

The autumn SPOKES leaflet is now likely to be out on 1st October. However, Disability Scotland needed to circulate SPOKES members and other cycling groups about their Forthcoming sponsored bike ride, so we have given them a set of address labels for members, in exchange for which they are enclosing this SPOKESWORKER news update in their mailing. If you find that your envelope is hand-written or typed rather than computer-printed, that means that you are either a non-affiliated group or a NON-RENEWED MEMBER. If the latter, you will not be receiving our autumn mailing unless we get your renewal form back very soon!!!

SPOKESDIARY

- Aug 27-28: Joint weekend with Ramblers Assn in Northumberland - probably with van hire for bikes. Doreen, 452-8057.
 - Aug 27: Sponsored bike ride Glasgow to Ayr, for Scottish Society for Mentally Handicapped. Details: 041-226-4541
 - Sep 4: SPOKES Sunday ride, start 10am Usher Hall. Shane, 229-1962. Picnic or pub lunch.
 - Sep 10: Ramblers Association Walk Broxburn to Llinlithgow along canal towpath. Meet Broxburn Fire Stn 1010. Bus 17 (Eastern Scottish) to Harthill from St. Andrews Sq 9.30, stance 12C. Details: J. Dee, Broxburn 852-062.
 - Sept 11: SPOKES SUNDAY RIDE, details as Sep 4.
 - Sep 17-18: Arran cyclign weekend. Richard, 667-3983.
 - Sep 24: Saturday ride: details as Sep 4 (but Sat, not Sun!)
 - Oct 1-2/3: Galloway cycling weekend: MEETING up with GALLOWAY CYCLING GROUP (active local cycle campaign group, coordinator John Taylor). Sarah, 554-9182.
 - Oct 2: Tour de Forth sponsored bike ride for Disability Scotland: see enclosed details or phone 229-8632 (Inez).
 - Oct 8: FOE workshop on "Traffic Calming" in residential areas. Fee £3 (+ fare to London!) Details, Roger Higman, 01-490-1555.
 - Oct 9, 16 and 23: Sunday rides - details as for 4 Sep.
 - Oct 29-30: Glendoll cycling weekend. Harry, 229-6274.
 - Ceilidh: there may be an autumn ceilidh. Shane 229-1962.
- SPOKES LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION MEETING: provisional for Oct 1st. If you have volunteered to help at stuffing meetings and to deliver, please reserve the date. You will be notified by mail of the confirmed date and place, as usual, a week or so in advance.

BIKE WANTED for ENERGY ADVICE CENTRE

An Energy Advice Centre has been opened in Leith Street (no. 17), sponsored by Lothian Region, Edinburgh District, the SDA, and associated with the Ed. University Centre for Human Ecology. They provide free advice on all energy matters. Unfortunately there is nowhere convenient to park a bike. The Centre is to try and get 2 or 3 Sheffield racks erected outside, in exchange for which we have offered to try and get them a bike for the use of the staff. So - if you have an old unwanted bike, which is lying unused in a cellar, why not offer it to the Centre? If you can help, phone Tom Read at the Centre, 557-3457.

[NB: The pavement at this point is fairly wide, and the Council could follow the example used in parts of London, where a few Sheffield racks are erected about 9"-12" in from the edge of the kerb, parallel to the road. This approach could also be used in other shopfront areas where there is a wide pavement - e.g. in the existing widened pavement on part of Princes St., and on the remaining pavements when they are widened in the near future. If you would find this useful, why not ask your Regional Councillor? (229-9292 for name and address).

THANK YOU, SPOKES

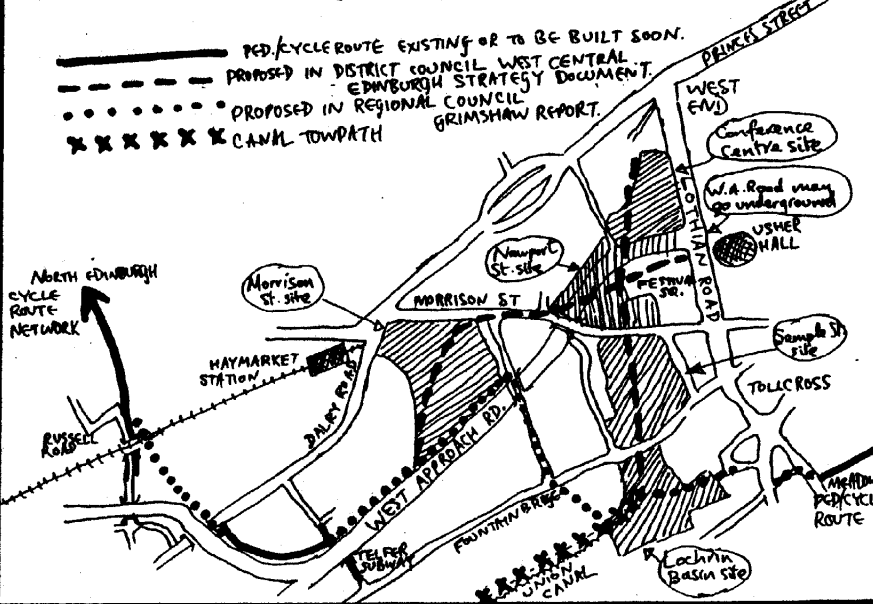
The Nicaragua Health riders, whose sponsored ride Lands End to John O'Groats, was advertised in our recent emergency mailing to members in south edinburgh, have written to thank us for this. A considerable sum was raised, towards an ambulance for La Dalia in a remote area of Nicaragua, and the riders think that a lot of the sponsorship came from our mailing.

