

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 spokesATspokes.org.uk.

FOR YOUR DIARY

See Also Events List On Spokes Website

June 15-23 **National Bike Week** www.bikeweek.org.uk and

June 15-23 **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** www.edfoc.org.uk

HELP NEEDED: *If you're going to an edfoc event, especially one of the talks, could you take a pile of the summer Spokes Bulletin to hand out as people arrive? Contact DaveduFeuATgmail.com.*

The NBW/EdFoC Week includes ...

June 15 **Copenhagenize illustrated talk** – see 'Member Initiatives'

June 15 **The Skelf opening day** – see 'Member Initiatives'

June 15 **St Andrews ride** www.leprahealthinaction.org

June 19 **Spokes Bike Breakfast** City Chambers, 7.45-9.45

LATEST: *Edinburgh Bicycle is running a prize draw at the breakfast, with EBC vouchers as prizes.*

PRINCES ST FUTURE

The Council consultation on Princes Street and George Street, *Building a Vision for the City Centre*, is now over.

As you know [Spokesworker 16.3.13] the proposal was to close the north-side carriageways of Princes St and George St to traffic, with widened pavements. George St, but not Princes St, would have a two-way cycle route. Buses, taxis and bikes would travel west in Princes St, and eastbound (plus cars) in George St. The George St middle-of-the-road car park would remain. All eastbound cyclists would be diverted away from Princes St to the high-quality but round-about route along George St, then back again at the far end.

We had hoped to include here the consultation results and any changes to the proposals. Unfortunately they are still not online as we go to print, though are due imminently.

However we understand *informally* [and so this cannot be quoted as definitive] that the consultation found the following opinions...

- Princes St space should be better used before extending pavements
- Strong support for a Princes Street cycle route
- Strong support & little opposition for dedicated cycle route to the city centre [route not specified]
- Almost equal for and against the overall Princes St/ George St plan including the one-way motor traffic in the two streets
- Need for cycling 'permeability' – ability to access all areas by bike.

Even assuming these are the correct results, it does not mean that the council will necessarily implement them!! Indeed, since opinion appears to be split (and strongly felt both ways) on the one-way concept, it is far from obvious what the council will do! However, whatever the overall final plan, the consultation results seem to support cycling permeability, including for Princes Street.

The actual consultation results, and any council decisions, will appear at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/citycentrerevision. **Once you have seen them, tell your councillors what you think they should do!**

FOUND & STOLEN

Stolen Bikes UK - <http://stolen-bikes.co.uk> - is a register to record details about your stolen bike. The information is put out through various sources to spread the word and help recovery. The site includes advice to maximize the chances of recovering a bike.

Find That Bike - <http://findthatbike.co.uk> pulls together used bike adverts from eBay, Gumtree and other classifieds - the main purpose is to help bike theft victims search through the piles of bikes sold every day to ensure their stolen bike isn't one of them.

SOME URGENT DATES

Exhibitions are happening for several big developments in the city. Most are at the PAN stage, which is a public consultation by a developer before the planning application. PAN documents appear on the council website, but normally only give the outline of the site – **to see the detail you have to visit the exhibition or contact the developer.** To look up a PAN go to...

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/>

and then search for its reference (e.g. 13/01820/PAN). For more about PANs see www.spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : lobbying.

For any of the following that concern you please visit the exhibition and leave comments. Or use the email address below (where known) to get info and to comment – also cc your email to Spokes. Further contact details may now be at the above council website. Initial comments below are mainly from Peter Hawkins, Planning Group, email peterhawkATphonecoop.coop.

June 5 Crewe Rd North residential 13/01705/PAN

Exhibition: 2-7.30pm, at the Varsity North Sales Centre, Crewe Road North – former site of Telford College.

June 6 Royal Edinburgh 13/01468/PAN & 13/01470/PAN

Exhibitions: 8am-4pm, The Gym, Child Mental Health Service, 23 Tipperlinn Rd and 5-8pm, Eric Liddell C'tre, 15 Morningside Rd.
Info: Fraser.Littlejohn@montagu-evans.co.uk 0131 229 3800.

The PANs are about the Royal Edinburgh campus master plan.

June 10-14 North Sighthill residential 13/01820/PAN

Exhibition: June 10-14, 12-2pm at Gate 55, Sighthill Rd.

