

Spokes Action Update 19.11.17

... 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. Picardy Place consultation – Drop-ins Tue 21 Nov, Wed 22 Nov

The saga continues, with a final consultation prior to a Committee decision in January and work starting soon after that. Consultation opportunities are...

- ◆ **Tue 21 Nov**, 10:00-19:00, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, EH1 1DE
- ◆ **Wed 22 Nov**, 15:00-19:00, Broughton St Marys Parish Church, 12 Bellevue Cres, EH3 6NE
- ◆ **Online**, ending 15 December, at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/picardy-place>.

The contact for all the above, and any queries, is *Craig.McConnell@edinburgh.gov.uk*.

The plans and various explanations are at the above [consultation website](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/picardy-place). You can click through the online response form without entering anything, to see the details, and then go back and fill it in later. For ease, a direct link to the main map page is [here](#) and a map pdf can be downloaded [here](#).

Unfortunately even the latest set of plans is not fully clear on several aspects of what is intended, and some aspects appear to have worsened. Incidentally, a rather odd section of the consultation shows a rejected 'Y-junction' option which has been "discussed by Sustrans" – we have not spoken to Sustrans but we suspect this is not a Sustrans proposal – in any case it is not a vital part of the consultation.

Important cycling issues on which you might wish to comment...

- ◆ **Gyratory design** – we are very unhappy with the overall 'gyratory' design. Sadly there is very little likelihood of this being changed, but **Living Streets** has written this [background](#) and is running [a petition](#) which you may wish to sign - you can personalise its message and title to include cycling aspects. We appreciate the Council's point that **buses will need to turn here** in future when Princes Street is traffic-reduced, but it doesn't need to be a gyratory or a facility for all traffic. Also, Picardy traffic could be considerably reduced by **keeping Leith Street closed** to all except buses, given that the present 10-month closure appears to be working well.
- ◆ **A direct west-east route link York Place <---> Leith Walk is vital.** In previous plans this was shown inside the triangle island, running beside the tram stop, leading to a road crossing just below Omni. In the new plan this cycleroute is gone, replaced by a grey band, and it appears that cyclists on this, the 'flagship' council West-East route, will have to detour via the front of the cathedral then across 2 very busy tightly-spaced toucan crossings near John Lewis.
- ◆ **Leith St <--> Broughton St** also needs to be direct and high quality. The previous plans again had a cycleroute within the island, but the new proposals mean 4 toucan crossings to get from Broughton St to Leith St, and travel from Leith St to Broughton St looks problematic.
- ◆ **Junctions** The various segregated cycleroutes seem to turn into shared space on the approach to nearly all the junctions – just where cycle/pedestrian conflict is most likely. Segregated routes should continue, with side-by-side 'tiger' road crossings, rather than shared-use 'toucans.'
- ◆ **Solution** Assuming the gyratory remains, then high quality 2-way segregated routes on all 3 sides of the gyratory (inside and/or outside the gyratory as appropriate) linked by tiger crossings of the roads would cater for all main cycling desire lines. Finally, the segregated routes should be of adequate width – ideally 3m, but they look narrow on the plans, down to 2m at one point.

What you can do... PTO

Picardy Place: what you can do

- ◆ Go to one of the drop-ins
- ◆ Respond to the online consultation
- ◆ Also email your councillors if you feel strongly. Find them [here](#). Possibly cc the Transport Convener Cllr Lesley Macinnes too [Lesley.Macinnes@edinburgh.gov.uk].
- ◆ If you email councillors, or the consultation contact Craig.McConnell@edinburgh.gov.uk, copy your email to Spokes so we can take it into account in our response
- ◆ Our member Martin McDonnell, who lives near Picardy, is organising a meeting for other concerned nearby individuals and organisations. Details from mcdbristol116@gmail.com.

2. Spokes is 40!!

There's now a comprehensive article on our website, [here](#), which includes links to videos, speeches, presentations, posters, etc.

On Nov 14 Edinburgh Council put on a reception to mark the anniversary, with speeches by Council Leader Cllr Adam McVey and Dave du Feu for Spokes. Photos and videos of the event are included in the above article. We would have loved to invite all 1200 Spokes members, but sadly spaces were far too limited for that – our apologies if you didn't get an invite.

What you can do

- ◆ **Can you offer us a venue** for a 2-week display, where our poster exhibition can be seen by members of the public? Or, can you **ask at your local library, community centre, etc.** Please make sure the venue is interested before contacting us, as we don't have a lot of time to approach lots of venues on spec ourselves. If you can offer help with a probable venue, please email mknottenbelt1@gmail.com.
- ◆ **The poster exhibition is now on** at 2 venues – the [Bike Coop](#), Alvanley Terrace; and the [Bike Station](#), Causewayside. It will be at both venues for 2 weeks from Weds 15 November.
- ◆ **Retweet [our tweet](#)** about the anniversary article.

3. Other dates

- ◆ *Nov 23, 6-7.30* **PoP meeting** at the [Bike Station](#) to plan 2018 Pedal on Parliament
- ◆ *Nov 26, 2pm* **Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** Service at St Andrew's & George's Church, 13 George Street. Joan Strachan 07879 283559. In association with [RoadPeace](#).
- ◆ *Nov 27, 10.30-12.00* **Glasgow. Use of 'big data' for cycling injury risk analysis** "The [Urban Big Data Centre](#) invites you to a free seminar by [Dr Rachel Aldred](#) from the University of Westminster, in the University of Glasgow's [Sir Alwyn Williams Building](#). Rachel will discuss her methods of analysis of data such as Strava Metro for gaining insights into cycling injury risk."
- ◆ *Nov 29, 2.30-7.30* **Future of former Sciennes Road Sick Kids Hospital.** Consultation/exhibition at St Catherine's Argyle Church, Grange Rd. Council planning ref 17/05052/PAN.

4. Spokes public meeting – Cycling Policies in the New Councils

We had a great meeting - there's a full report on the website [here](#).

5. Edinburgh Bike Share

Good news from the Council at last!! See this [Scotsman article](#).

6. Spokes November traffic count

Thanks to everyone who helped with this. A website article is [here](#) and a tweet [here](#).

7. Consultations – *check out your local consultations here...*

- ◆ consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk includes...
 - **Budget consultation** [ends Dec 19]
 - **Tollcross Primary** travel survey for parents & children [ends Nov 27]
 - **Picardy Place** – see article on page 1 above [ends Dec 15]
 - **Parking permits diesel surcharge** [ends Jan 28]
- ◆ [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
 - **Leith Street** – we expect revised Orders to appear here in the next week or two
- ◆ www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk includes...
 - **Citizens' Panel** – join to give your views on EL issues
- ◆ www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open includes...
 - **Budget consultation** [ends Dec 14]
- ◆ www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations

8. 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.