

### 5.10.13

**This is a circular to emailable Spokes members in Midlothian and others north and south who may travel in Midlothian. The list is based on our delivery areas, so apologies if it is too far away to be of interest to you.**

**Please take action on any issues that concern you. Relevant contacts are given below or are on the linked websites. If you wish to contact your councillors, find them at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).**

#### **A. A701 DANGERS**

Midlothian Spokes member John Pope (who is also chair of Midlothian Access Forum) is very concerned about A701 cycling safety and is arranging to meet the council cycling officer Dave Kenny and Cllr Ian Baxter [who is a Spokes member] to discuss this. He would very much welcome comments from anyone with ideas about this route, so he can collate them to raise at the meeting.

***Please email your comments to:*** [jdkpopeATyahoo.co.uk](mailto:jdkpopeATyahoo.co.uk)

*John says, "I am concerned about safety on the A701, as it gets busier and busier, and with more cyclists commuting to town. There are also cyclists commuting to the Bush/Vet School, from town. One day recently, when I had to drive into town about 0845hrs, I counted over a dozen cyclists on the A703- ie the road from Morningside- which as no provision at all for cyclists, and a horrible crossing for them on the way home at Lothianburn."*

There is good reason for concern, since rural 'A' roads in general have the worst record of any road type for cyclist deaths per km cycled. See the table on page 7 of Spokes 115. If you don't still have your paper copy, it is online here...

[www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/bulletin/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/bulletin/)

Earlier campaigning on A701 cycling conditions is reported in this January 2103 Spokes news item...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/01/midlothian-cycle-facilities-now-and-future/>

#### **B. MIDLOTHIAN ACCESS FORUM**

John also mentions that there is no longer a cycling representative on Midlothian Access Forum. If this might interest you, contact him for more information about what is involved and the type of person needed.

You can see minutes of some past meetings here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/members-campaigning/midlothian/>

#### **C. BURDIEHOUSE/GILMERTON TO STRAITON**

In case you are not aware, Edinburgh Council have allocated funds (with matching Sustrans money) to complete this really important missing link, connecting from Midlothian's Straiton path, under the bypass, and to the minor roads and the burn path in Burdiehouse, thus providing a much safer and more attractive route between the city and Midlothian. This is due to happen in the current financial year 2013/14 and work has begun...

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/cyclists-hail-traffic-free-route-to-midlothian-1-2927028>

#### **D. SPOKES MIDLOTHIAN MAP**

Our excellent Midlothian cycle and walk map is to get even better with a new edition, probably fairly early in 2014. If you have any comments on the existing edition and/or suggestions for the new one, please email Tim Smith [timATvizualz.co.uk](mailto:timATvizualz.co.uk).

#### **E. SCIENCE BIKE RIDE, OCT 16, 10.00-16.00**

As part of Midlothian science festival Midlothian Ranger Service and scientists from The Roslin Institute are organising a 13.5 mile cycle ride through the countryside around the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush campus. The route will include various points of local interest and there will be opportunities to hear from the scientists about their work to improve the health of animals both in the UK and beyond.

<http://midlothiansciencefestival.com/event/science-in-the-saddle-cycle-ride/>

To book a place call the Midlothian Ranger Service on 01875 821716.

Dave du Feu  
5.10.13