

Spokes Hustings 29th March 2012
Group C Proceedings – Shane Voss Chair

Lesley Hinds

What did she think of blocking off streets instead of 20mph speed limits?
Evidence that 20s reduce accidents whilst blocking streets just moved rat running elsewhere.

Can you enforce 20s?

Surprised that in Easter Drylaw many residents didn't realise the area was a 20. Hopes 20 will become default in all residential areas.

View of cycling on Leith Walk to Princes St where bus lanes stop at roundabouts?
Creating a continuous cycle route would be a good idea.

Is road maintenance a Labour priority?

Yes, it's in the manifesto.

Steve Burgess

Is 20 too slow? Can cycle faster!

Feels whilst it can make no difference in small estates it should be the default speed in the whole area including main roads. He argues successfully to have them included in the consultation but idea rejected.

Cycle training a priority?

Alison Johnston got a motion that government should offer and support on road cycle training to all P6 pupils by 2015.

Are Greens committed to improving road maintenance?

Not specifically but are to increase the £5m cycling budget which could include a revenue stream for maintenance.

Gordon Mackenzie

Priority to maintain roads?

Yes, allocating to residential streets whilst tram works are ongoing.

Are Lib-Dems committed to sustainable transport?

Yes, they opposed the new Forth crossing but now dealing with impact of the construction and planning for future impact.

What does he see as answer to rise in traffic and emissions?

Low emission zone proposed which should impact on traffic growth. Also campaigns to target car users to try other forms of transport.

Would he like to see a bus-free Princes St?

Likes the idea but concerned about affecting the viability of the buses.

Does he support the idea of making all roads in South Central Edinburgh a 20 zone?

He does but Police and Lothian Buses were against it.

Alastair Rankin

Does he think the new Forth crossing supports sustainable transport?

The bridge will need to be replaced at some point and better to do it before costs rise more (met with sceptical reaction from group).

Would he support air quality and traffic reduction?

States none of Edinburgh's air quality monitoring sites have recorded levels exceeding the permitted levels but agrees you have to keep tabs on it. Hybrid buses, trams, an HGV ban and reprogramming satnavs to avoid the city centre should help.

Will SNP not just be populist but reveal some of their vision for sustainable travel?

He mentioned through ticketing.

Would SNP consider supporting professional cycle trainers to fulfil the CAPS cycle training commitment in schools unable to get volunteers?

He'd consider it in context with other priorities.

Cameron Rose

Would he fund professional cycle trainers where volunteers couldn't be found?

Nice idea but would need to look at other priorities.

Would he promote Edinburgh's 10% of all journeys by bike by 2020 to other areas?

Yes, he believes in leading by example.

Support a pedestrianised Princes Street?

He'd propose a conference of all interested parties to discuss options. Feels there's potential to create shared use in city centre areas in the spirit of Exhibition Road. With population increasing by 5000 per year and visitor numbers up he feels there needs to be more space for pedestrians and cyclists. Wonders about improving South Bridge pavement?

Do other Tories share his views on this?

Whilst the party is made up of a vast array of people with differing views, Iain Whyte pushed for a cycle hire scheme and many others in Edinburgh would support him.

Would he commit to reducing traffic growth?

Feels you have to strike a balance and remember that old people often rely on their own vehicles.