Huge site where high-rises used to be, north of Calder Rd. Need for east-west cycle route through the site, Sighthill Court to Broomhouse Rd, to link Napier campuses and towards city centre.

June 20 New Boroughmuir High School

Public mtg for people living near: 7pm, St Brides Community Centre, Orwell Terrace. *Also staffed drop-ins:* Fountainbridge Lib June 6, 10-12; June 11, 3-5pm; June 19, 2-4pm; June 24, 4-6pm.

NB - this is a council consultation, not a PAN. *Lots more info:* search for Boroughmuir at edinburgh.gov.uk. **Email queries and comment by 12 July** to newSchoolBuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Canal towpath needs widened or separate cycle path in school area? Cycle routes/access to school also crucial & difficult.

June 27 Student accomm, Bernard Terrace 13/01513/PAN

Exhibition: 3-7.30pm, Lutton Court, Bernard Terrace.

Site between Bernard Terr and Lutton Place. Need to ensure access to Lutton Place & adequate bike parking resident & visitor.

OTHER VITAL CONSULTATIONS

[more details of these in Spokes Bulletin 116, p6]

By 14 June: Edinburgh Local Development Plan – crucial plan guiding future of land use & transport in the city for years to come.

By 28 June: Central Edinb parking survey – great to see this survey asks about problems *caused* by parking, not just problems for car parkers! Open-ended qns 6,10,18,20,21 allow comments.

PUNCTURE @ JUNIPER?

If you have a puncture or minor mechanical problem at Juniper Green, e.g. on the Water of Leith path, help is at hand! Woods Deli and cafe keep a supply of basic tools and puncture repair materials for free use by customers or others in bike-distress. *Address:* **Woods Deli**, 574 Lanark Road, EH14 5EL. More info from owner Kenneth Cairns, email woodsdeli@gmail.com twitter [@woodsdeli](https://twitter.com/woodsdeli).

We'd be interested to know of and give a mention to any other cafe or business offering free use of basic bike repair materials.

POTHOLES ETC!!

A member of Spokes Planning group has supplied this article...

Improving the state of Edinburgh's Roads

It is not hard to see why the state of our roads causes people to comment or complain but how many of us do anything about it?

Local Councils are responsible for the maintenance of all local roads (not trunk roads). The City of Edinburgh Council aim to fix reported defects* within 3 days. They claim a success rate of over 90% (97% for the most recently reported period Oct-Nov 2012).

As cyclists we know how dangerous road defects can be and Spokes encourages members to report these. Some may question the accuracy of Edinburgh's reported figures and we may also wonder how the authorities are failing to spot all the problems we see. However, they have no excuse when a report is made, so don't leave it up to someone else. The more we report problems on our roads the fewer these should become.

It is easy to report road defects - by email, phone or an online form. The email addresses and phone numbers of the Councils in Edinburgh and the Lothians are in the table below. For online reporting, please visit the website of the relevant Council.

| Council | Email address | Phone |
|------------|--|-------------|
| Edinburgh | clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk | 0800232323 |
| Midlothian | clarence@edinburgh.gov.uk | 0800232323 |
| W Lothian | customer.services@westlothian.gov.uk | 01506775000 |
| E Lothian | transportation@eastlothian.gov.uk | 01875824305 |

Whether emailing or phoning you need to describe the problem and the *exact* location - the street or road name, the side of the road, and anything more precise such as "outside number 17". If you need to report several potholes or bad surfacing in the same general vicinity, you can give that description e.g. numerous potholes on Chester St near its junction with Palmerston Place.

Alternatively, CTC runs an online road defect reporting service at www.fillthathole.org.uk. For iPhone users there is an app that automatically captures the location and enables direct reporting. The app and website are particularly useful if you are not sure which Council area the defect falls within. CTC pass the reports on to the relevant Council for action.

• Defects can include potholes, rough surfaces, a broken, damaged or worn-smooth manhole cover, a blocked road drain, faulty street light or missing road markings. Potholes less than 40mm deep or smaller than a side plate may not qualify for repair. For some repairs, e.g. manhole covers, the Council may pass on the defects to utility companies to fix.

