

# RESOURCES GROUP NOTE OF 12.01.17 MEETING

- These notes may include any relevant developments subsequent to the meeting
- They also include notes from earlier meetings, if still relevant

**Present:** Rosie, Dave, Martin, David, Martyn. **Apols:** Mies, Paul, Iain, Judy.

**Festive Resources Group meal** - thanks Judy, enjoyed by all, good venue.

## **Next Resources Group meetings**

- Weeks beginning Jan 30 and Feb 13, at St Martins. **Dave** to email Resources to finalise date (first meeting most likely Thur Jan 2). Will include envelope labelling for mailout, which is expected to be Sat 25 Feb.

**Google Calendar reminder...** Spokes dates calendar by Martin <http://tinyurl.com/SpokesCalendar-v1>

## **A. RELEVANT NON-SPOKES MATTERS** - none

## **B. STALLS** - *Anyone who can help at stalls please contact Mies or the person shown.*

- **Farmers Market** dates - to be booked. Probably none in Jan or Feb. **Martyn** to discuss with Mies and/or at the stalls review meeting below.
- **Feb 17 Ed Uni Student Assn Green Festival** [also Sat 18 infra tour by Planning Group/Martin]
- **Ed Council roadshow for local businesses green coordinators** – possibility of us having a stall here – **David** to find details of what/when. General feeling it would be good to try this once if feasible.

### **STALLS FUTURE/ GENERAL**

- **Mies** has taken over as main stall organiser, with Martyn away a lot including Oct 24-Jan 3. **Dave** included in Spokesworker a request for assistant stall organiser to work with Mies, but no volunteers. Will repeat request again in next email circular but **Mies** possibly to ask the list of people who ticked stall help.
- **Stalls review meeting** – **Mies** to organise a stalls review meeting in January, including to discuss...
  - *purpose of stalls* and whether/how to prioritise
  - *content/ materials* for stalls
  - *Stall helpers instruction sheet* – Judy said useful to update to answer difficult common questions – e.g. complaints about cyclists on towpath [on that question (1) give them shared paths flyer (2) say we have been pressing council for bike facilities on parallel roads to encourage faster cyclists to go there].

## **C. STALL & OFFICE MATERIALS**

- **Spokes map on office wall** – Map now in place – thanks Goff and Judy.

## **D. SPOKES PUBLIC MEETINGS** [twitter hashtag #SpokesMtg]

- **Spring 2017** – Council elections hustings, April 6 at Augustine United. **Martin** organising. Booking extra room so we can easily fit in 5 discussion groups. *Note* - Date of election is Thurs 4 May.  
Green – Cllr Nigel Bagshaw, Lab – Cllr Maureen Child, SNP – Cllr Adam McVey, Con – Cllr Nick Cook, LibDem – no reply yet.
- **Possible future topics** -
  - *June meeting* – probably policies of the new council
  - *Any meeting* [suggested by Ian] – Cycling for all ages & abilities. e.g. speakers from a school, from Ageing Well, from ABC (all-abilities) and a relevant senior councillor.

## E. SPOKES MAPS

- **Edinburgh electronic map version** – no progress on XYZ base map. However, Resources Group feels the need for this is declining as Google and Openstreet cycle mapping is now good and improving. Experience with our new paper map, however, shows strong remaining demand for a paper map.
- 3rd **Glasgow edition** was paid for by the council, 12500 copies, and is available free (on ordinary paper). Glasgow Council will post out copies free on request, so this is now on our website maps page, and Council is to send us a small supply (**Dave** to remind them). Development of an electronic version and a paid-for printed water/tear-resistant version is currently on hold as Ian is very short of time.
- **Old Glasgow paper maps**. We can't really sell these given the above. **Judy** to find out how many are left. Probably to be pulped (unless we can identify a company who take old maps to make into products).
- **Longer term spokes maps future** unclear as Ian very busy at work and Tim unsure about doing future maps. On the other hand, David Gardiner has come in and done a lot on the reverse of the new Edinburgh map. Meeting of the maps group fixed for Feb 2.
- **Employer initiative** – A brief note was included in a Council sustainability newsletter to employers, notifying of our bulk prices [orders to the maps@.. address, handled by Peter] but no known significant results. **David** will email a fuller article to business organisations [Chamber of Commerce, Essential Ed, FSB, others??] to ask if they would publicise – e.g. include in newsletters to their members and/or on websites. [NB they could use the fact of doing so to add to their 'green' credentials].
- **Surplus existing Ed maps** Approx 400-500 remaining copies – need to find a good use for them without jeopardising sales of the new map. Offer to schools for use in classes [now on website](#). **Mies** is main organiser, with **Martin** helping delivery – but hope can mainly deliver mainly c/o Council. **Dave** has tweeted the offer to all schools for which he has addresses (about 15 each primary & secondary). Unlike with our Midlothian surplus, there was not enough takeup from the tweet, so a few 100 maps remain. **Mies** to contact other schools by email and/or via council (Mark Symonds?). **Mies** to keep a note of what recipients say they will be used for. **Judy** to get the maps to the office from store and from Tim.

