

# Spokes Action Update 10.1.16

---

... 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 are short of time, the most important items are

- **Scottish Budget** – see 2 below
- **East-West cycleroute consultation** – see 3 below

## Do you live here ???

- **Roseburn area** (or interested in the **East-West city-centre cycleroute**) - see 3 below
- **Currie, Gilmerton, Brunstane** -Various PAN planning proposal drop-ins – see 6 below
- **Leith or Morningside/Bruntsfield** – see 5(f) below

## 1. FOR YOUR DIARY – *Note first date is this Monday 11th*

- Mon 11 Jan, 7.30pm **Car-Sick** BBC TV Scotland documentary on how far society's widespread use of cars is making us sick – through the twin problems of sedentary travel and air pollution. Note that FOE Scotland has been working on the air pollution aspect – [details here](#) – and hope to launch more information and actions around the time that the programme is broadcast.
- Mon 18 Jan – **Roseburn to Leith Walk** [drop-in consultation](#), 4-8pm at Roseburn Primary School, 64 Roseburn Street – see 3 below.
- Thu 28 Jan – **Holyrood Election platform** 6pm, City Chambers. Transform Scotland is holding a series of public events on transport policy with the different political parties. This is the first meeting - speaker **David Stewart MSP**, Labour Transport Spokesperson, chaired by Cllr Andrew Burns, Edinburgh Council leader. *More info and advance registration at* [transformscotland.org.uk/blog/events/transform-platform-for-labour](http://transformscotland.org.uk/blog/events/transform-platform-for-labour)
- Mon 21 March, **Spokes Public Meeting – Holyrood Election Hustings** *Info at:* [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk). **HELP** - the meeting is to be at St Bride's Centre, who do not have a PA system - if any Spokes member has equipment suitable for this large room (up to 120 people) please get in touch.
- Sat 23 April **Pedal on Parliament 2016** *Info:* <http://pedalonparliament.org>
- Thu 5 May **The Holyrood Election** – [are you registered to vote??](#) + [Info about the Holyrood Election](#).

## 2. SCOTLAND'S BUDGET – *Email your MSPs*

The Scottish Government's draft budget for 16/17 is [very disappointing on transport](#) - trunk roads up, rail down, active travel static or down, and severe cuts to councils likely to mean reduced road and footway maintenance.

And whilst cycling/walking cash is roughly static, the way it is structured means that [actual investment in cycling by most councils is likely to fall](#). In particular, the vital CWSS fund, on which all councils rely for their most basic cycling cash – the only cycling cash to go directly from the government to councils - is being cut by a shocking 25%, from £8m to £5.9m. And changes to Sustrans funding mean that one or two councils will receive a lot more cash but the 30 or so others will pay for that by having a smaller pot to apply to.

Along with the [Walk-Cycle-Vote campaign](#) Spokes seeks 10% of transport spending to be allocated to active travel in party manifestos for the Holyrood elections. However that is too late for the 16/17 budget – the budget process is well under way and as the Scottish government has an overall majority there won't be any big changes.

So, for the 16/17 budget, Spokes is proposing what we hope is politically realistic – transferring just 1% of the £820m trunk road budget to active travel. See [our website article](#) for more details and how you can help. Our article explains how the 1% could be used so that the growth in Council cycling provision and expertise across Scotland continues in 16/17 instead of being reined back. Stopping the **CWSS cut** is particularly vital.

Please help us by emailing your own MSPs (you have one constituency MSP and 7 or so Regional MSPs). Find your MSPs at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Tell them what you would like to see in the budget. A short email is fine – there's no need to go into a lot of detail – but the more people who do it, the better.

### 3. EAST-WEST CITY-CENTRE CYCLEROUTE CONSULTATION – *Your response is important*

This is undoubtedly the most important ever Edinburgh consultation on a cycling project, providing a largely segregated route from Roseburn, through the city centre via George Street, and continuing to the future segregated lanes in Leith Walk and Picardy Place. The project will take significant amounts of space from parked and moving motor traffic, and as such it is now generating opposition - **so your support is vital**.

