

Spokes Action Update 19.10.16

... 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.**

VERY URGENT ITEMS...

- ◆ **By this Friday, 21 October** – see (4) below – consultations relevant if you live in, work in or visit Corstorphine or Brunstane/Milton Road or have views on the future of the City's **Open Spaces**.

1. Assorted opportunities, events, snippets – *read and act!*

- ◆ **For your diary: [Spokes public meeting, Nov 10 ... Benefiting Business through Cycling](#).** Full details in the current Spokes Bulletin and on our website at the above link. It should be another great meeting! If you use twitter, use hashtag #SpokesMtg and please retweet [our main tweet](#) and the tweet about our [Business Supplement](#).
- ◆ **Help Spokes:** We have plenty printed copies of the new [Spokes Bulletin 126](#). We welcome any members who can use a supply to leaflet bikes at their workplace or on bikes parked around any areas of the city [not Haymarket or Waverley which we already cover]. Email updates@spokes.org.uk if you'd like a supply of this bulletin – and/or if you'd like a regular supply of future copies.
- ◆ **Cash for community bike projects** - Have you an idea for a local community-based cycling project, small, large or very large? [Grants up to £150K available](#) from the Climate Challenge Fund.
- ◆ **Bears Way** - Are you disturbed over the 12-11 vote by East Dunbarton Council to halt development of the [Bears Way](#) (Lab and Con for the route, SNP and LibDems against) – one of Scotland's first and longest main-road segregated cycle routes. Find out more and [sign the petition here](#).
- ◆ **Edinburgh Council cycling enquiries and suggestions** (e.g. to suggest new locations for bike parking) - the email address has changed. They have scrapped cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk and the new address is activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk.
- ◆ **Job opportunity** – [Parliamentary Officer for FOE Scotland](#). Closing date 31 October.
- ◆ **More events** – see the events column on left side of [Spokes website](#).

2. Council Elections, 4 May 2017 – *can you influence manifestos?*

The Council elections are still some way off, but parties will be starting to think of their election manifestos now. Spokes has written to the 5 party leaders on Edinburgh City Council (Lab, SNP, Con, Green, LibDem) with 3 top requests for manifestos, namely...

- ◆ Maintain the allocation of 10% of the transport budget (capital and revenue) to cycling
- ◆ Give high priority to protected and direct main road cycle routes, including the east-west route
- ◆ Transform Princes Street into a cycle- and pedestrian-friendly place

See our letter [here](#) - it includes some of the reasoning behind these 3 'asks.'

If you are involved in a political party please find out what process your party is using to prepare its manifesto, and then try to have your say in what goes into it. If you are not involved in a party it's still worth emailing or visiting [your own councillors](#) and ask them to pass on your views to the person in charge of their manifesto – or you could even join your preferred party!

3. On-Street Bike Storage – Nov 1 decision?? – *contact your councillors*

The long-delayed report on the future (or not!) of the Council's plans for [secure overnight onstreet bike storage](#), seems at last almost certain to appear at the November 1st Transport Committee. Council action on this is vital, as there is evidence that difficulties in storing a bike reduce bike ownership and use in central Edinburgh, particularly in tenement areas.

[The Council has run a pilot since 2014](#), with 3 types of secure storage units in various streets. We understand this has been [very successful](#), and there is a long waiting list of people and streets wanting more installations. Meanwhile onstreet bike storage is now happening on [a massive scale in parts of London](#).

There has for some months been a rumour that Edinburgh may retreat on its intention, and only go for a slow implementation and with high rentals. We stress that this is only a rumour, and more recently there have been some slightly more positive hints. However, we really have no idea what will be in the Council report.

You can help as follows... Contact your councillors - ask them to speak to Transport Convenor Cllr Lesley Hinds and to press for a proper roll-out of onstreet bike storage, as in London. Send us any useful replies.

4. Edinburgh Consultations – *please make your views known*

- ◆ ***Closes 21 October*** [Corstorphine placemaking survey](#) If you live in, work in or visit Corstorphine, please complete this online survey by the Council. It may be worth remembering that Corstorphine High Street ([St Johns Road](#)) has been found to be one of Scotland's worst streets for air pollution. Cycling conditions on the main road are also far from ideal!! **Note:** this is a non-statutory consultation, so **if time is tight** and you wish to make comments by email the council *might* give you till after the weekend – check by emailing audrey.primrose@edinburgh.gov.uk.
- ◆ ***Closes 21 October*** [Edinburgh's Draft Open Spaces Strategy](#) On the web page, read the full draft strategy, or the quick guide to it, then complete the online survey. You may be particularly interested in the section called *The Green Network* and its intention - "*the improvement and extension of the green network to benefit walking, cycling and nature.*" **Note:** this is a non-statutory consultation, so **if time is tight** and you wish to make comments by email the council *might* give you till after the weekend – check by emailing OpenSpaceStrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk.
- ◆ ***Closes 21 October*** **New Brunstane** Massive proposed development, around 1000 homes, school, retail centre, etc. This is a planning application, reference 16/04122/PPP. Find more details, and submit your comments at the council [Planning Portal](#) - search there for the reference code above.
- ◆ ***Closes 18 November*** **Maybury/ Craigs Road/ Fife railway** Another massive development proposal, over 1000 homes, commercial, retail, etc – almost the whole area between the above. This is a planning application, reference 16/04738/PPP. Find more details, and submit your comments at the council [Planning Portal](#) - search there for the reference code above. There will be many cycling implications to form a good cycling network internally and linked outside – in particular to the new Edinburgh Gateway rail station now under construction.
- ◆ ***Closes 26 November*** [Roseburn Park cycling & walking improvements](#) Proposals to improve this route, which forms part of the Council's 'Quiet Route no.8.' The above web page includes an online survey. [Proposal details](#). [Drawings](#). There are some individual comments on the [Friends of Roseburn Park website](#) [incidentally, one commenter says that the nearby A8 cyclerroute "has been blocked" – that is incorrect, it is [still under discussion](#)].
- ◆ ***Thurs Nov 10, 3pm-7pm*** **Leith Walk, Brunswick St to Montgomery St** The consultation on the traffic regulation order which includes the segregated cyclerroute is now complete, but the Council has decided it will re-advertise (Oct 28-Nov 25) – apparently to get more public views. Submissions to the initial consultation still count and need not be re-submitted. There will also be a drop-in at the above time at McDonald Rd Library. Go there before the [Spokes public meeting](#) which is on the same date.

