

*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](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk).*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEE ALSO EVENTS LIST ON SPOKES WEBSITE

**Aug 21 Homelessness Tour** – See Spokesworker 7.7.13 or see [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk) [Aug 21]. Supporting ride Edinburgh to Prestonpans [not too slow]. Meet 10am Castle Street.

**Sep 6 Spokes Competition 2013** – closing date - see overleaf.

**Sep 7 Edinburgh Big Skyride** [www.goskyride.com/EdinburghSkyRide](http://www.goskyride.com/EdinburghSkyRide)

**Sep 11 Climate change lecture** – see Climate Matters overleaf

**Sep 27 Climate Adaptation consultn end** – see Climate Matters

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

[NB: Some consultations are PANs – explanation at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : lobbying. To look up a particular PAN search for its reference (e.g. 13/01820/PAN) at <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/>]

For any of the following that concern you please visit the exhibition and leave comments. If you missed or can't get to the exhibition, contact the developer (where known) to get info and to comment – also cc your email to Spokes. Initial comments below are mainly from Peter Hawkins, Spokes Planning Group, email [peterhawkATphonecoop.coop](mailto:peterhawkATphonecoop.coop).

### Aug 28 & 31 : Granton Pk Avenue : 13/02605/PAN

A huge proposed residential development on former Madelvic Works. L-shaped site, bounded by Waterfront Ave to north, United Wire and Madelvic House to east, Lidl to south. The cycle path running NE-SW lies just west of site.

**Exhibition:** Royston/Wardieburn Comm Centre, 28 Aug 1-7pm, 31 Aug 11-2pm. **Contact:** [diana.harries@placesforpeople.co.uk](mailto:diana.harries@placesforpeople.co.uk).

### Aug 28 Belford House site 13/02767/PAN

Demolition and re-development, residential and offices, 59 Belford Rd, just east of WoL bridge; opposite Douglas Cres exit, bounded on NE by Sunbury Mews. Cycling implications, if any, unclear.

**Exhibition:** 28 Aug 2-7.30, Conan Doyle Centre, Palmerston Pl.

### Sep 9 : Land east of Ratho : 13/02960/PAN

Residential development east of Ratho, on south side of canal, effectively extending existing settlement eastwards, and extending Ratho Park Gardens where it is currently a track, up to the Lodge which adjoins the golf course. Looks like Green Belt land.

**Exhibition:** Ratho Community Centre, School Wynd, 9 Sept, 2-8pm. **Contact:** [callum.fraser@holderplanning.co.uk](mailto:callum.fraser@holderplanning.co.uk).

### Oct 3 : Ravelrig Rd, Balerno 13/02754/PAN

Residential development on west side of road. A big chunk of greenfield, bounded on south by Lanark Rd West houses, on west by old quarries, and extending north to properties on Dalmahoy Cr.

**Exhibition:** 3rd Oct, 8am-8pm, Balerno Bowling Club.

### Object by 30 Aug : Mansfield Rd Balerno 13/02787/PPP

This is a planning application, not a PAN, so object direct on the council website via the [citydev-portal](https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk) link above. Large greenbelt residential plan, poor for cycling: up long steep hill and busy roads to nearest shops etc. If objecting, please also tell local councillor Bill.Henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk who is organising opposition.

Cllr Henderson separately tells us he is lobbying for a cycle/ped route from the bus terminus up to the Pentlands – currently a narrow road without even a footway. Contact him if you'd like this.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

If you are willing to devote time to sustaining and improving your local area consider joining your Community Council. Elections are due soon. See [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncil](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/communitycouncil). Even if you don't become a member, meetings are all open to the public.

## CYCLE FORUM NEWS

Edinburgh Council's Cycle Forum on 14 August was a mixture of good and bad. If anything concerns or pleases you, email your councillors [[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)] and let us know the outcome.

**PRINCES STREET FUTURE** – the long saga [June 16 news at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk)] continues. There is not even a final decision on the overall plan, and the council's original intent to have buses 1-way each on Princes St and George St may or may not happen. A report will now go to the October Transport Cttee, not August as previously announced. However we were pleased to hear that *if the 1-way bus scheme happens, the option of a cyclistroute on the north side of the tramlines is now being seriously considered* – though it is still far from definite. We made the point that such a route must be 2-way, including for access to shops etc as much as for a through route. The dire possibility also still remains that cycling will be banned entirely on the north side, and only allowed in the southern (westbound) bus/taxi/cycle traffic lane like now.