In our cycling 'bubble,' where cycling has so many positives, it can be difficult to imagine how opposition can build up. However there is now a petition and glossy brochure opposing the onroad segregated section at Roseburn – see below – and the petition has been signed by local SNP and Conservative councillors. There is also opposition further in along Haymarket Terrace, at the east end of Princes Street and elsewhere.

We urge you to respond to the consultation in a positive way, saying how pleased you are to see the Council coming forward with an ambitious scheme like this [assuming you are!] and only then going on to point out what further improvements or changes, if any, you would like.

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]
- Attend the **drop-in consultation** Mon 18 Jan, 4-8pm at Roseburn Primary School, 64 Roseburn Street. The original dropins were in December, but because of growing dissension about the scheme at Roseburn the Council has organised this additional session. **Please do go along, especially if you live in west-central Edinburgh or are a potential user of the route.** It would be unfortunate if the session becomes dominated by the 'againsts.'

#### The petitions...

Please do respond to the council formally as above, but in addition note that there are now two online petitions, one for the council scheme, and one against. For fairness we give links to both below. Please sign whichever you support.

- [Petition in favour of the council scheme](#) This is the scheme supported by Spokes Planning Group who have considered the scheme in detail and are preparing our official response.
- [Petition against the council scheme](#) This petition asks that the route instead goes via Russell Road and then follows the existing somewhat convoluted road/path route through Haymarket Yards, leading up beside the tramlines to Haymarket Terrace.

#### Spokes preliminary thoughts and questions

Spokes Planning Group has a list of preliminary thoughts and questions about the entire project, as a first stage in preparing our formal response. If interested, our document is [here](#). It's a long document – *there's no need for you to look at it, but if you do and have any comments, please email them to us asap* ([spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk)) asking for them to be passed to Planning Group. There are also links to our document and to the council web pages at [spokes.org.uk – downloads – local – Edinburgh – City Centre](#).

### 4. NORTH-SOUTH ROSEBURN-CANAL CYCLEROUTE CONSULTATION

The consultation on this other exciting project is now closed. See details and the Spokes response on our website at [downloads – local – Edinburgh – North Edinburgh](#).

## 5. OTHER CONSULTATIONS, SURVEYS, INFO ETC - *follow up items that interest you*

- (a) **Scotland Route Study – Scotland's long term rail future** Network Rail is consulting on the future of Scotland's rail system (track, routes, stations, etc rather than types of train) to help decide on investment 2019-2029, and also generate ideas beyond that to 2043(!) The consultation ranges from what new routes might open [you may have suggestions!] to the detail of stations. For example, Waverley may get another floor to cater for ever-rising passenger numbers [p38 of document]. Spokes may suggest this gives an opportunity for a ped/cycle bridge from the Old Town to Calton Road (a great connection for Leith Walk) like the former pedestrian bridge that was closed in the 1960s. Please submit your ideas to the consultation and send us a copy. [Consultation details here](#). **Closing date March 10.**
- (b) **ScotRail Local Stations Strategy.** ScotRail under Abellio is keen to work with local councils and other organisations to make stations *a hub for local communities - to help identify and deliver town centre investment and development projects – because good accessibility by public transport is a vital component of vibrant town centres*. This is part of a government initiative called *Town Centres First*. It could certainly include creating improved cycle and ped links to stations from town centres and from residential areas. *If you have suggestions* email [iain.wilson@scotrail.co.uk](mailto:iain.wilson@scotrail.co.uk).
- (c) **Cycling coffee-lovers survey.** OK, you want something lighter to do! Complete [this survey](#), which we are assured by Spokes member and coffee-lover Prof Chris Olivier [[@CyclingSurgeon](#) on twitter] is academic, not commercial!
- (d) **Slateford-Balerno path, fibre installation** Cables are to be installed in January in a 300mm wide strip along the edge of the above path, to help link various schools and libraries – this will not involve path closure. The contractors have promised to reinstate the path - we asked if they would resurface the entire width, especially anywhere it has deteriorated – they said this will be considered, but no promises.
- (e) **Have You Got The Bottle?** Spokes is supporting this campaign for a deposit system on bottles (and other containers) - which should reduce broken glass on paths and roads. More info, and how you can help, as their website [www.haveyogotthebottle.org.uk](http://www.haveyogotthebottle.org.uk). The campaign is stepping up pressure in 2016, with a new organiser at Scottish level.
- (f) **Leith and Morningside/Bruntsfield 'town centres'** – council consultations. *"The Council is consulting on draft guidance for Leith and Bruntsfield/Morningside Town Centres. They include options for guiding the balance of shops with other uses and services, as well as areas for change and improvement within the town centre."* We have not yet checked these out and we welcome points from local members. **Closing date for comments Feb 16** – see web links & drop-in details below.
- Leith – [consultation webpage](#) - Drop-ins at McDonald Library, Jan 26, 2-5pm; Jan 30, 11-2pm. More info [naomi.sandilands@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:naomi.sandilands@edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - M'side/B'field – [consultation webpage](#) - Drop-ins at M'side Library, Jan 19, 2-5pm; Jan 23, 11-2pm. More info ... [emma.fitzgerald@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:emma.fitzgerald@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## 6. 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.

