and that building in turn becomes home to Rockstar North, an international video games developer needing only computing equipment, and with 1800 Edinburgh staff. The company uses its central Edinburgh location as an attraction to potential new high calibre employees.

**We'd be interested to hear of other companies** for whom being based in an increasingly attractive, walk/cycle-friendly environment is seen as important in attracting staff. Information like this can be useful in helping persuade councillors to be bolder with new cycling, walking and traffic-free or traffic-reduced development, and put investment in that direction. Please email Spokes if you can add to the evidence.

## 7. 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.
- ◆ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook soon.