

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

June 17, 7.30-9.30 Inverleith Area 20mph Consultation meeting, Stockbridge Library. See www.edinburghnp.org.uk : Inverleith.

June 12-22 Edinburgh Festival of Cycling www.edfoc.org.uk

Members received the printed programme in their summer mailing – there are now more events, see edfoc website.

June 18 Spokes Bike Breakfast City Chambers, 7.45-9.45. See spokes.org.uk [May 22 news] for full details. Short speeches soon after 8.30. *New attraction* - this year Edinburgh Bicycle are offering a £100 voucher prize draw at the breakfast. Disappointingly, there will be no centrally-organised rides to the Breakfast from local parts of the city. Mike Smith who had coordinated local rides/leaders via social media has moved away, and no one replied to our appeal for a new central organiser.

June 21 Spokes 'Thank you for Shopping by Bike' There will be a Spokes stall at the Farmers' Market [10.00-13.00] and goodies will be handed out (while stocks last) to people coming by bike - please park at the railings. Many goodies have been donated by Farmers Market stallholders, including...

Chocolate Tree	Caumie Soap	Bang On Catering
Chillilicious	Well Hung & Tender	Stichill Jerseys
Gusto Oils	East Coast Organics	Edinburgh Larder
Thisselcockrig	Claire Leslie Farms	Eden Brewery
Border Tablet	Magic Teapot	Arran Cheeses

June 25, 6-8pm Enterprising Transport conference by Transform Scotland on economic benefits of public transport and active travel - including talk by John Lauder, Scottish Director of Sustrans. See www.transformscotland.org.uk, June 12 news item. At Royal Society bldg, 22 George St, but please book in advance. If you are reading this online you can book directly by using this link...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/enterprising-transport-economic-opportunities-in-sustainable-transport-registration-11681231879>

Sept 7 Pedal for Scotland www.pedalforscotland.org

FORTRESS WAVERLEY

We have been contacted by many members and others about the Network Rail decision to ban cycling from Waverley Bridge down into the station on both ramps. Cyclists now have to use the narrow pavements, already often congested with walkers, and totally unsuitable for prams, buggies and bikes to pass each other.

The ban was part of a reaction to the sad death of a pedestrian hit by a reversing car at the top of the south ramp. Yet no cyclists were involved and we know of no reported cycling problems on the north ramp, the official cycle access in recent months.

Network Rail's reasoning is that the north roadway must be for delivery vehicles, and must be fenced off at the bottom so that they don't crash into pedestrians. Spokes believes this is a serious over-reaction and there is scope for various alternatives which would easily allow safe cycling on one or other of the ramps.

The message from the station to visitors and to the general public is appalling – what other major European station would corral 2-way walking and cycling into narrow passageways, with wide adjacent roadways virtually empty!

Spokes has written to Network Rail and pressure is building on them from several directions. **This is a battle we can win, and you can help greatly if you are affected.** Please write urgently to your MSPs [www.writetothem.com] asking them to take this up with Network Rail. Send us any useful replies. You can also write direct to NR: email joanna.noble@networkrail.co.uk.

ST JAMES QUARTER

A planning application [14/02070/AMC] has been submitted to rebuild the St James area. It covers all of Leith Street, part of York Place, and most of the area between, down to Picardy Place [apart from the cathedral]. Initial approval was granted in 2009, subject to this further detailed application. **Comments must be made by this Friday 20 June.**

The previous permission [08/03361/OUT] required...

23(vi) Signing of pedestrian and cycle access routes to/from and through the development; 23(vii) Pedestrian and cycle access arrangements, including access through the development;

Also, a Council news report [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news, 29 April] said the development would include 'extensive cycle facilities.'

However the application itself tells a different story. The main concept map in the application does not mention cycling at all! The text [see below] says nothing about routes through the site and very little about access to the site. There will be shopper bike parking - mainly in the underground car park.

Yet this is a truly vital site giving a 1-in-50-years opportunity to provide – or to rule out – several crucial quality cycle links.

