

SPOKES 2010 COMPETITION – ENTRIES IN TEXT ONLY

Peter Hawkins – top entry number 9 - Livingstonehenge

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

My idea for an artwork is a small-scale replica of Stonehenge.

The stone could be quarried locally and local labour could be employed to cut the stones and erect them. Schools and colleges could do the research to ensure that the positioning is accurate.

The costs should be reasonable, given that no artist's fee would be needed.

WHERE IT WOULD GO

It would be erected in Livingston and be called LIVINGSTONehenge. The site could be Peel Park, which has several advantages: a) it's elevated b) it's big enough c) it's a historic site which once contained Livingston House d) it's very accessible by the path network but hardly at all by car e) it's fairly central to the town, lying about 1km north of the Civic Centre.

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

The henge would be erected to the same plan as the real one, such that the rising sun at the solstice would strike the centre (or whatever) and this would give students and the curious the chance to study the phenomenon without having to go to the real one. It would also, unlike the real one, be accessible at all times and not swamped with tourists, though hopefully it would become a tourist attraction. It should be visible from the air on the approach to the airport.

A secondary purpose would be to get the path network better known. Being so central in the town, it could also act as a meeting point and the centre for active events.

The idea would tie in with two other artworks in W Lothian. One is the standing stones (not historic) on the Lochshot Burn Path. The other is the astro/plantary obelisk and associated pieces at Almondell Country Park which are supposed to replicate our solar system - it dates from 18thC and it's not very well known.

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Katharine Wake – top entry number 10 - Path entry point 3-D maps

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

3-D metal map of the surrounding area (similar to the one which used to be beside the art galleries on the Mound). Ideally there should be several at key locations on the cycle path network, mounted on a robust plinth and proof against vandalism as its 3D nature would prevent obliteration of the information. Raised lettering could indicate the continuation beyond the map area, e.g. City location reached at key junctions and access points.

WHERE IT WOULD GO

At principal path entry points, particularly where it is not obvious from the cycle path where this is situated in relation to the city areas. Old railway cuttings and unfamiliarity with access/exit points can lead to geographical confusion for new users of the network.

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would be appealing to users of the cycle path of all ages, would provide useful 'you are here' information, would help promote awareness of the possibility of using the cycle network to gain easy access to different areas of the city, and could highlight local attractions at relevant places. It should form a series of durable maps in a fun format (signboards tend to be vandalised, sadly). The map/model at the Mound was very popular with both locals and visitors alike (as is the one in Glasgow's Buchanan Street).

OTHER ALL-TEXT ENTRIES, listed in order of receipt

William Ivory

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

My idea is to create the equivalent of the various large chalk figures you find on English hillsides, but with the figure being a bike. Location is everything with this as if it's on flat ground, no one would see it. It needs to be on a hillside, ideally clearly visible to a large number of passers by, eg a motorway or railway. (A possible alternative would be to create it as a bicycle shaped maze, perhaps one that cyclists could cycle round, sited on a flat site, but having a suitable vantage point nearby to see the whole thing.)

WHERE IT WOULD GO

Needs to be visible as a whole, and to non-cyclists preferably. Not sure which local cycle paths are visible from main roads, but one thought would be the bing by the canal near Winchburgh, visible from the M9 and railway, as it's hardly going to make it any uglier!

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would be a very visible suggestion to people to get on their bikes, or at the very least to go and take a closer look, at which point they would be able to find information on why it is there, and on local cycle routes. (The flat maze equivalent would be fun for cyclists of all ages to cycle round.)

Dave du Feu

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS - *The Bike-o-saur Trail*

This is aimed at very young children – the age when they are on their first bike and still very interested in dinosaurs.

A series of dinosaur sculptures would be semi-hidden along the path, though visible if you look carefully.

At the main entries to the path an attractively designed and vandal-proof feature would picture and name all the dinosaurs on the trail and ask you to try and spot them all.

If there is a fear of vandalism to the sculptures an alternative would be to create them in cement on the path surface, though the element of looking for something hidden would then be lost.

