

Marco Biagi, SNP candidate for Edinburgh Central

Intro

Not a cyclist, but a walker and public transport user, FoE activist for years and now People & Planet. I have an appreciation of the challenges (cycling in Glasgow).

Good to have an increase in training (schools) and we need transport integration. Planning culture and street design is a problem (local authority partly to blame). We have target of 42% CO2 reductions. Transport is a public health issue (it is essential in the battle against obesity – the next big thing).

Group 1

1. Forth Bridge. Marco disagreed. Existing bridge would be dedicated to active and public transport.. To reduce bridge load to 1964 levels would lose £2.4m.

2. How much will SNP invest in active travel?

CWSS reduced but argues planning culture affects uptake. Edinburgh has high cycling level ... smarter choices aims at good examples.

3. Cycling action plan published

Group 2

1. National standards for provision and maintenance.

Agrees: need minimum standards but suggests targets to encourage.

2. £550m on motorway / trunk road maintenance £1.76bn. Bridge £1.5bn. Did not agree that cutting road by adding to cycling would work. Quoted smarter places, smarter choices.

3. Training for adults – particularly ageing ... Strict liability...

Group 3

1. What would you do to separate lorries from cyclists? Thinks buses and all traffic is a problem. Suggests separation. Fresnel lens for lorries.

2. Cycling integration – bike spaces at stations. Folding seats sensible idea.

3. Targets for cycling increase. Where funding from? Budget flat for 4 years is increased at end but planners need to take cyclists serious.

4. How to persuade ...local government offices of priorities? : Says hectoring does not work but follow on from Smarter choices.

Group 4

Says road safety is his reason for not cycling. Asked what he's doing about it. Says it's about local authority. Liked the idea of driver liability but wouldn't convert party.

Segregation – off road well signalled paths.

Cycling element of driving test – likes .

Active travel to make system more resilient?

View on bridge – say £1.5bn agreed by all parties.

Group 5

Are you proud of what SNP done for cycling?...

- Research and Cycle action Plan; Smarter choices; Climate change. 20% cycling by 2020; Guidance on how to incorporate cycling into planning.

2. Research - ...what was biggest disincentive to cycling...

Connectivity. Geography

3.£65m. a year 3% of budget needed to reach cycle use target.

-Argues increased resources on cycling lost in current culture / infrastructure

4. Transport integration but transport Scotland not tasked with cycle routes.

No bike route links to Airdrie-Bathgate cyclists.

Concluding Remarks

Our party has shown national leadership in setting targets