

Spokes Hustings Meeting March 23

Cameron Rose [replacing Edinburgh Central candidate Ian McGill]

INTRODUCTION

As Dave suggested in his introduction, the views of the particular politician in charge is important in practice, not just the policies of their party.

I am a functional cyclist (not for leisure) - I do what's in the DNA of a conservative cyclist.

e.g. Boris Johnson, London cycle superhighways & bike hire scheme

e.g. Ian Whyte, Edinburgh councillor, also trying to get bikehire scheme up and running (stalled so far because of contractual arrangements)

I have campaigned hard for the KB-> Centre route, now in plan

Also interested in storage despite planning restrictions that are getting in the way

What about policies?

We are likely to support the 10% target

In the context of cuts (e.g. cycling at the expense of education??) ...

We cannot just spend money, though we do need money

Need a vision to spend it well, such as informed by Spokes

We supported the tram and rail improvements, and Forth Road crossing to tackle congestion.

Group 1

We need to generate the wealth to pay for things like the new Forth crossing

Q: Why don't all parties prioritise cycling?

CR:

- Restricted money and other priorities
- Public votes – minority cyclists
- We cannot do away with cars (elderly relative example)

Q: Transport policy has been dominated by cars – need more for bikes

CR:

- Cycling needs to be recognised as a serious transport mode rather than a silly mode.
- Employers need to be more switched on
- Nationally we need leadership.

Group 2

Q: Congestion and Forth Road Bridge

CR:

Not sure of impact on congestion but there are lots of problems

Q: Is building more roads a solution?

CR:

Bridge is about incremental encouragement: more investment is what is needed as an on-going process

Group 3

CR: Making the perfect cycling conditions – we need a long term plan but this is difficult

We need to take lots of people with us – people wedded to cars

We need leadership like Boris

Q: How do we change the culture of planning?

CR:

We need a head of transport that does both

Group 4

Q: What other hustings today were more important than our meeting?

CR: Ian McGill went to a Business leaders meeting

Single biggest thing to get cycling publicised: Leadership like Boris

Incremental approach people: cannot tell people not to drive/ it is not illegal to do so.

Q: Will you mention cycling in your manifesto?

CR: Not sure. I am not alone in this. Planning stifles entrepreneurship and local flexibility (e.g. parking on street)

Group 5

Q: Cycling prevents congestion

CR: Changes in car use is mainly due to changes in price of petrol

The challenge is incremental change, in small steps

LAST WORDS

We need to influence my party colleagues

I will not promise more than can be delivered

Democracy wants car travel and that cannot be changed overnight.

Leadership is needed