

Spokes Action Update 20.05.17

... 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. For your diary – *please note the dates; click links for details*

- *June 6-18* [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling](#) Members will receive the programme in their summer mailing, with the Summer Spokes Bulletin, due to be packaged up Saturday 27 May. EdFoC includes...
- *June 14, Weds* [Spokes Public Meeting, Tackling Road Danger](#) This promises to be a really great meeting, with speakers including the police officer running the [#OpClosePass](#) initiative and [Mark Ruskell MSP](#) who is introducing a Scottish Parliament Bill to make 20mph the default speed limit in all urban areas. 7.30pm (doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls, chat).
- *June 15, Thurs* [Spokes Bike Breakfast](#) All the usual great stuff – see the poster for details. Note that it is on Thursday instead of the usual Wednesday. 7.45am-9.45am.

2. New Inverness/Aberdeen HST trains – *Parliament debate Weds 24!!*

- **Our information about cutbacks in bike space in the HST inter-city 125 trains planned for the Edinburgh/Glasgow to Inverness/Aberdeen services in 2018/19 has roused great concern.** Under current plans there will be *only 2 spaces* for anyone wanting to get on or off at any station between the terminal stations (compared to 4 spaces at present!) plus another 6 spaces for end-to-end journeys only – whereas the original promise was 20 spaces per train.
- Our [original tweet](#) rapidly became our 2nd most popular ever, with over 90 retweets so far – please retweet if you can and if you've not done so! The story also hit [the Scotsman](#).
- **As a result of the great concern a private member's motion has been lodged in the Scottish Parliament by Liam Kerr MSP** (North East Scotland) seeking action by the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and ScotRail. Full details [here](#) (and our tweet [here](#)).
- **If you emailed your MSP, thank you!! The motion has now been signed by MSPs from four of the 5 parties at Holyrood and thus it qualifies for a debate.** Disappointingly, not a single SNP MSP has signed the motion despite having many more MSPs than any other party.
- **The debate will be held on Wednesday (May 24)** starting at 1.15pm in the main chamber at the Scottish Parliament.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Any member of the public can go and sit in the public gallery – our two bike/rail specialists, Ewan and Jolin, will be there and it would be great if a few other members went along. Make sure to get there 15 mins or so in advance as you have to go through security.
- If you are concerned about the bike carriage issue, email your MSPs and say you hope they will attend the debate and speak about your concerns. Tell them your concerns briefly and/or refer them to our two articles – [one](#) [two](#). Find your MSPs at www.writetothem.com.
- If you intend to go to the Parliament and you'd like to discuss this or any other cycling issues with any of your MSPs, why not say you are going and ask if there is any chance to see them for a few minutes before or after the debate to discuss whatever concerns you.

3. Sheriffhall Roundabout – event Weds 24 May

- We and others have raised a great deal of concern about the Scottish Government's preferred option for the new Sheriffhall roundabout. Our main story is [here](#) and our main tweet [here](#).
- As quoted in the story, SEStran, the Regional Transport Authority has said there should be a pedestrian/cycle bridge, and Sustrans has asked the Scottish Government to think again about their choice of option, as it is almost impossible to make the chosen option truly cycle-friendly.
- If you are concerned, it is still very much worth emailing your MSPs and asking them to raise your concerns with the Transport Minister. Find them at www.writetothem.com.
- The [Gorebridge Community Development Trust](#) in Midlothian is [extremely concerned](#) and has collected a petition which they are to present to the Convener of the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee on Wednesday 24th at 1.30pm (which unfortunately overlaps the above bike/rail debate!). They are hoping to get press coverage. We have been working with them, and will be there with them on Wednesday. *It would be great if one or two people who use the existing roundabout and want the decision changed were able to come too* – if you can, please email davedufeu AT gmail dot com.

4. Edinburgh cyclerooute consultations – ending 30 June

There are 2 important new consultations – see below - both of which include a drop-in session. In both cases there is an online response form and an email address for more detailed comments or for queries.

The consultations are only just out, so we don't have preliminary thoughts on them yet.

If you make a submission please send us a copy, or any important points, as soon as possible, to consider in the official Spokes response. *But please do make your own individual submission to the Council.* If possible begin by welcoming the Council's initiative before going on to make your criticisms or suggestions for how it should be improved/ changed.

There will be a further consultation stage with leaflets door-to-door in the areas affected.

- [Holyrood Park/ Pollock Halls to Mayfield area](#) (click for details). [Summary document](#). Staffed public exhibition – Newington Library, Weds 31 May, 5-8pm.
- [Quiet Route 8/ Stenhouse to Saughton Park area](#) (click for details). [Summary document](#). Staffed public exhibition – Saughton Park Winter Garden, Tues 30 May, 5-8pm.