5. Lothians Consultations – *please make your views known*

- ◆ *Closes 7 November* [East Lothian Local Development Plan](#) This proposed strategy covers housing locations, transport, etc. You can comment on the draft plan itself and on a related Action Programme and an Environmental Report. Links to all documents are on the above page, together with an online survey. Spokes has not had time to look into this. Further info ldp@eastlothian.gov.uk.
- ◆ *Closes 30 October* [Haddington & Lammermuir](#) The Council wants your '4 wishes' for the area – covering all local services, green space, etc. A chance to ask for bike route links, bike parking etc!
- ◆ *Closes 30 October* [Midlothian Active Travel Strategy](#) The Council is starting to prepare this document and is looking for suggestions of what should be in it. The aim is *"to see walking and cycling as the main choice for short, everyday journeys"* – the Council wants your ideas on how to achieve this. There is a short online survey, and/or you can contact bogdan.handrea@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 270 6724. Since this is at an early stage, further comments at a later date can be submitted if you have further ideas, but don't delay sending your immediate thoughts right now before the closing date.
- ◆ *Closes 4 November* [Linlithgow Public Realm Design Guide \(Planning Guidance\)](#) This consultation does not have an online survey. *Please email responses/comments to: dpgeneral@westlothian.gov.uk.* The document *"establishes a vision for the public realm in Linlithgow; sets out best practice in promoting good quality urban design and sets out priorities for public realm improvements which can be addressed through capital investment in the town."* Unfortunately the document is extremely timid – one could say pathetic - on cycling issues, especially in the traffic-dominated High Street, though it goes into detail on things like chimney pots and house numbers.
- ◆ *Closes 4 November* [West Lothian Planning Guidance on Health Impact Assessment](#) Interesting document on assessing major planning proposals for their impact on public health. Includes comments on car parking and walking/cycling access. Comments to dpgeneral@westlothian.gov.uk.

6. SesPlan Regional Consultation – *please make your views known*

"The vision and broad development patterns and levels for the city region over 20 years from 2018." This is a really major document and consultation, which includes a fair bit of good material on cross-boundary cycling proposals. It distinguishes between 'functional' and 'recreational' long-distance routes. The consultation website, with links to all relevant documents is [here](#). Detailed information on responding is on [this page](#).

Closes 24 November (it's a Thursday) If you comment please send us a copy so we can consider your points for the Spokes response.

Two controversial issues raised by Green councillors when Edinburgh Council discussed the plan...

- a) the significant number of road and junction developments outlined which would inevitably lead to greater traffic levels with the associated pollution, congestion, air quality and health problems and undermine the plan's stated aim to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable development;
- b) amplification of housing supply targets to give a "generosity" allowance of 10% which puts greater pressure on greenfield sites and diverts attention away from using hoarded land and unused property.

There are also drop-in sessions 3pm-6.30pm as below, followed by presentations and Q/A sessions at 6.30pm (you may need to book for the presentation sessions). The events are as follows...

- ◆ Monday 24 October, City Chambers, **Dunfermline**
- ◆ Wednesday 26 October, Lasswade Centre, **Bonnyrigg**
- ◆ Thursday 3 November, West Lothian Civic Centre, **Livingston**
- ◆ Monday 7 November, City Chambers, **Edinburgh**
- ◆ Wednesday 9 November, The Brunton, **Musselburgh**
- ◆ Thursday 10 November, Council Headquarters, **Newtown St. Boswells**

Further info on any of the above - contactus@sesplan.gov.uk 01506 282883

7. Bike Station Fire

We are very sorry to hear of the [fire](#) at the Bike Station. We imagine that information will appear on their [website](#) or [twitter feed](#) soon, including any types of help that may be needed.

Stop press: we have just had the following message from the Bike Station...

The Edinburgh Bike Station plans to re-open on November 1st for both sale of refurbished bikes and to receive bike donations. Please hang on to your donations until then. It is likely that this will be carried out from the warehouse at 244 Causewayside as the shop at 250 Causewayside was extensively damaged in the fire and roof repairs may take a while. 244 Causewayside is in the same set of buildings just 50 yards from the shop. Anyone who has booked training courses can contact info@thebikestation.org.uk to get further details. The Bike Station Facebook page will have further updates and it is likely that a Crowdfunder appeal will be used to raise money to help in the restoration work.

8. Important tweets – *please retweet!!*

If you use twitter, please consider retweeting any of the following important recent Spokes tweets...

- ◆ [Spokes Bulletin 126](#)
- ◆ [Report on Benefiting Business through Cycling](#)
- ◆ [Developments on East-West cycleroute](#)
- ◆ [Cycling the Dutch way wins the Spokes Shopping by Bike competition](#)
- ◆ [Council decisions on East-West cycleroute](#)
- ◆ [Spokes Public Meeting – Benefiting Business through Cycling](#)
- ◆ [Councillor Andrew Burns steps down](#)
- ◆ [Councillor Lesley Hinds steps down](#)

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.