HOMELESSNESS TOUR

We get many requests from charities to publicise sponsored rides etc, and usually can't do so, but we're giving a special mention to this one as it is particularly imaginative and bold.

Matt Fountain from Glasgow hopes to raise £100k for Shelter by cycling 2,000 miles around Britain, carrying all equipment on the bike, using a tent most of the time and sleeping rough other times. The route is designed to include areas most at risk of eviction and homelessness, where Matt will be talking with residents.

Matt is working with Natalie Byrom, of Warwick University Centre for Human Rights in Practice, to write a book from the ride

You can help by sponsorship and/or joining in at Edinburgh, Glasgow or other parts of central and southern Scotland.

On Tuesday 20 August Matt cycles from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Judy Cantley of Spokes is hoping to organise a late morning/ early afternoon ride to meet and support him. If interested, contact judy.cantley@btinternet.com 0131 447 7108 [after 15 June].

To join Matt elsewhere, see www.ChangeHomelessness.org [and for more info] or email matt@changehomelessness.org.

POp FOLLOW-UP

Following PoP2, organisers were invited to meet Keith Brown MSP, Transport Minister. Initial PoP tweets suggest that little has yet changed in the mind of the Scottish Government, with no sign of the step change in investment that is essential if the 2020 target is serious. A meeting report will appear at pedalonparliament.org.

MEMBER INITIATIVES

Spokes members have been involved in many recent initiatives to promote everyday cycling and knowledge about it ...

Copenhagenize : Bike culture by design, 15 June 7.30

Spokes member **Kim Harding** is a big part of the inspiration behind the great new *Edinburgh Festival of Cycling* [all Spokes members get a program in their summer mailout, or see edfoc.org.uk]. Kim specially recommends *Bicycle Culture by Design*, a June 15 illustrated talk by Copenhagen cycling guru **Michael Colville-Anderson**, known worldwide for his lectures on how Copenhagen achieved its huge level of bike use [copenhagenize.eu/lectures.html]. See Kim's blog post www.kimharding.net/blog/?p=1869.



PoP2 video

Many thanks if you were one of the 4000 who joined the second Pedal on Parliament, on May 19. For reports and a photo gallery see the official PoP2 website <http://pedalonparliament.org>.

We particularly like the 15-minute video by Spokes member **Bryce Morrison** which includes a significant portion of the speeches, with a very clear reproduction of some of the ministerial heckling!! www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCoP5VJG_6k.

Politicians at PoP included [with Spokes members in **bold**]... **MSPs: Alison Johnstone, Sarah Boyack**, Jim Eadie, Kezia Dugdale, Paul Wheelhouse [Climate Change Minister]; **Edinburgh Councillors: Cameron Rose, Jim Orr, Nigel Bagshaw**, Steve Burgess; **MPs: Ian Murray, Sheila Gilmore, Mark Lazarowicz**.

Guide to Edinburgh offroad paths

Mike Lewis, who organises the Saturday 20-milers rides, has published an article describing all the main offroad paths in the city. www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk/bike-paths.htm

The Skelf Bike Skills Park : launch June 15, 10-2

Spokes member **Conrad Molleson** is involved in a community plan for this project, near Dumbiedykes in the Southside. There will be a fun informal launch at Braidwood Community Centre, 10 Bowmont Place 10am-2pm on 15 June. Includes a pedal-powered PA system and a BBQ. <http://theskelf.wordpress.com>.

101 Bike Routes in Scotland

This book by former Spokes member **Harry Henniker** is out of print, but the South Scotland section is now available for Kindle and Harry is working on the rest. Pictures, with lots of Spokes members, are at www.henniker.org.uk/html/101BikeRoutes.htm which also has a link to the Kindle book.

FUNDING YOUR IDEA

Funding is available for local projects to encourage a shift from car to cycling. Other aims which will boost your chances are to reduce transport carbon emissions, and to improve community wellbeing by providing better cycling opportunities.

You need to set up or work with a local group to submit an application. Spokes in the past received a grant for work on encouraging family cycling with very young children.

Grants from very low amounts up to £6000 are available. Applications by Fri 5 July. The cash is from Cycling Scotland's *Cycle Friendly & Sustainable Communities Fund*. It is important to discuss your application in advance, to help clarify if your project might meet the criteria: phone Gary or Chris 0141 229 5350. www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project