

Spokes Action Update 24.1.16

... 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.**

This circular is shorter and sooner than usual because we wish to urge you to respond to the following two important items, if you've not yet done so...

- **Scottish Budget** – see 2 below . MSPs are engaged in horsetrading over budget changes now, and there will be a final vote in February.
- **East-West cyclerooute consultation** – see 3 below – *the consultation ends on Feb 1st.*

1. FOR YOUR DIARY

- *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 [not essential] at transformscotland.org.uk/blog/events/transform-platform-for-labour*
- *Mon 21 March*, **Spokes Public Meeting – Holyrood Election Hustings** Info at: spokes.org.uk [see link in Events column]. 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.*
- **Spokes stalls** at Farmers Market, Castle Terrace ... 19/3, 9/4, 14/5, 11/6 [EdFoC week], 9/7, 13/8, 10/9, 8/10, 12/11, 10/12
- *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 very severe cuts to councils - likely to mean less cash for pothole repairs etc.

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 other changes mean that whilst one or two councils will receive a lot more cycling cash 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 nearing its end and as the Scottish government has an overall majority there won't be huge changes.

So, for the 16/17 budget, Spokes is proposing a politically realistic option – 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. 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.*

Stop Press: The Scottish Government has just released a 'refresh' of its [National Transport Strategy](#). Sadly, this reveals that over the last 10 years [car use has risen 2% whilst public transport use is down 6%](#). Whilst cycle use has risen a bit, it is just 2.6% of all trips, hugely far from the government's stated wish for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020. The figures highlight the need for a restructuring of the government's transport budget – and in particular a transfer from trunk roads to cycling and walking.

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

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 space from parked and moving motor traffic, and as such it is now generating significant opposition - so your support is vital.**

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, although Labour and Green councillors who have tweeted on this are supportive. There is also opposition [including from some councillors] further inwards 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, or click [here](#)). NB - If you don't have time to look at the plans in detail you can leave the relevant comment boxes blank, or just say what you want to see in areas that affect you, but please do answer the tick-box entries in the survey.
- **Email** to cyclingprojects.consultation@edinburgh.gov.uk if you wish to make additional or extensive comments [If you do this, we'd like to see a copy of your comments so we can consider including them in the Spokes submission].
- If you live anywhere near the proposed route, it is also very worthwhile [emailing your councillors](#) to congratulate them on the overall plans and asking them to push ahead as soon as possible.

The petitions...

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

- [Petition in favour of the council scheme](#) This is the scheme strongly 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. Note that we have reports of several **tramline crashes** on this route, some with injuries and bike damage – see details in [our website article](#).

More info...

- See our [website article](#), which now includes tramline crash reports (as above) and interesting quotes from a 2014 Murrayfield Community Council report on the area.
- There are more links at [spokes.org.uk – downloads – local – Edinburgh – City Centre](http://spokes.org.uk-downloads-local-Edinburgh-City-Centre).

4. LOVE TO RIDE – EDINBURGH FUN CHALLENGE

The [Edinburgh Cycle Challenge](#) is a fun, free competition run by the Council during March to encourage people – including existing cyclists, but especially the new and the reticent - to experience first hand the joys and benefits of riding a bike. People can join as individuals or as part of a [workplace or other organisation](#). There are lots of prizes, including cinema tickets, local experience vouchers, bike equipment, and a new 'about-town' bike. The competition is part of the UK-wide [Love To Ride](#) initiative.

Please make an effort to get friends and workplace colleagues to take part – to enter they only need promise to cycle for 10 minutes – or more of course!!

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

- (a) **Holyrood Election Manifestos** – [Online e-action](#) by *Stop Climate Chaos Scotland* for climate-friendly manifestos (including transport) from the political parties standing in the Holyrood elections.

Also, a small group will deliver the [SCCS manifesto](#) by bike this Friday 29 Jan to the HQs of each of the five political parties currently represented in the Scottish Parliament (starting 9am in Glasgow at Scottish Labour offices then 11am in Edinburgh, starting at Scottish Parliament). If you'd like to join the ride, as a spokes member, email the SCCS organiser [gail AT stopclimatechaosscotland DOT org].

- (b) **Car-Sick BBC documentary** - you still have roughly 20 days left to [watch this excellent documentary](#) which features (amongst others) Spokes member Prof Chris Oliver [@CyclingSurgeon](#).

- (c) **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 & contacts below.

- Leith – [consultation webpage](#) - More info ... naomi.sandilands@edinburgh.gov.uk
- M'side/B'field – [consultation webpage](#) - More info ... 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 : 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.

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
- ◆ 15/05877/PAN East of Burdiehouse Rd. - PAN exhibition 22 March, 10am-7pm, Gilmerton Society Hall
- ◆ 15/05819/PAN East of Lasswade Rd, north of Gilmerton Station Rd.

7. FINALLY ...

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often 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.