**GARDEN BIKE STORAGE** - Following great problems for householders wishing to install front garden bike storage last year [see 26.9.12 story at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk)] we were given the impression that the council wished to encourage domestic bike storage and to improve clarity for householders as to what is and isn't likely to get planning permission. We drew up a draft factsheet [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : advice : factsheets : garden storage] but at the Cycle Forum we were given the impression that although the Planning Dept would point people to the factsheet, they will give no assurance that anyone following its advice will 'normally' be expected to get permission. In other words, householders will still have to submit a planning application (cost nearly £200) with no idea at all whether or not it is likely to be acceptable to the planners. This is shocking and we will certainly not be leaving it at that.

**CYCLE PROJECTS** – The Council's increased cycle budget and staffing has enabled a big rise in match-funding from Sustrans, meaning that a wide range of projects can go ahead, including those listed under 'Coming 2013/14' on p3 of Spokes Bulletin 116.

**COLOURED SURFACING** – Our paper on this, submitted to the Council in April 2013, has still not been assessed and replied to – yet what it says is very important to forthcoming projects such as Leith Walk. See [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : Edinburgh : CECpolicy

**MAINTENANCE PRIORITISATION** [the meeting ran out of time before this issue could be discussed but we are raising it separately with councillors]. The Council uses a weighting system to decide which roads should receive major resurfacing each financial year. A weighting is included for roads used by buses – which tends also to benefit cycling because it includes the many bus/cycle lanes. In 2011, after consulting the Cycle Forum, the council agreed also to add a weighting for *roads important to cyclists but not used by buses* [though obviously these are not easy to define]. We have now found that the decision was never implemented by officials! The Council is again revisiting the prioritisation rules, but this time the Forum wasn't consulted. Spokes has taken this up urgently with councillors, to try and get the above criterion again included.

## UK : EMAIL YOUR MP

Ask your MP to attend the UK Parliament's *Get Britain Cycling* debate, 2 September.. [www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/pledge](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/pledge).

Although the UK government recently announced more cycle funding, this only applies to a few city and National Park areas – it is far below what is needed to encourage cycle use countrywide.

## SOLWAY TO FORTH

Many people will know of the Sustrans C2C holiday route from Workington to Sunderland. There is now talk of a second C2C, the F2F, between the Firths of Solway and Forth.

John Grimshaw (founder of Sustrans) and David Gray have been doing consultancy work for the Upper Tweed Railway Path project [[www.uppertweedrailwaypaths.org.uk](http://www.uppertweedrailwaypaths.org.uk)] and are now lobbying for the F2F route, which would also connect up local paths and fill a hole in the NCN. The idea has been welcomed by Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils.

*“Attractions include the magnificent Solway Coast, hedge lined minor road avoiding the A and M74, The Devils Beef tub ascent (a manageable and gentle climb), Source of the Tweed, Crook Inn, Neidpath viaduct, tunnel and castle, Peebles, gradual ascent from Innerleithen and breathtaking view of Arthur’s Seat, Edinburgh Castle and the Forth and finally the Forth Bridges.”*

John and David are doing a test ride, which will be publicised by the 2 councils. They welcome anyone from Spokes – see below.

### C2C via F2F test ride - provisional plans

**Mon Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 6pm approx, meet at Carlisle Railway Station, load and board minibus to campsite. (approx 20 miles). Camp overnight at Seafeld Farm near Annan, small field 50m from shore of Solway Firth. (Annan train station has less frequent stops)

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>** [90km] Breakfast and early start. Minor roads through Annandale and Tweed-dale via Ecclefechan, Hoddum, Lockerbie [train station for late arrivals] Moffat-lunch stop – Devils Beef Tub, Tweedsmuir. Photo-Call at ancient Crook Inn - now proposed as a community pub & possible cyclist stopover. Broughton - food at Laurel Bank Tea Bistro. Camp overnight at Stobo Castle Health Spa. 7.30pm - presentation and public reception in Peebles (by minibus) – including presentation of Upper Tweed paths proposals.

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>** [110km] Follow proposed route from Stobo to Lyne, Neidpath tunnel, Peebles and Innerleithen then join NCN 1 over Moorfoot Hills and Garvald Punks to Gorebridge, Dalkeith, Edinburgh, then the path to S Queensferry and the Forth Bridges.

### Join the ride!

Any Spokes member able and wishing to join some or all the ride is welcome. You have to get to the start (or a join-up point) under your own steam, take tent & sleeping bag, and pay a contribution [negotiable]. On the ride will be a support minibus and trailer for luggage, tools, spares, drinks, breakfasts and rescue. Note that this test ride will be moderately strenuous, not for novices.