## F. SUMMER COMPETITION 2017

- Agreed **Judy** suggestion, **Simple cycling improvements** - simple improvements, by Council, employers or others, at low cost, to improve existing everyday journeys and/or encourage more people to cycle. Entries must be for a specific location (in Ed or Lothians), not general ideas.
- Discussed how can we be clear it is for simple/cheap ideas. Could say “*ideas costing from nothing to no more than a few £1000*”?? Give examples of what could be included (signing; planting; information; employer incentives to employees; a 1-way street suitable for 2-way cycling without significant physical measures; a vital missing dropped kerb, etc) and what not allowed (a new or widened cyclist route; redesigning a roundabout; etc).
- As always, photos will be welcome; and we say that in judging we take into account not just the idea but also how well its benefits are described.
- **Dave** to do a draft entry form [final not needed till comp launched in June Bulletin].

## G. TRAFFIC COUNT

- Tues 15 November [report](#) on website including some new photos. Results have belatedly gained considerable publicity in [Evening News](#) then catching on (worldwide!!) on social media (example [here](#) – nearly 100 RT's and over 100 Likes) – more as a result of the fall in inner-city car traffic than cycling increase. Strongly justifies our decision 10 years ago to count all traffic, not just bikes!

## H. MOTORIST AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – 'BIKE ALERT'

- *Video & leaflet at [www.spokes.org.uk/videos](http://www.spokes.org.uk/videos)*. In total ~3000 leaflets used at schools events, 2000 in mailout; 5000 remaining.
- *Other uses* – driving schools, car hire offices, police rehab, etc, etc, being discussed by **Martin & Mies**. **Mies** looking out previous database of such addresses [but now rather old] and **Martin** to take leaflets round to a few such bodies to get a feeling for likely levels of interest/non-interest. Wary of offering to provide speakers unless we can find a panel of a few potential speakers, e.g. from the schools event volunteers.

## J. SAFETY GROUP

- **Martin** considering setting up a Safety group, now that a good number of Spokes members have been involved at the 6<sup>th</sup> former sessions and interested in some continuing involvement. Major aims would be to promote safer cycling in a positive way, not making cycling look dangerous, and trying to influence council, police, etc, to use similar approach. The group could also get involved with police / streets ahead initiatives, working with Resources on stall staffing and other overlapping matters.
- Ben Bate (Spokes presumed liability person), Donald Urquhart (Cycling UK) and Brenda Mitchell (Cycle Law Scotland + Roadshare Presumed Liability campaign), Bruce Whitehead (journalist and activist) interested in a group.
- **Martin** has emailed CEC Road Safety Team (Allan Hoad, Caroline Warhurst from Edinburgh Police's contact), Police Scotland (Edinburgh - Dominic Doyle (PC?) who went to West Midlands to look at their Safe Passing initiative) and Living Streets (Stuart Hay) to talk about their activities and how we might work together. No replies yet? *For reference* – the officer (Inspector?) responsible Scotland-wide for vulnerable road users is Vinnie Fisher.
- Martin went to one of the [Edinburgh Uni / police “Be Bright, Be Seen” events](#) to get a feeling for them (no stalls). Streets Ahead (CEC road safety project) also involved. Lots of free lights were given out – many new students don't realise how dark it can be apparently! We agreed it is vital for cyclists to be aware of road dangers, but need to avoid suggesting cycling is particularly dangerous, and also need to tackle the source of the problem not just the victims. Martyn had done stalls last year and thought it worthwhile.
- Hi-Viz discussion ... it seems a common-sense precaution but evidence is remarkably thin [e.g. [West Midlands police blog](#)] so must not be promoted in a way that makes cyclists over-confident of being seen.
- *CEC Streets Ahead* - **Martin** trying to find out why we are not invited to participate in Streets Ahead planning meetings (Mies used to attend). Mies thinks similar meetings with outside representation may no longer happen at all because 2 key enthusiastic personnel left (Steven Murrell & ?police person).
- [later thought] Another possible project that could be considered by such a group would be Bill Neilson's suggested project – identification of traffic offences [Resources Gp notes of 6.11.13].