- ◆ **Leith Street** – supremely important connection between Leith/Leith Walk and the **Bridges/ South Edinburgh; Princes Street and Waverley Station** (Calton Rd entrance). Cllr Lesley Hinds told the Cycle Forum that Leith St could be drastically altered as part of this development, details still to be decided, and that cycling should be included. **But this is not mentioned in the planning application.** Segregated cycling must be added, to tie in with the segregated facilities already planned for Leith Walk from Pilrig up, and ensuring sufficient width for that.
- ◆ **Leith Walk to George Street** – a connection is needed to and through the site; plus a York Pl option – longer but less steep.
- ◆ **Broughton to Leith Street** – a decent connection is essential.
- ◆ **Other connections** in and through the site. Opportunities could involve some or all of Little King St, Cathedral Lane, Multrees Walk, St James Place, Register Sq etc – but nothing is shown. It is difficult to visualise because of the big height differences.
- ◆ **Car parking** – a huge underground park is planned [1800 spaces we think] despite being adjacent to Waverley, the tram, many bus routes and (hopefully) good cycle and walking routes

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **Please do object. If short of time to read the details please still write** to say what you feel the development should provide.
- ◆ Go to <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web> then paste in **14/02070/AMC** and search.
- ◆ **In order to comment/object** you have to register (unless you are already registered to comment on planning applications) and login. Registration is very easy.
- ◆ **In your comments** please consider making some or all of the above points, in your own words as far as possible.
- ◆ To see the plans, click the *documents* tab. Perhaps most useful is the *Illustrative Masterplan Addendum (part 1)*. On page 3 is an annotated map, with **absolutely no mention of cycling**. Chapter 4, Transport & sustainability says "4.8 Cyclists would have parking provision, including dedicated spaces within the car parks, and improved access at the major approaches." No mention of routes through the site and no detail of the accesses.
- ◆ **Please also email your councillors** www.writetothem.com. Ask them to raise your concerns with the Planning and Transport Conveners. We are also saying there should be a public exhibition/consultation for such a major development.

SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

Many Spokes members kindly volunteer for one-off jobs such as helping with a mailout delivery, traffic counts, helping at a stall or other activity, which is great. However, **the overall operation of Spokes depends on a relatively small number of regulars**, and we very much need a few more supporters to help in this way. Stalls, mailouts and events all need people to provide the overall organisation which enables these activities to happen.

We have had to drop centrally-organised local rides to the bike breakfast this year, since no one volunteered as central coordinator, despite there being people willing to lead rides from local areas.

The request A below seeks volunteers for one-off actions, whilst tasks B and C need regular, reliable volunteers, probably after a trial period, and who expect to be in Edinburgh for a while. Please email davedufeuATgmail.com if you can help.

A. Making use of the Summer Spokes Bulletin [no.119]

We've got plenty spare copies of the Summer Bulletin, with the aim of distributing copies to more decision makers and to more people who use bikes but are not Spokes members.

- ◆ **If you are going to an EdFoc event** can you take a pile of Bulletins, turn up 20/25 minutes early, and give out Bulletins as people arrive? [Or at any other cycling event]
- ◆ **Can you leaflet delegates as they arrive at conferences?** - we have done this at several conferences as a way of informing decision-makers. You just stand on the pavement near the venue entrance for 25 mins or so leading up to the starting time, often 9-9.30 or 9.30-10.00. The next such event is **June 25** at Dynamic Earth] <http://foodandhealth.holyrood.com/>
- ◆ **We will put you in touch with any other volunteers and can loan you a Spokes tabard if you'd like to look 'official.'**

B. Resources Group ongoing volunteers

We need one or two new regular members. We run a lot of 'behind the scenes' activity without which Spokes couldn't function as well as it does - organising stalls, our annual competition, public meetings, preparing for mailouts - and one-off projects if someone in the group has a relevant special interest [e.g. our 2012 tenement project]. *The commitment is to attend an evening meeting every 3-4 weeks, as regularly as possible, and sometimes do one or two tasks between meetings (usually in conjunction with others); e.g. help prepare a stall, get competition prizes, etc, etc.*

C. Spokes in-email

The person who handles email to the spokes address is wanting a change, so we need someone to take over. This is an important and responsible task. Obviously a handover and advice can be provided. If possible we need somebody who has been a member for a while and who expects to be able to do the job for some time. Ideally (but not essential) also willing to attend *either* Planning or Resources group (every 3/4/5 weeks), to be in good touch with spokes activities. The task involves passing on emails to the relevant person/group as appropriate, and also responding directly to some enquiries, ensuring that people contacting us are not left without a reply for longer than necessary - we may be able to prepare some model answers for common queries.

LOTHIANS NEWS

North Berwick - new group cycle forth

Spokes member Mark Holling and others have set up *cycle forth* to promote cycling and better cycle facilities in the area; particularly important given the likely expansion of local housing. Contact Mark for more info. Email committee@cycleforth.org.uk.

Linlithgow Cycle Action Group - LCAG

On similar lines is the existing LCAG. If you live locally and would like to get involved email cmfischbacherATyahoo.co.uk.

Livingston Bike Week ride, Sat 21 June

Spokes member Ross Hendry and other Sustrans volunteers are holding a 20-mile recreational ride on paths and minor roads, to Kirkliston and back. *More info:* email lv20milers@outlook.com, or if you are reading this online, click <https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=11601B96D951F0C8!1360&cid=11601b96d951f0c8&app=Word>

ROUTE PROGRESS

Only a month after Bulletin 119 went to the printer [with route news on p4] there are a lot of new developments/updates. A sign of the Council's now-7% cycle budget having a growing effect!

George Street experimental segregated route

Construction timetable...

June 16-20, Charlotte Square to Castle Street (north side closed)

June 23-27, Castle Street to Frederick Street (north side closed)

June 30-July 4, Frederick St to Hanover St (south side closed)

July 7-11, Hanover Street to St Andrew Sq (south side closed)

For details of what is planned, and the Spokes view, see the 1404 section at spokes.org.uk : documents : local : edinburgh : princes st.

A90 Edinburgh to Forth Bridge

With some sections complete and work underway on others, consultation has now ended on section 3, particularly tricky due to the limited width. The most popular option, which will now be designed in detail, is a 2.5m path (normal width is 3m) with a road barrier and anti-glare panels. A plan is to be circulated in September, with construction likely in early 2015. Other points from the consultation will be considered, including improved accesses, road spray, and solar stud lighting. We hope to have the report on our website soon at documents : local : edinburgh : A90.

Meadows to Innocent

Consultation results expected next week, construction start Jan.

Meadows to Canal

Consultation expected August, using outcome from stakeholder workshop held earlier this year. Construction expected 2015/16.

Pollock Halls to Fountainhall Rd, onroad route

Initial stakeholder workshop postponed; now expected Aug/Sep.

Leith Walk

Pilrig to Foot of Walk - work underway. This section will have onroad cycle lanes, but of an enhanced design - width 1.75m instead of the usual 1.5m, plus a 50cm 'door-zone' gap.

Pilrig to Picardy - consultation still to come, but will include segregated cyclist routes & removal of London Rd rbt.

Foot of Walk - plans modified, incorporating several points made by Greener Leith and by Spokes - a Traffic Regulation Order will be issued for comment/objections soon. The junction is expected to have direct pedestrian crossings instead of 'island hopping'; and coloured cycle routes through it - an innovation for Edinburgh!

Haymarket tramline crashes

The Council has confirmed that our proposal for a Morrison Street cycle link will be included as an option in the consultants' brief for the Roseburn-Leith Walk east-west route. See Spokes 118 for drawing and how this could prevent most of these crashes.

Craighleith Junction [Maidencraig Crescent] crashes

We understand that the paint used to indicate a pedestrian route across the cyclepath was of the wrong type. It is very slippery when wet, and has resulted in several crashes. The surface is due to be replaced with high friction material on June 17.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS + PAN EXHIBITIONS/ CONSULTATIONS

Check out our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals, to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle, and for information on how to look them up on the council website ...

spokes.org.uk : documents : local : current-pas-and-pans.

A few important proposals are listed below with closing dates for comments - *see our above web page for more.*

For more info from Spokes, email peterhawkATphonecoop.coop

[by 20.6.14] 14/02070/AMC St James Centre redevelopment - very important indeed and very worrying - see separate article.

[by 20.6.14] 14/01966/LBC install gates at Waverley, Calton Road entrance - times of access may need comment.

[by 4 July] 12/04007/Sch3 Craighouse housing development - After 2 failed applications the developers are submitting yet another. There should be a physical model of the plans available, with the revised plans, at *Planning Enquiry counter, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG*. This is open 8.30 - 5.00 Monday to Thursday and 8.30 - 3.40 Friday.