

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.

This column contains some top actions needed

SUPER(?)MARKETS

The Spokes supermarkets bike parking and access project has begun, starting with an online survey to assess the current position in Edinburgh/Lothian. Outcomes from the project could include...

- ◆ A report on supermarket bike parking/access in Edinburgh/Lothian
- ◆ Materials to help shops encourage customers to come by bike – including local stores as well as supermarkets
- ◆ Materials to help individuals like you to tackle local store management
- ◆ Lobbying the council to ensure that every new store (including onstreet 'Express' supermarkets) has decent bike parking and access
- ◆ An attempt to engage with supermarket Regional Managers to ensure all their stores meet a high standard.

For more on the project see [Spokes Bulletin 121](#), p2; or the March 10 [news item](#) at spokes.org.uk. **Please complete our survey for your local supermarket and any others you are familiar with.** There is a link to the survey in the above news item.

BUS LANES

The Council has received a considerable number of objections from individuals to the Traffic Orders which will allow it to convert full-time bus lanes to peak-hour only, and to scrap Saturday bus lanes altogether. We cannot understand why the council is doing this and, indeed, it directly contradicts their own official transport policy document, the [Local Transport Strategy](#).

A report on the objections goes to the Transport Committee on 2nd June. However, councillors will be making up their minds before that, so **if you have not contacted your councillors yet, please do so now.** Ask them to think carefully about what they are proposing to do, and why, and to scrap this 18-month experiment.

For the background see [Spokes Bulletin 121](#), p1, and the [Feb 16](#) and [Feb 6](#) news items at spokes.org.uk.

KILGRASTON ROAD

The Council has published the results of its consultation into onroad improvements from Marchmont Road to Kings Buildings. Of the 301 responses, 69% supported the plan overall, with 20% opposed. There were also many detailed comments.

We have also had a response to the Spokes submission. Many of our detailed suggestions (including reduced car parking in places) have been provisionally agreed subject to further investigation, after which detailed plans will hopefully be available.

However we are very disappointed that there is no real change to the plans for Kilgraston Road – which is probably the most unpleasant part of the route, being fairly narrow, steep and with significant traffic. We had suggested closing the road to all but pedestrians, bikes and buses or, if that was not agreed, a mandatory uphill cycle lane and no parking on the downhill side. Instead, only an advisory uphill lane is proposed.

If you agree please email your councillors and ask for a better solution for Kilgraston Road [www.writetothem.com].

Our submission and all other documents referred to above are at www.spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : south-central.

GEORGE STREET

The George Street experiment ends in September, and **unless the Council acts soon there will be no cycle facility until a new scheme is in place** – which could be a year or more. **Ask your councillors for good cycling conditions in this interim period.**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar 26 SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING – The Future of the City Centre & the Role of the Bicycle. Full details in poster below.

- ◆ **Membership table** – to Renew or Join – see below
- ◆ **Tea/coffee** ends at **7.15** to give helpers time to clear up.
- ◆ **Please come along** to impress & challenge the speakers!

Apr 18 Farmers' Market, Castle Ter, a.m. First 2015 **Spokes stall**. Do call by to say hello! If you can help at this or other Spokes stalls, please contact martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk.

Apr 25 Pedal on Parliament See poster overleaf.

May 3 Sestran Megacycle Family Midlothian/E.Loathian charity ride. www.mega-cycle.co.uk or see advert in Spokes 121.

Jun 11-21 Edinburgh Festival of Cycling edfoc.org.uk.

- ◆ Includes... **June 17 SPOKES BIKE BREAKFAST** ... and ...
- ◆ **June 15 SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING** on bike-rail. Speakers include John Dietz of Abellio, the new Dutch ScotRail operators
- ◆ All members get the EdFoC brochure in our end-May mailing.

RENEW or JOIN SPOKES

At our Mar 26 public meeting there will be a special table at which you can renew your membership for 2015 (if still due) or join Spokes. Members due to renew for 2015 were sent a renewal form in their March mailing. **If you haven't yet renewed, please bring your form to the meeting and renew on the spot.**

SPOKES *ALL* WELCOME!

the BICYCLE in the CITY CENTRE



SPRING PUBLIC MEETING

The Council view
Cllr. Lesley Hinds
Convener, City of Edinburgh Transport Committee

The Business view
Richard Darke
Essential Edinburgh Projects Manager

'My view'
Prof. Tom Rye
Director, Napier Transport Research Institute

Followed by questions & debate

Thurs 26 March

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH

41 GEORGE IV BRIDGE, EDINBURGH

7.30 pm

DOORS OPEN 6.45 pm

Come early ☻ coffee ☻ Spokes stall ☻ exhibition ☻ chat ☻

GOVT FUNDING

We are expecting an announcement any time soon as to how the Scottish Government will use its 15/16 cycle cash – i.e. how much will go to Sustrans, to Cycling Scotland, and to any other projects. **Going on past experience it will sound as if this is new money, whereas it may just be saying how existing cash will be used.**

The total is however still uncertain, since, for example, there is an approved £20m Future Transport Fund, some of which will go to active travel, but how much is not yet known. There is also cash from various other 'lines' in the budget, and the new Transport Minister Derek Mackay has said he is very supportive of cycling.

