

Spokes Action Update 15.07.16

... 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. Spokes Edinburgh Cycling & Walking map – out now!

- ◆ Our long-awaited 10th edition Edinburgh map is out - and we are very pleased with it. By popular request, the map is on water-resistant and tear-resistant paper, but it feels just as good as normal paper. There are hundreds of updates to our previous (2010) 9th edition, and we have marked the Council's newly signposted 'quiet routes.' There's lots of info on the back, including a detailed city centre map, outline maps for areas outside the city and a bike shop directory (many more shops than in 2010!)
- ◆ More info, and extracts/pictures from the map in our [website article](#).
- ◆ Our [tweet about the map](#) is already very popular – please RT further if you use twitter.
- ◆ The map should now be on sale in most of the big bike shops [except Evans, who don't take our maps] and we'll try to get it round more shops asap. Many maps were sold on its first day in the shops - one even before our delivery volunteer had left the shop!
- ◆ If you order direct from Spokes by post, there's a special offer – see our [website article](#).
- ◆ **Volunteer needed!** We'd like to make a bigger effort promoting the new map – and our other maps – to bike shops - for example to visit all bike shops over a period of time, and maybe check on them every 6 months or so. For a person with the time and interest, and perhaps business experience, additional forms of promotion might be possible, but even basic coverage of all bike shops would be really useful.

2. Drop-in Consultations – Grange Road; Easter Road; McDonald Road; Gilmerton Road; Old Dalkeith Road; Hay Avenue

- ◆ Due partly to staff problems, the Council put out to tender the design of a package of cycling projects, mainly smallish local improvements, but some larger. The successful bid was by the firm AECOM, who are now consulting the public on the first set of designs ([there are more to come](#)). **Please go along to those consultations that concern you, and leave your comments in writing, or email them in later.** If you have questions, contact Martyn.Lings@edinburgh.gov.uk, phone 0131 469 3776. Note that these consultations are currently being advertised to relevant organisations – there will be a future consultation with a leaflet in the door of local residents.
- ◆ **Grange Road** *Weds 20 July*, 5-8pm, [Newington Library](#). The project is to improve crossing points for cyclists and pedestrians, with options of 3 cycle/pedestrian zebra crossings or 2 light-controlled. [Recent changes in government regulations now allow side-by-side cycle/pedestrian zebras].
- ◆ **Easter Road** *Tue 26 July*, 5-8pm, [McDonald Road Library](#). A cycle/ped crossing and segregated cycleway connecting Brunswick Road and Bothwell Street, which form part of the Council's quiet route no.20.
- ◆ **McDonald Road** *Tue 26 July*, 5-8pm, [McDonald Road Library](#). This is also part of Quiet Route 20. The ped/cycle crossing of Broughton Rd from St Marks Park will be improved and cycle lanes installed on the section of McDonald Road which does not already have them. Also other changes, including removing the road centre line (as the council did for the Gogar Station Road cycle lanes) and installing a raised table at the entrance to McDonald Road.
- ◆ **Quiet Route #61** *Wed 27 July*, 5-8pm, [Craigmillar Library](#). This route links Duddingston, Niddrie, the Royal Infirmary, Moredun and Gilmerton to Midlothian and Rosslyn Chapel, largely on quiet roads and traffic free paths. The project is to improve those sections which are poor for cycling and/or walking, including... **Gilmerton Road** – crossing and short segregated link; **Old Dalkeith Road** – new and improved toucan crossings and linking paths; **Niddrie House Avenue** – cycle exemption to the current no entry; **Hay Avenue** – shared use of Hay Avenue footway and improved underpass.