WHERE IT WOULD GO

Any section of path which could be attempted by very young cyclists, but was sufficiently long that going by bike was better than walking. A good example might be the path circle which runs in Edinburgh from 5-ways junction round to Victoria Park, then turning right, and right again after the old cemetery (a good place for a pterodactyl in the trees above) and so back to 5-ways junction. Or perhaps starting from Scotland Street playground so as to have the fun of going through the tunnel (where a prehistoric bat could be suspended).

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would introduce youngsters to the path network in a way which gave them a real interest and purpose in using their bikes. It would also encourage parents to go cycling with their children from an early age. It would also be of interest or at least amusement to most adults, as everyone has a soft spot for dinosaurs.

A link-up could be made with the museum, so that the museum advertised the trail, and the information boards on the trail advertised the museum as a place to find more information and to see the real bones.

The trail would also provide a fun opportunity for child-friendly events organised for young children by groups of parents, primary school outings, etc.

Julie McGuire

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

A form of Shiva on a bike (a modern take on Shiva).
Shiva is an Indian god.
He could have 4 arms or 4 legs

WHERE IT WOULD GO: Leith (before the shore) in the water

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would be well talked about and Shiva is very symbolic as the god of destruction.
Cycling instead of taking the car could help us, encourage us to cycle more or Shiva might destroy!

Alastair Tibbitt

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS: A "clever" sheep pen

WHERE IT WOULD GO: Porty-Seafield pathway

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would help make a 'place' out of what is currently a barren nowhere and encourage more people to use the path.

M Deans

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

An archway made of large branches/logs a la Andy Goldsworthy. Materials obtained from any woodland along the way which needs tree surgery for safety reasons.

WHERE IT WOULD GO: Anywhere along Water of Leith.

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

In an open area it feels special to pass through an archway especially if it is big and made of natural materials. It's an idea to echo a wooded area already passed through, and could be strategically placed to frame a good view.

John Ireson

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

Musical sound effects along cycle paths – to add beauty and interest.
e.g. Wind chimes, windmills with a rattle, bells, etc.
Made from natural and scrap materials

WHERE IT WOULD GO

Generally along paths, and at entry point in particular – as a "welcome chime."

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

Make cycling an even more pleasant experience. Add a calming, attractive acoustic element.

David Somervell

WHAT YOUR ARTWORK IDEA IS

Display a huge 10:10 symbol on a bridge abutment/wall at entry point to one of the Sustrans/Spokes cycle paths, to celebrate the campaign to cut carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

WHERE IT WOULD GO

The signs available are about 2.5 metres long and 800mm high – from aluminium recycled from an old jumbo jet.

WHY THIS WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CYCLEPATH

It would link in the role cycling has to play in the transition to a low-carbon economy. I think Sustrans signed up to 10:10 – did Spokes?

PS – it might be that the big sign we have at Edinburgh University would be available next year (it cost £1500).

Kevin Blair

[NB – this entry was on a blank sheet of paper, hence the absence of the subheadings]

My idea is a general one - to introduce mileposts along routes which have several different purposes. They would

1. allow progress to a main destination to be marked
2. be varied in their design and installation making them of visual interest
3. describe points of interest, be they historical, geological, or whatever

Not all posts would have to have no.3 although all those that did would have aspects of uniformity. For longevity they would be constructed perhaps of fibre glass allowing varied form but with an integral information panel with the text painted into the design.

Some post would be like conventional stubby mile markers but others would be ornate, perhaps attached to trees or forming an archway. The more elaborate ones with historical / other information would be at the point of interest and not necessarily at precise mile marks.

Where there was an interesting view, hollows through the structure would allow folk to see the point of interest.

Were funding in place for marking a path, a project could be taken on by a local community or collection of community groups. For example a school art department might take on a project. Aspects of local history would be drawn out – the romans in Scotland, drove roads, industrial history, famous real or fictional characters that might have travelled or traversed the route.

This would be a great way to get local interest and usage of paths developed. In addition “outsiders” would have a greatly expanded knowledge of where they were travelling. Younger children would get a real buzz from reaching the more elaborate constructions.

Time has not allowed me to develop a worked up example for a path but I feel the concept could be great for community ownership of paths, developing historical / cultural interest and the greater uptake of walking and cycling.