**Some of the very big proposals for which exhibitions are expected soon are below.** In all cases, cycle facilities, routes and connections will be vital, and in some cases the whole development may be too far from existing facilities and so may be car dependent even if it has good local cycle facilities. *See our above web page for details of these and more.*

- 15/05258/PAN Currie area
- 15/05819/PAN Lasswade Rd/ Gilmerton Station Road area
- 15/05835/PAN Brunstane/ Newcraighall area

## 7. GRAPHICS/MAPPING EXPERT NEEDED

We are looking for someone with computer graphics/layout skills – including drawing simple maps – to design a small booklet (probably 12 A5 pages) of 'Favourite Bike Rides' based on the results of our summer competition. We have a small group to do most of the work of assembling the content material, but need a graphic designer. *Some payment is available if the booklet is ready by the end of March.* Contact Spokes if interested.

## 8. SCHOOLS CYCLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sustrans Scotland needs volunteers to help its **I-Bike** project promoting cycling in Edinburgh schools. Annie Cousins, I-Bike Volunteer Coordinator, says...

*Are you keen to use your cycling or teaching skills to empower young people? Do you want to work with children in the outdoors? We work with selected schools in Edinburgh to encourage children and young people to travel actively to school. Our I Bike volunteers provide vital support with led rides, learn to cycle, playground cycle skills and basic bike maintenance sessions. To enable you to volunteer with confidence we provide training and support. To find out more, contact [annie.cousins@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:annie.cousins@sustrans.org.uk) or check out [our website](#).*

## 9. SPOKES OBJECTIVES

Our AGM decided that Spokes should move towards becoming a [SCIO](#) [Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation] and agreed a small team to progress this. One aspect a need to modify our formal objectives somewhat, to make more explicit the charitable side, especially mentioning education and environment.

**The existing formal objectives of Spokes are as follows...**

- ◆ *To promote cycling, as part of a sustainable transport and access strategy, and to ensure that councils and government actively do the same.*
- ◆ *To publicise the benefits of cycling for the community and individuals - like walking, it is cheap, efficient, enjoyable, healthy, non-polluting and intrinsically safe*

The wording was agreed a good number of years ago after a consultation with the full spokes membership. The suggested revised wording below sticks to the original as far as possible. However it replaces the word 'promote' by 'encourage' since 'promote' has taken on a more specific meaning in government cycling parlance in recent years, whereas 'encourage' has the wider meaning which we originally intended.

If any member is unhappy with the proposed rewording, please email Spokes in the next couple of weeks.

**Suggested rewording...**

- *To encourage cycling as part of an environmentally sustainable transport and access strategy*
- *To encourage other organisations, including councils and government, actively do the same and to make high quality provision for it*
- *To educate all sections of society in the benefits of cycling for the community and individuals - like walking, it is cheap, efficient, enjoyable, healthy, non-polluting and intrinsically safe.*

## 10. FINALLY ...

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk).
- ◆ We are active on **Twitter**, [@SpokesLothian](#). Please follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent Spokes tweets also appear on our website.
- ◆ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook.