

This is a quick message to emailable spokes members in a wide area around Morningside/Myreside [this email list is based on our delivery areas, so apologies if this is too far to be of interest to you].

Morningside-Myreside : new East-West path??

There are 2 current planning applications for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site:

13/04292/PPP – Royal Edinburgh Hospital Masterplan

13/04232/FUL - Royal Edinburgh Hospital Phase 1

The Masterplan application shows a new east-west pedestrian/cycle route connecting Morningside and Myreside! A great opportunity – but the plan needs improved further. Also, under the current proposals, only a cul-de-sac section of the path would be built soon, in Phase 1 – the whole path could take 10-15 years, the period of the Masterplan, if it is not given priority.

What You Can Do

If you would find this route useful, please do the following...

- **Go to the council website and submit your own comments on one or both applications.** To do this, go to <https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-web> then paste in the full application reference number above (e.g. 13/04292/PPP). In order to submit comments you will also need to register on the site if you have not already done so. Some people find registration works quickly and easily, but some have found problems or delays.
- **If you have any points additional to those we make below** or if you make a significant submission Spokes would appreciate a copy. spokes@spokes.org.uk.
- **Go to the Tuesday Nov 5 public meeting on the plans**, Morningside United Church, Holy Corner. Exhibition from 6.30, meeting starts 7.30. Chaired by Jim Eadie MSP [NB - in the Scottish Parliament Jim is a great supporter of improved cycling conditions]. There is a poster here... <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morningside-Community-Council/399582176729812>
- **Contact your local councillors** with your views and ask them to support you in decisions on these planning applications. Find them at www.writetothem.com.

What we have done so far

On behalf of Spokes Planning Group, Peter Hawkins has already submitted comments on the **masterplan application** as follows [abbreviated] ...

We object to this application on a number of grounds...

1 Early completion of whole cycle route:

The cycle route east-west along the south side of the site should be completed at an early stage.

Phase 1 proposes building only from Myreside Rd to the shelter belt where Phase 1 ends. This is not acceptable, would cause anger and frustration for staff and the public and would probably be more costly rather than all at once.

The stated objectives of the Master Plan include to encourage active travel to/from the site, for staff and visitors especially; so there seems little point in a route that stops part-way.

2 East end connections:

The east end of the cycle route should connect to Maxwell St as well as to Morningside Terrace;

this would have the advantage of a more direct route in from Morningside Cross, and would also use a quiet residential cul-de-sac with little traffic; this would benefit staff and visitors and encourage the active travel mode;

3 Footbridge to Balcarres St:

There is a strong case for a pedestrian and cycle footbridge from Bruce Street (cul-de-sac off Balcarres St) into the heart of the site. Alternatively, the access could be from the Council's redundant depot on Balcarres Street. Apparently, there is a new service-pipe-bridge already proposed, and the developers are already in negotiation with Network rail on this, so that bridge could go one further and take pedestrians and cycles too.

It is also important to comment on the Phase 1 application –

Firstly the need to complete the path, but you may also wish to comment on other issues including bike parking/storage and the proposed car parking provision. A Spokes member makes the following additional points...

Car parking is to be increased from around 360 spaces to 470, in spite of travel plans and a supposed critical assessment of the minimum number to meet the Health Board's requirements. It is also disappointing to see that Lothian buses cannot be accessed within the site, as at the Western General and Royal Infirmary. A shuttle bus will be provided but it is unclear how far this will reach and how far the public can catch it at remote bus stops.

New web page on PAs and PANs

To help members comment on relevant future planning applications, Spokes has a new web page listing current Planning Applications or PANs which we believe may be relevant to cycling [PANs are a public consultation stage for big developments, prior to a Planning Application]. Our new page explains more about PAs and PANs, tells you how to look them up on the council website, how to find details of exhibitions, etc.

To find the new page go to spokes.org.uk : documents : local issues : current PAs or see our October 29 news item...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/10/pans-and-pas-not-pandas/