

Spokes Action Update 21.04.16

... 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.**

1. This Saturday, 23 April: Pedal On Parliament 2016

We hope to see literally 100s of Spokes members -including *you*.

- ◆ [The practical details](#) – most importantly, 12 noon at the Meadows!
- ◆ Go straight there or join a [feeder ride](#)
- ◆ [Why PoP2016 matters](#)
- ◆ We'll need a few people to wander round handing out copies of the [current Spokes Bulletin](#) – if you enjoy doing that sort of thing, come and volunteer at the Spokes stall 30-45 mins or so in advance.

2. Thurs 5 May: Scottish Parliament Election

- ◆ See the [Election article](#) on our website
- ◆ If you use twitter, retweet [our tweet](#) advertising the article
- ◆ Most **manifestos** are now out – [see what they say](#) about issues that concern us. This should give you more ideas to ask your candidates – or to chat about to politicians at PoP2016.
- ◆ See [what your individual candidates say](#) via the [WalkCycleVote campaign](#). There's still time to contact them – contact info is given for most candidates on the WCV site.
- ◆ There are still a few [election hustings](#).

3. Mon 13 June: Spokes public meeting, Cycling & Health

- ◆ Put the date in your diary now!!
- ◆ Here's the [poster](#). There should also be a website article and more publicity in the next week or two.

4. Abellio 'Bike and Go' bike hire – April/May offer

- ◆ Bike hire is now available at [9 stations in Scotland](#). Another, Falkirk High, should be added in June.
- ◆ There is an **introductory offer** of 2 free rentals in April and May [you will still have to pay the annual subscription of £10]. The offer applies at all 9 stations, even though Haymarket and Stirling have been operational for some time.

5. West Lothian towns – cycling development

- ◆ Deborah Paton, the WL Council cycling officer, is working on cycle network proposals for all WL towns, as part of the Council's Active Travel Plan. If you live in, work in or visit WL and have suggestions about cycle facilities in any of the towns, please email Deborah.Paton@westlothian.gov.uk.

6. May 24: Roseburn to Canal exhibition

- ◆ Unlike the East-West route, the Roseburn-Canal route, which does not take away traffic space (moving or parked) has received almost no objections. The next stage is a public exhibition/consultation on the detailed plans, taking account of earlier comments. At St Bride's Orwell Place, 24 May, 3-7pm.

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/](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/.

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.

8. Other News / Things To Do

- ◆ May 1-31 [Sustrans Scottish Workplace Challenge](#). Register your workplace and compete against others to get the most journeys to work by cycling, or other sustainable means. Prizes and fame for workplaces and for individuals!
- ◆ Spokes puts a lot of effort into producing highly-praised [cycle maps](#), but we could do more to promote their use, and thereby help get more people cycling (and increase map sales). Is there **a volunteer with entrepreneurial abilities/experience** who'd like to take this on? For example, you might follow up one or more of the ideas below, and you might have additional ideas...
 - Contacting employer organisations [many have 'green travel' contacts] to see if they'd buy a supply of maps for staff interested in cycling – or pin one on the wall where staff will see it.
 - Contacting schools, with similar ideas. Or - it might be possible to get a grant to fund free maps for every school that would promise to pin it up or use it in relevant geography or outdoor classes. [The next edition of the Edinburgh map is likely to be tear-proof and water-proof].
 - Coordinating/ expanding our existing small band of volunteer members in the Lothians who periodically visit local bike and book shops to see if they will stock our local map and to top them up.
- ◆ Edinburgh Council is consulting on a range of local-area issues, including affecting **Gilmerton, Brunstane, Bonaly, Queensferry** (St Margaret's Primary). Find online surveys on the Council [Consultation Hub page](#) – which is also worth checking periodically for other local surveys. NB: to find all the above consultations you may from the above page need to click on 'See all open consultations'.
- ◆ The Scottish Government is consulting on **cutting Air Passenger Duty** by 50%, a move [strongly opposed by environmental groups](#). Quite apart from the main argument – the impact on carbon emissions – this will reduce the government's income by £125m a year, a sum which could be used to treble the £40m a year which the government currently allocates to walking and cycling combined. If this concerns you, please [respond to the consultation](#) and [tell your election candidates](#).
- ◆ Our Spring Bulletin (Spokes 124) advertised Prof Chris Oliver's 3-week free **#GetActive MOOC** Edinburgh University [online course](#) in which you learn about – and do something about! - sedentariness and lack of physical activity. Chris tells us that an incredible 13,000 people are now signed up for the course. Could it be a coincidence that we printed 13,000 copies of the Bulletin?? There's still time to sign up!

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.