

Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact spokes@spokes.org.uk.

£1m COMPETITION

Competition closes 25 September!!

How can we get lots more everyday trips made by bike? – for work, shopping, school, leisure...

How could £1m best be invested to achieve this?

Great prizes include: 1st class return for 2 between any 2 ScotRail stations; Edinburgh Bike Coop Workstand (£88 value); Edinburgh tram works guided tour; Restaurant meal vouchers; and more.

Full rules and prize list: See www.spokes.org.uk. downloads – OneOffDocuments. Up to 2 entries per person are permitted.

SPECIAL MEETING 17.9.09

Sustainable transport/cycling consultant **Richard Armitage** visits Edinburgh 17/18 Sept and is putting on a presentation/discussion for Spokes members and anyone interested [www.ratransport.co.uk].

When: Thursday 17 September, 7.30-9.30 (7.15 for tea/coffee)

Where: St Augustine's Church, George IV Bridge [downstairs]

More info: JackieHATwaitrose.com 664 0526

Topic: How can Edinburgh meet its ambitious Charter of Brussels target of 15% of all journeys by bike by 2020 - also his experience of how European countries raised bike use hugely.

On Friday he meets senior councillors/officials to discuss how the target can be met, so take this chance to give him your ideas - and maybe a taste of the type of tough question he'll get next day!

This meeting is at short notice, but should be a very interesting evening - please make an effort to come along.

MOBILITY WEEK 16/22.9.09

European website: mobilityweek.eu

Edinburgh website: edinburgh-emw.info

Sep 16 Commuter Challenge – bike, car, bus, jog etc from various rush-hour start points, to St Andrews Square. **Volunteers needed for these journeys** - contact maggie@changingpace.info as soon as possible. Or just come along to St Andrews Square to support the 'commuters' as they arrive. Sponsored by **Sestran**.

Sep 17 SPOKES PUBLIC OPEN MEETING with transport/cycling consultant Richard Armitage – Special Meeting above.

Sep 18 Bike Friday – guided commuter rides in from Portobello, Gracemount, Gyle at 8am using as quiet roads/paths as possible.

The idea works well in London: please join the Edinburgh rides.

End point Festival Square 7.30-9.30 with Spokes and other stalls. Each ride has a trained leader - **other experienced cyclists are needed** at the back and/or to stay with anyone who has problems.

Volunteer to maggie@changingpace.info. **Ride details:** edinburgh-emw.info. **Spokes stall contact:** judy.cantleyATtopenworld.com.

Sep 18 Cycle round Edinburgh bike facilities [provisional] with Richard Armitage [above]. 9.30-11.30 starting Festival Sq after Bike Friday event. *If coming email DaveduFeuATgmail.com.*

Sep 20 Spokes Stall at Leith Car-Free Day 12.30-4.30, at the Shore. **Helpers needed** – contact timATvizzualz.co.uk 554.7264.

Sep 20 Spokes Stall at Portobello Car-Free Day 1.00-3.00 [then other events]. **Helpers needed:** imaxwellATgn.apc.org 669.6542.

ALSO IN EDINBURGH MOBILITY WEEK...

- Win money for your child's school travel projects.
- Win an hours free (adult) cycle training, worth £30. 100 hours of cycle training to give away - boost your cycling confidence!!
- Encourage your employees, school and community to take part.

For more details, links, posters, etc, see edinburgh-emw.info.

MORE FOR YOUR DIARY

COPENHAGEN WORLD CLIMATE TALKS Dec 2009

The events below marked ** are to help bring pressure on world leaders at this vital international climate conference.

Sep 11 Linlithgow Station cycle info board opening 10.15am by Patrick Harvie MSP. See pdf at www.spokes.org.uk after 11 Sept.

Sep 17-26 Take One Action Film Festival - Filmhouse. Includes several climate change-related films www.takeoneaction.org.uk.

Sep 25 Critical Mass streets ride, 18.00, foot of Mound.

Sep 25-27 Newcastle-Edinburgh Sustrans 200-mile sponsorship ride. www.sustrans.org.uk/challenge. Accommodation, support.

Oct 4 Spokes Sunday Ride to Linlithgow. Bring own picnic, tea/coffee provided at Dave du Feu. www.snowcycle.co.uk.

Oct 10 Suffragette Centenary Procession Edinburgh. A cyclist group is wanted with banners, flags etc. gudecause.org.uk.

Oct 20 Aqqaluk Lyngé talk, 2.00-3.00pm, Edinburgh Uni Kings Bldgs. Aqqaluk represents the Inuit people, already affected by climate change. £4/£8 www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland.

****Oct 24 International Climate Day of Action** includes a 350-person human banner at the Scottish Parliament. Pledge to join in – and more info – at www.350.org & www.holyrood350.org

Oct 29 Climate Change and Local Authorities conference, t Dynamic Earth. Cabinet Secretary for Finance **John Swinney** MSP is main speaker – if you are going, please get in touch.