In total, however, we expect cycling investment to be no more than 2% of total government transport spending – unlike Edinburgh who are investing 8% of their transport budget. As usual we will attempt to distil the reality from the spin!



SMALL THINGS TO DO!

- ◆ We need two people to **help with tea/coffee** at our March 26 public meeting. You need to be available 6.30-7.30. Males particularly welcomed! Contact judy.cantley [AT] btopenworld.com.
- ◆ Can you take **Spokes bulletins** to leaflet bikes at your work or at local shops? Let us know.
- ◆ We have an active **twitter presence** @SpokesLothian. Please keep an eye on it and RT any tweets you support. Our latest tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ◆ Do your own local **lobbying**. One member read the item “*Your Local Small Ideas*” on p4 of [Spokes 121](#). He then emailed his local Neighbourhood Team about an irritating **not-dropped kerb** that he had to cross every day on his way to work. *Next day* he received a reply saying the job had been approved!
- ◆ Have you signed the Roadshare petition for **Presumed Liability** in Scotland? They've now also a major research paper to back up the case. It's all at [roadshare.co.uk](#).

MIDLOTHIAN NEWS

MIDLOTHIAN ACCESS FORUM

James Orr represents cycling interests on Midlothian Council Access Forum. He'd welcome your thoughts on several issues recently discussed at the Forum, and suggestions for points he should raise at future meetings. Email jcppo59@tiscali.co.uk We'd welcome a copy too to [spokes \[AT\] spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk).

- ◆ **Roslin-Shawfair cycleway.** Roslin–Loanhead section extended to Lasswade Road. Intention is for Edinburgh Council to extend to Gilmerton Road and ultimately Shawfair.
- ◆ **Roslin to Peebles** - plan to use old railway line in part - discussions ongoing with Borders and Midlothian Councils.
- ◆ **Access through Dalkeith Palace.** Generally through cycle access unrestricted but Group Runs please advise Estate Office in advance.
- ◆ **Road Safety. A701 Milton Bridge** – Removal of Traffic Islands & installation of cycle lanes
- ◆ **Road Safety. A68 northbound at turnoff for A6106 to Dalkeith** cycle lane pending and signage to Edinburgh & Musselburgh to discourage use of A68 Bypass by cyclists
- ◆ **Information** – New/updated Council website with cycle info/ routes. Search for cycling at midlothian.gov.uk or go straight to https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/527/activities_and_classes/1213/cycling/2

MIDLOTHIAN TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

The council issues an email newsletter covering all aspects of travel in Midlothian. We have no further info, but to get on the list please send your request to ptu@midlothian.gov.uk.

EAST LOTHIAN NEWS

NORTH BERWICK 'CYCLEFORTH' CAMPAIGN

Cycleforth is a local campaign for improvements for cyclists, focussing especially on safety and provision of facilities, and with several Spokes members among them. Below are some of their achievements in just one year. Website & info: cycleforth.org.uk.

- ◆ Surveyed the **John Muir Cycle Way** from the centre of North Berwick west to Dirlerton. Produced a detailed report and recommendations.
- ◆ Lobbied East Lothian Council to apply for Sustrans Community Links funding for building a **safe cycle route between North Berwick and Gullane**. Success: an application was made in February and regardless of its outcome, ELC have promised to upgrade the first section from Strathearn Road to the garage. Work started at the beginning of March.
- ◆ Suggested **cycle parking locations** in North Berwick and Gullane. New Commonwealth Games racks have been installed at three sites in NB (have you found them yet?) and we await others promised by April in town and village centres to help shoppers arriving by bike.
- ◆ Attended **East Lothian Cycle Forum** and raised local issues. Attended **Spokes Public Meeting** on cycle provision in Lothian.

Inspired by CycleForth?? Why not do similar in your own town or district. We can put you in touch with other local members.

EAST LOTHIAN 'SPECIAL' AREAS

Is there somewhere in EL – countryside or town - that you feel is 'special'? The Council want to know! Find their survey [open till 31 March] at eastlothianconsultations.co.uk.

PLANNING APPS / PANS

Remember to check our web page of Planning Applications or PANs relevant to cycling [PANs are a public consultation for big developments, prior to a Planning Application] – possibly a potential cycle access or connection, bike storage needed for residents, bike parking for visitors, etc. The page also explains how to look up PAs/PANs on the council website and find details of exhibitions, etc. You comment on *planning applications* direct to the council. For *PANs* there is an exhibition and you comment to the developer who should then take this into account in their subsequent PA.

Find our page at spokes.org.uk : documents : local issues : current PAs. Or go to www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans

For more information, contact Peter Hawkins, Spokes Planning Group, email [peterhawk \[AT\] phoncoop.coop](mailto:peterhawk@phoncoop.coop).

Here is **one current proposal - see above web page for more.**
Reference: 15/00813/PAN. Residential develop at Drum Estate.
Exhibition: April 22, 4-8pm, Gilmerton Library [check reference first in case date changes]. Greenbelt site. If permission is given, it should include link to disused Bilston railway line.