If interested email David at [dapgray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dapgray@yahoo.co.uk) and cc your email to [john@johngrimshaw.co.uk](mailto:john@johngrimshaw.co.uk). And/or phone 07770 623516.

There could also be a local welcome for the ride, accompanying it through Edinburgh and to Queensferry, if someone from Spokes could take the lead organising this. Please get in touch if so.

## NICEWAYCODE.COM

The Scottish Government *NiceWay code* campaign has generated very mixed views, including a pretty wary reception at the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Cycling Group. However its ad appearing on the back of Edinburgh and Glasgow buses, with messages of 'Nope' and 'If you must' has brought wide-ranging criticism for its incorrect and misleading messages to both motorists and cyclists.



Edinburgh Council Leader Cllr Andrew Burns, who cycles to work every day, has called for changes to the advert – see his Aug 8 blog at <http://andrewburns.blogspot.co.uk>. If you agree, ask your MSP to take this up. Cllr Burns has also pointed out its contrast with the wise messages on fire engines and some commercial vehicles, merely reminding cyclists to take care when passing on the left.

## GREAT PRIZES!! ends 6 Sept

Not many entries yet for the Spokes 2013 summer competition, so you've a good chance of one of the great prizes (and modest fame!)

We want a **photo and caption about Cycling with a Purpose** – ‘useful’ cycling like shopping, getting to school or work, boosting health or lifespan, carrying something, getting somewhere, hauling a sack of potatoes.... We'd like lots of everyday useful entries, plus a few surprises! Each person is allowed 2 entries

**Prizes include the following great selection.** The top winner gets to choose their prize, second chooses second, and so on.

- **ScotRail:** Return 1st ticket for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- **Edin Bike Coop:** Revolution Tune-up advanced tool-kit
- **Sustrans:** Set of Sustrans Scotland maps
- **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket
- **Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant:** Lunch for 2
- **Peter's Yard:** Food hamper, voucher, keep-cup & baking book
- **Reiss Hairsalon:** Hair cut and finish
- **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2 **Cameo:** Offpeak tickets for 2
- **Velo Ecosse:** Bike service **Bike Smith:** Bike service, value £20

*The competition closes on Friday 6 September. For detailed rules and entry form, more about the prizes and other information see the July 2 news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).*

## CLIMATE MATTERS

### Climate change adaptation consultation - ends 27 Sept

The Scottish Government is consulting on how Scotland can *adapt* to the climate change which is now inevitable due to increased atmospheric CO2 – this is separate, though related, to reducing the current emissions. The consultation documents are at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current?rowId=1643#conRow1643](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current?rowId=1643#conRow1643)

*If this concerns you, please make a personal submission and copy us your ideas for a possible Spokes submission.* Emphasising local facilities/accessibility seems a particularly important element for any adaptation strategy; and this ties in with other arguments for major enhancement of cycling as a form of local transport.

### 2020 Climate Group Lecture : Weds 11 Sept 5.30-8.30

*'Climate Change Is What The Boxer Trains For But Weather Throws The Punches'* St Paul's & St George's Church, Broughton St. Part of a series to bring together business, voluntary, academic and public sectors to work towards a low carbon Scotland. Keynote speakers: Prof Stephen Belcher, Met Office and Prof James Curran, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). *More info & to book [free]:* [www.2020climategroup.org.uk](http://www.2020climategroup.org.uk).

### UN World Meteorological Organisation report

*The Global Climate 2001---2010, A Decade of Climate Extremes*

The last decade was the warmest across the globe for land and ocean surface temperatures, accompanied by rapid decline in Arctic sea ice and accelerating loss of net mass from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets and the world's glaciers. The warming increase between 1991-2000 and 2001-2010 was unprecedented.

The report also charts rising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Global average carbon dioxide concentration in 2010 has risen by 39% since the start of the industrial era in 1750, methane by 158% and nitrous oxide by 20%.

*Press release, full and summary reports free online at:* [http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_976\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_976_en.html)

### Local Climate Change Action

The Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) and Junior Climate Challenge Fund (JCCF) are a Scottish Government scheme administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful, providing funding for community groups to run projects that reduce carbon emissions, to improve their local environment and our shared global environment. Next deadline for draft application: 30 Sept [Final applicn by 29 Oct]. *More info:* [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org) : activities : Climate Challenge

### Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

For recent news see [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland). In particular, SCCS is looking for 6 people who would try a low-carbon form of transport for 6 weeks and share their experiences on the new SCCS blog site [www.stopclimatechaos.org/travelling-tales](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/travelling-tales).