3. East-West City Centre Cyclerooute – **public meeting 2 August**

- ◆ A meeting is being organised by some of those opposed to the Council's project on 2nd August, 7pm at Murrayfield Parish Church Hall, 2b Ormidale Terrace. The Roseburn support group has also been invited to make a presentation, so both cases should be heard at the meeting. See [this page](#) for links and future updates about the meeting. *Councillors and Community Councils are expected to be there, so if you are concerned about this vital project, please go along to the meeting.*
- ◆ Keep up to date with the latest developments about the route at the [Roseburn support group website](#).
- ◆ Thank you if you took part in the [council consultation](#) earlier this year. [The results were positive](#) with support around the 70% level. There were however significant objections in some areas, notably Roseburn, after which the Council produced [two revised options](#) for the area, A and B, both of which address the top concern of lost loading space for local shops. [Spokes strongly supports option A](#).
- ◆ More recently, the Council made its presentation to the judging panel for Community Links Plus funding to meet 50% of the costs – without this the project will be greatly slowed down, if it can proceed at all. Spokes was asked to speak and we outlined the [support from cycling organisations](#). The Council presentation documents (and earlier documents about the plans) are [here](#). The outcome should be known in early August.

4. Cycling and Business – **sponsor wanted!!**

The Spokes autumn public meeting is likely to be on Cycling and Business. Ideas are to have a panel of probably 4 speakers, each for 10-15 mins, then Q/A and panel discussion. Topics for the speakers may be...

- ◆ The **Edinburgh City Deal** – a huge amount of investment is coming to Edinburgh and the surrounding areas for infrastructure and to boost employment. How can cycling fit into this?
- ◆ The role of a **Bicycle User Group** in a local business
- ◆ **Bicycle businesses** – increasing cycling in the city will create a need for more bike businesses, and opportunities for new areas such as bike and cargo bike deliveries
- ◆ Send us your ideas for other relevant topics/speakers within this title.

If this goes ahead we would also like to include a *Cycling and Business* supplement in our autumn bulletin – like *Cycling & Health* in the summer one. The cost of this extra sheet in the bulletin (13,000 copies) is around £800 and **we'd love to hear from any local business or other organisation interested in sponsoring this** (as CycleLaw Scotland did for our Cycling & Health supplement).

5. Car-Free Sunday, 25 September – **PLEASE READ URGENTLY**

Edinburgh Council has decided to go ahead with several street closures on 25 September to enable street events organised by local communities. **This can include a main road, not just residential streets.** The Council will organise and fund the road closure, advance publicity, re-routing of buses, etc; but the organisation and funding of the actual local events is up to local communities – though there are possible funding sources to help. The type of event is up to you – a street party, concert, street market, whatever, as long as it has local community support and organisation. If the day is a success, the Council hopes to repeat and possibly expand it next year.

If you are involved in a local group and would like to take part, please contact the Council immediately for more info – the official closing date is Friday 15 July, but we suspect that enquiries by Monday should be ok if you had not yet heard of this opportunity. Contact margaret.campbell@edinburgh.gov.uk 0131 529 7182.

6. Student Job Vacancies – campus cycling officers

Cycling Scotland and Bright Green Placements are to employ a student campus cycling officer at 8 Colleges/ Universities in Scotland (including Edinburgh and Napier unis), starting in September. Applications close on 7 August. Details [here](#). Priority will be given to students or graduates of each institution involved.

7. Climate Change course – August 1-2

Edinburgh University is running a 2-day course, August 1-2, cost £60, entitled *Winning the Climate Change Battle*. The course is open to anyone. More details [here](#).

8. Planning Applications to comment/object; PAN exhibitions to attend

Check our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals every week or two for any that affect 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 current PAN exhibitions (not yet on our above web page) are ...

16/02492/PAN **New Waverley site** (formerly called Caltongate) – residential and public realm designs. Exhibition: **Tues 19 July** 3-8pm, Old St Paul's.

16/03296/PAN **Warriston Road** residential development. Exhibition: 107 McDonald Rd (Capital City Church), 29 July 2-7pm, 30 July 10-2pm.

FINALLY

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- ◆ We are active on **Twitter**, [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/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.