N.E. FIFE DISTRICT, STRUCTURE PLAN

We have just heard that the North East Fife District Structure Plan has been published. This includes the area of the possible St. Andrews - Leuchars pedestrian/cycle route, which a number of members have written about. The route would avoid the very unpleasant ride along the A91 which is experienced on the ride to the Station at Leuchars after the St. Andrews Ride (there have been 5 reported bike and 5 pedestrian "accidents" in recent years). Unfortunately at the time of typing this we do not know what is in the newly published plan. Anyone particularly interested in this has up to 19 September to place a formal objection to the N.E.Fife District Structure Plan. Details can probably be obtained from local CTC and Fife Cycle Action contact person Robert Mason, 0592-262944. The Council address for further details is: Director of Economic Development and Planning, Fife Regional Council, Fife House, GLENROTHES. If you might want to object, this MUST BE DONE BY 19 SEPTEMBER.

IMPORT-TAX

WEST CENTRAL EDINBURGH: BIKES IN? or BIKES OUT??



document summarising their wishes for the West Central Edinburgh redevelopment. We were delighted to find that this included main pedestrian/cycle routes east-west between Morrison St/Haymarket and Festival Square; and north-south between Lochrin Basin (canal terminus area) and Canning St (West End). This document can be inspected at the Planning Dept, 1 Cockburn St. The north-south route would provide a marvellous alternative to Lothian Rd, for many journeys; whilst the east-west gives the prospect of a link to the north Edinburgh cycle route network. Connections to the Meadows could then complete an excellent network for the area.

At present this is all hope and good intentions. Now the next stage is beginning where private developers are coming forward with plans, and there will be considerable pressure to reduce space allocated to facilities which do not give a financial return - such as pedestrian/cycle routes. We need a major letter-writing campaign to remind councillors of the need and opportunities for provision for cyclists in what will be Edinburgh's greatest redevelopment for the rest of this century. Please write to your District Councillor, or, better, visit their surgery, and ask them to make certain that when planning permission is granted for the various developments, the developers are required to include pedestrian/cycle routes to create a complete central-area network. Tell them what you find dangerous at present (e.g. Lothian Road), and what you would like to see in the redevelopments. Ask them to reply & tell you what will be done for cyclists.

Another possibility which was raised, by the Cockburn Association, would be for a new station (underground) at the West End. This could do a lot to help reduce motor traffic in the area, which will be an increasing problem.

GET THE NAME/ADDRESS/SURGERY TIMES OF YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR BY PHONGING 031-225-2424. GIVE YOUR ADDRESS, AND THEY WILL THEN LOOK UP THE NAME OF YOUR COUNCILLOR IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT. If you have the time to write other letters, write to Cllr. R. Cairns, Planning Committee Chair, Edinburgh District Council, City Chambers, High St, Edinburgh 1; and Cllr. George Kerevan, Economic Development Committee, at the same address. Finally, since the Regional Council would also be closely involved in the road and cycling aspects (if any!), letters would also be useful to Cllr. Ron Muir, Transportation Committee, Lothian Regional Council, 1 Parliament Square. PLEASE LET US HAVE COPIES OF ANY USEFUL REPLIES, and of your letter if possible.

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: "ROADS FOR THE FUTURE"

The House of Commons Transport Committee is setting up an enquiry called "Roads for the Future" and has asked for evidence from interested groups (or individuals). Evidence (20 copies if poss.) must be sent BY THE END OF OCTOBER to Transport Committee, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, headed "Roads for the Future". The enquiry is considering only Major roads, built by government or local councils. Fuller details are available from the address above. However, there are some important points which concern cyclists. These include (a) the need to preserve the existing network of minor roads and tracks, which are normally threatened when new roads are built; (b) danger for cyclists at junctions with existing roads - roundabouts, slip roads, etc.

Within the next 2-3 years the whole of West Central Edinburgh will be the scene of major developments which will change the whole face of the area. This provides the chance for some excellent pedestrian/bike provision - or it could just mean yet more traffic and even worse conditions for cyclists on roads such as Lothian Road, which already has one of the worst bike accident records in the city. A Year ago Edinburgh District Council brought out a