5. Edinburgh Design Guidance – ends 16 June

- The Council is revamping its guidance document about new developments, and it is now [out for consultation](#). It is a massive document, which we have not yet responded to. If you have the time, please have a look, send in your comments and let us have a copy.
- One of the important sections is about what parking is allowed and is required at new developments of all types – see section 2.4 of the document. Note that the table on page 57 is confusing at first – many of the figures in the main columns refer (we think) not to the number of bike spaces but to the value of the 'X' in the left-hand columns. For example, at a retail warehouse there should be one bike parking space per employee for each 500m² of space, and one per customer for each 1000m² and for a hotel one bike space per 10 rooms.

6. Other local consultations [Edinburgh and Lothians]

Check for more or newer consultations at...

- consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations

7. Scottish Government consultations

If you make a submission please send us a copy, or any important points, as soon as possible, to consider in the official Spokes response. But *please do make your own individual submission* if these topics concern you. In all cases there is an online QA or you can email a response.

- [20mph Default Bill for Scotland](#) (click for details) **Ends 7 August**. NB - the Bill is promoted by Mark Ruskell MSP, who is speaking at our public meeting on June 14 (see 1 above).
- [Pavement & Double-Parking Bill](#) **Ends 30 June**. In the previous Scottish Parliament a private member's Bill to prohibit pavement parking, double parking and parking at dropped kerbs reached an advanced stage but fell when the election came. The Scottish Government is now planning its own Bill and is consulting the public on what should be in it. There is a danger that double parking and/or parking at dropped kerbs may be dropped, although these can be major problems for safe and convenient cycling. **Please do respond if any of this concerns you.**
- [Energy Policy](#) **Ends 30 May**. This consultation includes energy *use* in Scotland, not just generation, up to year 2050, so is a major consultation. There is a section on **reducing energy use in transport**. See opposite para 174 in the consultation document for the list of proposed actions. There are 8 actions on transport of which *only 1 is about active travel*, and it is just repeating that they are spending at "record levels" - *which is just true in absolute terms, although it is a declining % of transport spending* and is way below European comparators. All the other 7 actions are about electric vehicles, emissions, etc. Also there is nothing about reducing transport demand, which would be another big policy lever and would bring many other benefits.

8. Spokes help needed – *please email the person shown if you can help*

- **Stalls** – We have a lot of stalls on in June, including Meadows Festival, Canal Festival and stalls at our own events (e.g. in 1 above) and it is putting a lot of pressure on our regular stall helpers. *If you could help out for a couple of hours at a stall* (and possibly go on the stall helpers list in future, if you enjoy it!) please email [mknottenbelt1 AT gmail dot com](mailto:mknottenbelt1@gmail.com).
- **Deliveries (and stuffing)** – Our summer mailout, including the summer Bulletin, is being packed up on Saturday 27 May a.m. We need to get it delivered if possible within 7-10 days as it is advertising the events in (1) above. Unfortunately several of our regular delivery people are away – it feels like the start of the holiday season! **We would really appreciate a few other people who could organise delivery of a largish pile** (most are up to 50/60 envelopes) – you can either deliver it yourself or parcel it out between 2 or 3 members in the local area – we give you the phone numbers of local members who have ticked on their membership form that they'd like to help with delivery. We can't split the piles smaller centrally, as we are already dealing with 40-50 different piles for Edinburgh and the Lothians towns!! If you can also help at the stuffing, so much the better. *If you can help* please email [davedufeu AT gmail dot com](mailto:davedufeu@gmail.com).

9. General election, June 8th

- We will probably be doing very little around the June 8th General Election - most transport matters that concern us are the concern of the Scottish Parliament, and also both we and [#WalkCycleVote](#) put a great deal of time and energy into the recent Council elections (with some positive results, as explained in the forthcoming Summer Spokes Bulletin).
- As far as we are aware, only two of the candidates in Edinburgh and the Lothians are Spokes members – they are **Ian Murray** in Edinburgh South and **Gordon Munro** in Edinburgh North and Leith. If anyone knows any others, please let us know.

10. Finally

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](#). Follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent 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.
- The **Spokes Bulletin** is one of our main means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling development, and how people can help. Can you use a supply (large or small) to leaflet bikes at your workplace or on bikes parked around any areas of the city [not Haymarket or Waverley which we already cover] – or would your local cafe, barber, etc like 5 or 10 copies? If you'd like a supply of the current bulletin, and/or if you'd like a regular supply of future copies, email updates AT spokes.org.uk.