Oct 31 AUTUMN SPOKES MAILOUT – provisional

Nov 4 Green New Deal talk by Andrew Simms, New Economic Foundation, head of Climate Change programme. 7.30pm Playfair Library, Edinburgh Uni. £4/£8 www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland.

Nov 5-8 World CarFree Conference and workshops - Prague. Info from tanja@worldcarfree.net.

Mid/Late November SPOKES AUTUMN PUBLIC MEETING probable topic - Future of Princes Street.

****Dec 5 Climate Change March 'The Wave'** Glasgow and London www.the-wave.org.uk & www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland.

Stewards needed for Glasgow – briefing session provided. *Email: gailATstopclimatechaosscotland.org [Subject line: Stewarding]*

****Dec 6 Ride Planet Earth** Bike rides in cities across the world. www.rideplanetearth.org. UK contact: richardkimberley8@hotmail.com.

****Dec 9-16 London-Copenhagen Bike Ride** www.christian-aid.org.uk [click get involved, events]. [Are there other rides??]

Jun 28-Jul 1, 2010 Towards Carfree Cities IX world conference in York. www.worldcarfree.net/conference

SPOKES INTERNAL

FACEBOOK

One of our members has created a Spokes Facebook page. Please join – and encourage your 'friends' to join too.

BIKE PARKING IN FLATS & TENEMENTS

We're planning a factsheet on this topic – if you've useful ideas, experience or knowledge email mknottenbelt1@googlemail.com.

LEAFLET BIKES AT YOUR WORK

Many Spokes members get a pile of each Bulletin to leaflet parked bikes at their work. In some places that's not allowed – but if so you may be able to put up a leaflet dispenser, so that anyone interested can take one. One member says, "I blue-tacked a cut back envelope onto a pillar at our bike parking area. On the envelope it says 'please take one.'" **Please email Spokes if you'd like a regular supply of Bulletins** (3 times a year) to leaflet bikes at your work – or in shopping areas, or anywhere with bikes!!

LOCAL AREA ACTION

Find Edinburgh councillors at www.edinburgh.gov.uk. See back page of Spokes Bulletins to locate other councillors, MSPs, etc. The first 2 items show there's a long way to get 'think bike' integrated into all parts of the City Development Dept!

GEORGE IV BRIDGE – HOTEL MISSONI

Back in June the council told us it intended to change the road layout outside the new hotel, to make this crucial road less bike-unfriendly. Our latest count showed 24% of rush-hour vehicles leaving Forrest Rd were cyclists; now these bikes get squeezed into the pavement by the new road layout at the hotel. If this concerns you, contact your councillor to ask what's happening.

HOPE LANE OVERBRIDGE

Another serious example of failure to consider bikes properly was the installation of a crazy series of barriers on this vital ped/bike bridge over 'Portobello bypass,' rendering it virtually unusable by some bikes, and difficult for all. Many complaints were received by the council, and we understand the situation is going to be remedied – we wait with anticipation/trepidation(?)

WEST PORT/ KINGS STABLES – consultation ends 23 Oct.

Please comment on the council's draft brief for this area. Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk then click *Council Consultations*. There are good general aspirations in section 3.0 but cycling isn't mentioned in section 2.24 and routes on the map are shown as pedestrian-only. Car parking is required but bike parking not mentioned.

VOTE FOR LEITH

Greener Leith [www.greenerleith.org] is running an online vote on ideas to encourage walking, cycling and bus use. If you live in or visit Leith, vote at weloveleith.uservoice.com. You have up to 10 votes - for existing ideas and/or your own. The results will help in drawing up a Leith travel plan. Greener Leith is working on many more ideas, funded by its successful Climate Challenge Fund application. A travel pack will go to every house – with a local walk/cycle/bus map designed by Spokes maps expert Tim Smith.

EDINBURGH PATHS EVENT - BIKE STOP / DR BIKE

Edinburgh Ranger Service, jointly with the Bike Station, and supported by Spokes, is running a campaign promoting cycling - and safe, polite cycling - in Edinburgh's parks and cycle corridors.

Bike Stop is a gazebo adjacent to the path, offering a discounted Spokes Edinburgh Cycle Map, Dr Bike, and advice from Park Rangers on considerate cycling on shared paths. You are welcome to chat at the Stop, or take your bike for a quick checkover.

Spokes and the Rangers are keen to see maximum use of these paths, as a contribution to the Council's target to raise cycle use. However, the council gets complaints, and requests for cycling to be banned, so it is vital that shared paths are used considerately, and this will be highlighted. There have apparently been particular problems on the **Roseburn Park riverside path** which is shared by primary school children and adult cycle commuters.

The expected Bike Stop/ Dr Bike times/locations are...

