

Spokes Action Update 30.04.16

... 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. Thurs 5 May: Scottish Parliament Election

- ◆ All manifestos are now out – [see what they say](#) about issues that concern us.
- ◆ Many people find the voting system mysterious. See [our explanation of how to use it](#) to vote most effectively for the outcome that you want [we don't try to tell you who to vote for!!]
- ◆ If you use **twitter** or **facebook**, please publicise the above. On twitter, please retweet our two main tweets on the above – [this](#) and [this](#).
- ◆ **This Sunday 1st May**, 8-9pm, BBC1. [Scottish Parliament party leaders final election debate](#).

2. For your diary

- ◆ 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!
- ◆ May 4 : [Mobility in the Future City](#) – interesting sounding free day conference at Edinburgh University. NB – if anyone is going can they take a pile of the current Spokes bulletin to make available to attendees? [email spokes and we will try and arrange for you to pick them up]
- ◆ May 5 : [Capital Rail Action Group meeting](#) (open to all) with speaker **Phil Verster – managing director of the ScotRail Alliance** (i.e. Abellio + Network Rail). Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh at 7.30 p.m. *Great opportunity to ask about bike/rail issues – the good (bike storage and rental at stations is in the process of improving substantially) and the bad ([ontrain bike capacity](#)).*
- ◆ May 24 : **Roseburn to Canal** exhibition/consultation on the detailed plans, taking account of earlier comments. At St Bride's Orwell Place, 24 May, 3-7pm. For more info on the event, contact the consultants, email rachel.lawson@Twspgroup.com. [Council reference is 16/01908/PAN]
- ◆ June 13 : **Spokes public meeting, [Cycling & Health](#)** - *Put the date in your diary now!!*

3. Spokes maps

- ◆ It is hoped that the **10th edition Spokes Edinburgh map** will be out in June, but there have been a great many problems, so you will see it when you see it! It is expected to be on tear-proof and waterproof paper, and priced at £6.95. Due to the problems we have experienced this edition will not be available electronically, but we fully expect that the 11th edition will be.
- ◆ We have improved the [Spokes Maps website page](#). and there is also a useful write-up on Mike Lewis's [Cycling Edinburgh site](#).

4. Station bike parking

New covered capacity has been installed at Haymarket and Linlithgow, and ScotRail is planning more elsewhere. They are keen to hear suggestions where more or better parking is needed for existing bike/rail commuters or where it is thought that better parking might attract more users. If you have suggestions please email *if possible by 7 May* and we will pass on your ideas.

5. Path-work volunteers for Dalmeny-Kirkliston path

- ◆ Local resident Jim Watson is so fed up with the muddy state of the railway path Dalmeny-Kirkliston-Newbridge (leading to the A8 path) that he is taking action [to clear the drainage ditch himself, and is being assisted by Spokes's Peter Hawkins](#). They would really welcome a few other volunteers to join them. The next session is **this Thursday, 5 May**, 10am-1pm. Peter says...
 - *Activities:* digging out the side ditch, and clearing overhead vegetation and vegetation in the ditch.
 - *Tools needed:* loppers, bowsaw, secateurs, spades. Stout footwear. Peter and Jim, the organisers, come by bike so can only bring a limited number of tools.
 - *Please email* if you are coming and if you can bring any tools. Parking may be available on Standingstone Rd, which runs parallel with the path. **Email:** peterhawk@phonecoop.coop
 - *Meeting point:* on the path, about 1.2km south of Dalmeny; access from Standingstone Rd or Carlowrie Rd. Work area is near the bridge which carries a minor road which runs west from Standingstone Rd to the B800; the path is in a deep cutting at this point. Also near the former Royal Edinburgh Yards.
 - *Please be aware that if you volunteer you are entirely responsible for your own safety* and Spokes will take no responsibility for any injuries.
- ◆ Finally, the real solution is for the path to be tarmaced, but it is not sufficiently high on the council's cycling projects priority list. It is galling to see the km of new road-building going on in the area due to huge new housing areas – and the new Forth Road Bridge – and yet none of these developers is required to create decent cycling access, even though the path leads to major employers such as the airport and RBS, via the A8 path from Newbridge. If you use this area, consider raising this with your councillors and MSPs.

6. Cash to boost local cycling

[Grants of up to £5000](#) are available from Cycling Scotland for local community projects to boost cycle use. The current round of applications closes on May 3rd. If you and a group of friends or local organisation have thought of a great idea to boost cycle use in your own neighbourhood, this could be your opportunity! If the deadline is too close, email Cycling Scotland to find out when the next round of grants will be offered.

7. Air Passenger Duty consultation

The Scottish Government is consulting on **cutting Air Passenger Duty** by 50%, a move [strongly opposed by environmental groups](#). See also the [Holyrood Magazine report](#). In the longer term the SNP manifesto wants to scrap APD entirely -none of the other main parties, including the Conservatives, support the cut or scrapping. Quite apart from the main argument – the impact on carbon emissions – APD generates £230m a year, more than enough to meet the widespread call [for 10% of transport spending to go to walking and cycling](#). If this concerns you, please [respond to the consultation](#). Consultation ends 3 June.

8. 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.

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.