

# Spokes Action Update 20.09.17

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... 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.**

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Apologies that there has not been a circular for some time, and this one is short. There is a great deal happening at present inside and outside Spokes and our energies have been fully occupied!

However this quick circular is coming now because of urgent item (1) below.

## 1. Picardy Place consultation – Sat 23 Sept

Although there has been extensive consultation on the design of Leith Walk and on the Council's planned West-East cycleroute, there has been virtually no real consultation on the crucial cycling blackspot in between – Picardy Place. It is hard to understand the process as several bodies are involved, and the Council appears to have a legal agreement dating back some years giving developers a huge say in designing Picardy Place. Also - years ago the Council gave the St James developers permission for a massive 1600-space underground car park, which clearly will affect traffic at Picardy.

As a result Picardy is going to be a large gyratory, looking rather like 1970s development! Some cycleroutes are to be slotted in and there will be some pedestrian improvements, but hope of the whole area achieving its true 'people' potential looks lost.

Spokes member [Cllr Chas Booth](#) has made strenuous efforts to get proper public consultation and indeed got a motion through to that effect at a recent Transport Committee [[see our website article](#)] but things are now at a stage where it seems impossible for the gyratory to be knocked back although we hope it is not too late to get improvements on cycleroutes, cycle crossings and pedestrian space.

Detailed plans have still not been released but will hopefully be available on Saturday – although the developers have a frustrating habit of issuing artists impressions which leave a lot to the imagination.

**Venue** – Valvona & Crolla Vincaffe, 11 Multrees Walk EH1 3DG

**Time** – 10am-4pm, Sat 23 Sept.

It is organised by "[Together for Edinburgh](#)" (!) but their site doesn't yet say anything much about Picardy, only about Leith Street.

**If you cannot attend, or if you want to email later**, send comments to ...

[esjcommunity@laingorourke.com](mailto:esjcommunity@laingorourke.com) [and forward a copy to [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk)]

*Spokes and Living Streets* have brought out a [joint paper](#) with our shared concerns.

*On cycleroutes*, some specific issues are...

- A 2-way segregated route is promised from Leith Walk up Leith Street as far as Calton Road – but it will not continue to the top of Leith Street (even though Leith Street seems to be working ok just now with zero motor traffic!)
- It is absolutely vital there is a really good connection from York Place to Leith Walk, including safe and convenient crossings of the gyratory, as this is part of the Council's West-East route – and yet we have received no details or assurances about this.
- The area between Broughton Street and Leith Street is to be a 'shared space' area where cyclists and pedestrians mix. Both Living Streets and ourselves are asking for a segregated cycleroute here, rather than mixing walkers and cyclists.
- If there were high quality 2-way segregated routes on all 3 sides of the gyratory, linked by safe and convenient crossings of the roads, then the above two bullet points would be remedied, and most cycling desire lines would be catered for.

## 2. Spokes 40<sup>th</sup> birthday

You will have seen the supplement in [Spokes 128](#) about our 40-year history. Now we are preparing various events and a high-quality exhibition, the artwork done by [Transform Creative](#).

The exhibition comprises 6 large display boards (and maybe other materials) and will rotate round various events and venues.

If you can **offer us a venue** for a week or so display, where it will be seen by members of the public, please get in touch. Similarly if you are **willing ask at your local library, community centre, etc.** But please preferably make sure that the venue is interested before contacting us, as we are very occupied at present and cannot yet start approaching many venues ourselves. If you can help on this, please email [mknottenbelt1@gmail.com](mailto:mknottenbelt1@gmail.com).

## 3. Spokes public meeting – Thursday 9 November - Cycling Policies in the New Councils

Please put the date in your diary – more info later. Our speakers will be the councillors responsible for transport in all 4 local councils (West Lothian still to be decided – may be an officer instead).

- Edinburgh – Cllr Leslie Macinnes
- East Lothian – Cllr Norman Hampshire
- Midlothian – Cllr Russell Imrie
- W Lothian – to be confirmed
- Chairing discussion session – Daisy Narayanan, Sustrans Scotland Deputy Director

**If you live in the Lothians** – this is a great chance to come to a Spokes public meeting and see what your council has to say about its cycling policies – and to question your transport convener!

## 4. Autumn mailout – Sat 7 October

Usual helpers will be emailed nearer the time as always, but put the date in your diary now!

## 5. Other big recent developments

Apologies we don't have time to go into details here, but check out the links below.

If you use twitter, please also retweet any tweets that interest you.

If you wish to email your councillors or MSPs about any item, find them [here](#).

- [Big new cycling cash tweet1 tweet2](#)
- [Meadows-GeorgeSt & West Edinburgh CL+ projects funded tweet](#)
- [Spokes 'low cost ideas' competition results tweet](#)
- [Bike-rail breakthrough?? - tweet](#)
- [Union Canal towpath study tweet](#)
- [The Edinburgh City Region Deal tweet](#)

## 6. Consultations – *check out your local consultations here...*

- [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk) includes consultation on [setted streets](#)
- [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)
- [www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open)
- [www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations)

## 7. Other news/ events

### 1. Living Streets Edinburgh -- Annual Public Meeting with Lesley Macinnes (CEC)

28 September, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh

Living Streets Edinburgh is pleased to welcome Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport and Environment Convenor at City of Edinburgh Council as the main speaker for this event.

If you want to attend, please contact the group at [livingstreetsedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:livingstreetsedinburgh@gmail.com).

### 2. Railfuture Scotland autumn meeting to be held in the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL, on Saturday 14th October 2017 at 2.00 p.m..

Guest speaker will be Alex Hynes, the recently installed Managing Director of ScotRail. All are welcome.

### 3. Sept 26 South Ed parking & roads public mtg by Ian Murray MP

6.30-8.00 Greenbank Church, Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 6ES

[http://www.ianmurraymp.co.uk/public\\_meeting\\_schedule](http://www.ianmurraymp.co.uk/public_meeting_schedule)

### 4. Secure city centre (West End) #BikeStorage for rent ..

See [tweeted poster](#)

## 8. Finally

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://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](mailto:updates@spokes.org.uk).