Roseburn Park Mon 21 Sep, 8-10 & 3-5

Braidburn Valley Park Mon 28 Sep, 8-10

Meadows Last Tue of Sep-Apr (ex Dec), 8.30-10 & 3-5, probably at North end of Jawbone Walk.

A1 CYCLEWAY COMPLETE ON 18 SEPTEMBER!!

Although *Skateraw to Bilsdean* might sound rather remote and parochial, this new path by the A1 near Torness is the final link in a minor-road/off-road route between Cockburnspath and Dunbar. It was also the most critical problem on National Route 76, Berwick on Tweed to Edinburgh. It is constructed by the Scottish Government's *trunk road* authority **Transport Scotland**, the only body in Scotland which can build bike routes out of their small change! An official opening is likely in October – we hope to notify East Lothian Spokes members – or ask us to let you know.

FUNDING LOCAL BIKE PROJECTS

Spokesworker 20.7.09 mentioned **Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership grants** (up to £5000) which could be used for local projects to raise bike use. Another option is: **Community Health Development Grants** - up to £3000 from Lothian Health for initiatives to benefit the health of a local community or group.

Info from claire.glen@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk 0131 536 3523. If your area has a local **Climate Challenge**-funded project, another option is an 'add-on' grant to that for a project to raise bike use.

If you'd like to meet Spokes members in your area to discuss local issues, and maybe seek funding for a local initiative, we can email members near you to see if there's enough interest.

GOVERNMENT

SCOTLAND'S 'ZERO WASTE' PLAN

"The Scottish Government has adopted Zero Waste as our goal - eliminating unnecessary use of raw materials; sustainable design; resource efficiency and waste prevention; re-using products where possible; and recovering value from products when they reach the end of their lives." It seems that a number of ideas in earlier documents, including deposits on glass bottles etc, have been dropped. [Spokes members report less glass on roads and paths in countries and US States where deposits are used]. *To comment: see www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations. Ends 13.11.09.*

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT – SCCS BRIEFING PAPER

Scotland's hugely ambitious Climate Change Bill is now an act. A briefing document from the coalition which fought for a tough Act is at www.stopclimatechaos.org/files/docs/SCCS-Act-Summary.pdf.

FUNDING FOR CYCLING INVESTMENT

The fight now is to achieve the promised emissions reductions – and **nowhere will that be harder than in transport**. Under 1% of transport investment goes to cycling (under £20m total) while trunk road spending rose hugely in the last budget (up £134m) and has a further big planned rise in the forthcoming 2010/11 budget. **It's time to get your MSP thinking about the 2010/11 budget!!**

Note: the Spokes research showing Scottish cycling investment under 1% of total transport spending, and falling [Spokes 104] has been included as a major chunk of a new briefing paper *Cycling in Scotland*, by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre SPICe. SPICe is independent of government and of parties, providing research papers for the whole Parliament. This gives a huge public credibility to our research, which SPICe calls *"the most comprehensive analysis of funding for Scottish cycling projects"*. See 4 August 2009 news item at spokes.org.uk.

OPPORTUNITIES

10:10 CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Join Edinburgh Uni, the UK Cabinet, the Shadow Cabinet, the Science Museum, football clubs, schools, 100s of celebrities and literally tens of thousands of individuals by pledging to cut your carbon emissions 10% in 2010. For more info, and to sign up, go to www.1010uk.org. Lots more background at www.guardian.co.uk/environment/10-10. There was even a whole page in the Sun! To stay in touch, email addtolist@1010uk.org.

ARRAN TO ATHENS – ACTION PLEDGES WANTED

Transition Edinburgh South [www.transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk] is an initiative to combat Climate Change and Peak Oil through local community activity. Two TES members, Mike Snider and Helena Woodvine, are on this ambitious awareness-raising ride. They ask individuals to commit to one of 10 Resilience Building actions such as *Get Out Yer Green Thumb* and *Cycle to Work*. Each commitment aims to benefit the pledger and the planet, and provide lasting community benefit. They hope for 1000 pledges.

On their ride they also hope to encourage other communities to set up organisations similar to Transition Edinburgh South (TES).

The Ride For Resilience is sponsored by Edinburgh Bicycle and Nearbuyme.com. For more information on the Ride, and to make a pledge, go to www.justpledging.com/rideforresilience.

SUSTRANS CYCLING OFFICER POST – apply by 25 Sep

Main responsibilities include promoting cycling to school at selected schools (mainly aims at 9 – 14 year old girls), supporting 'school champions', harnessing local authority resources and making links between schools, partners and the bicycle industry. c.£24,000 pa, 37.5 hours per week, 2-year contract based in Perth.

For application pack, please ring 0117 915 0325 or email Laura Bridges at jobs@sustrans.org.uk. Quote reference SUS045M.