## K. 40TH ANNIVERSARY - 2017

- **Mies, Martin, Rosie, Martyn** to form a subgroup to develop & progress ideas. Anything involving a lot of work should only be done if to be seen by lots of people, to be worthwhile effort. Most appropriate time would be autumn as lots of preparation needed & long booking timescales. Suggestions...
  - **Scottish Parliament** – Dave has written to Spokes member Alison Johnstone MSP to ask if a member debate possible (e.g. to congratulate Spokes and ask Scot Govt to mark this occasion by doing XXX). A Parliament reception probably not a good idea as would cost us a lot [we have to pay for food/drink, as Parliament costs] and might limit numbers we could invite.
  - **Council reception??** – as for previous anniversary – 25<sup>th</sup>? 30<sup>th</sup>? Must ask well before, via a councillor. Council would probably meet refreshments costs and we could probably extend the invite to all members [possibly with a limit]. We would need some sort of exhibition there.
  - **Exhibition** as we had for ?25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, touring Edinburgh libraries and other public outlets. A lot of work, but seen by many people. Mies was involved in previous exhibition, with Euan Renton. Note that library slots – especially Central Library – have to be booked many months in advance. **Dave** to include in next member circular a request for exhibition volunteer with relevant skills to help with this.
  - **Public meeting** celebrating the history. Could be one of our regular public meetings, or additional. Martin was involved in an anniversary meeting in Bristol, but a lot of work for relatively small number of people, 25ish. If we have an exhibition it could also be displayed at a public meeting.
  - **Minimal effort option** – Just have a pub evening, booking a pub room – possibly combine with AGM.
  - **Video documentary** of Spokes history/ achievements/ lessons – **Rosie** to investigate college/uni student project possibilities.

## L. SUPERMARKETS PROJECT

- Iain can't now take the lead on this. Dave has contacted Joe Taylor, who works for Cockburn and had expressed interest. [Later – Joe is interested in taking this on]
- Iain had circulated email with 2<sup>nd</sup> version of draft good practice guide some time ago. Once we are closer to being ready to use it and reasonably happy with the content we can ask David Gardiner or Tim if they have time to do a professional layout.

- **Aim of the good practice guide ...**
  - to enable members to lobby their local shops/supermarket, as an individual on their own initiative.
  - to contact local regional managers of supermarket chains - aim to find at least one to undertake an exemplary project covering all their stores. This would need one or more volunteers to take this on. The person could then potentially also work with locals from the above bullet point.
  - Note that this is an innovative project for which we could almost certainly get grant assistance if necessary if we decide to take it further in a ways that needs significant funding, as we did with the tenements project – e.g. Sustran or Cycling Scotland or SCSP cash (via Ed Council). This might be particularly helpful if any supermarket chain takes up the project and works with us, or if we organise local members lobbying their stores on a wide scale.
- **Report on our initial survey** is online at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : spokes projects : supermarkets or click here [www.spokes.org.uk/documents/papers-documents/supermarkets-project](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/papers-documents/supermarkets-project).

## M. AGM / MEMBER MEETING

- Postpone till 2017 due to amount of activity at present. Could be 30 mins before a public mtg, as before, or separate members' meeting, e.g. in a pub room, with business/discussion/, then general chat/ socialising.
- If there is a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary public or members meeting, as above, an AGM could precede it.

## N. SPOKES STATUS

- AGM in 2015 set up working group of Paul, Ian, Sandy, Dave [with power to coopt others] to progress Spokes becoming a SCIO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/setting-up-a-charity/decide-on-a-structure/scottish-charitable-incorporated-organisation/>
- Spokes objectives modifications to suit SCIO circulated to members, with no feedback except punctuation etc, so we can use these. Dave met SCVO for advice re modification of model SCIO constitution.
- There are 2 models: single tier (trustees only); 2-tier (members + trustees). Resources Group decided single-tier is only realistic option – see minutes from 2016 for reasons.
  - **Single-tier** – structure is like many charities, e.g. Sustrans, with trustees and supporters (not members in the SCIO sense of that word) and more like we operate now. Trustees could include any of the people active in spokes, depending on how we drew up the constitution.
  - **Dave** to try and edit the single-tier model constitution to tie in with our practice, to then report to the working group & AGM about the single-tier preference.

## P. ONLINE JOINING AND RENEWAL

- **Clair**, computing adviser at Ed Uni, hopes to do this. Further delay as the proposed software GroupSpaces now no longer has technical support. Dave, Christine, Sarah to meet Clair once there is further progress.
- Meantime we will try to set up a paypal button on the site. **Paul+Stuart** looking into this.

## Q. OTHER TOPICS TO REVISIT AS AND WHEN POSSIBLE

- **Traffic Count** – May and November
- **Current topics** flier for stalls
- **Possible research projects** [details in 6.11.13 notes] – census ideas; valuation of cyclist time; identification of traffic offences.
- **Website – how it relates to other Spokes media, and possible changes**
  - *facebook* and *twitter* give a timeline of current very immediate activity
  - *bulletin*, *member email circulars* and the *blog element of the website* do the same in a longer-perspective way and with more ability to recall/locate info [e.g via the 'cloud' or the search box].
  - the other important current function of the *website* is an *archive and reference point* - for those involved in campaigning and for professionals (e.g. copies of all important Spokes submissions) and to some extent for everyday cyclists needing advice (e.g. Maps, bike security)
  - *issues* – (1) website does not currently well serve the purpose of introducing new people to the cycling scene in Edinburgh (2) its front-end is not sexy.
- **Martin** to contact Stuart to see if google analytics can help give some clues to how the website currently used. David volunteers to help investigate possible changes, but an expert with current software would be needed to do any necessary work on the website. Member Adam Shepherd (who runs the Roseburn support group website) had also offered help.