

10.4.2013

This is a message to emailable spokes members in a wide area encompassing the Royal Mile and Shandon, about various consultations [the list is based on our delivery areas, so apologies if this is too far to be of interest]. Also copied to Spokes Planning core group.

A. ROYAL MILE ACTION PLAN

The Council is consulting on an Action Plan for the Royal Mile. A link to the plan can be found here... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/royalmile.

There is an email address on that page if you wish to receive future emails about the Royal Mile project.

Please do send in your comments on the Action Plan by 17 May to

euan.mcmeeken@edinburgh.gov.uk saying that these are comments on the Royal Mile Action Plan.

Also contact him for further information about the consultation, the plan, or the consultation events below.

DROP-IN SESSION

Sat 13 Apr Community Engagement Day, drop-in any time 10-4 at Canongate Venture, 5 New Street.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1 Friday 12 April, 6.30-9pm at Canongate Venture. This workshop will focus on issues impacting on the Canongate and Holyrood.

Workshop 2 Wednesday 17 April, 6.30-9pm at Trinity Apse, Chalmers Close. This workshop will focus on issues impacting on the High Street.

Workshop 3 Tuesday 23 April, 6.30-9pm at Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket. This workshop will focus on issues impacting on Castlehill and The Lawnmarket.

PROPOSALS & THOUGHTS

Proposals include the following, some of which are very much in outline and depend on the consultation results...

- 'pedestrian priority' in Castlehill and Lawnmarket
- 'pedestrian/cycle/bus zone' 10.30-18.30 between Niddry St and St Mary st
- investigate Canongate for lower traffic speed measures, wider pavements, shared surfaces, etc, etc in various locations. Also review cycle parking in Canongate area.
- resurfacing Canongate with setts (probably longer-term).

Most of the proposals sound positive, though it will be vital to have input into the details.

A big problem is the use of setts. Currently some parts of the High St have traditional 'cobble' which are really bad (e.g. above George IV Bridge). Some parts have slightly-rounded setts, which are still not very good for many bikes (e.g. past St Giles and the Council). Best by far are the 'flat-topped' setts used at the junctions with George IV Bridge and with North Bridge. If that is refused, another option could be use of smooth paved strips, like the drainage strips beside St Giles - where there is no kerb and where they are not parked on!!

One of our members wrote to councillors that he had been hit by a van emerging onto the Royal Mile from a side street, with a resulting broken bone. Although it was 100% the driver's fault, he might have avoided being hit if he had not been concentrating on the cobbled (and wet) road surface. One senior councillor replied that he personally supported flat-topped setts, but it will depend on the results of the consultation and on costs as well as on safety and aesthetic issues. He did also say, "The type of paving is a key issue in relation to both the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians and cyclists."

It is clearly worth writing in to the consultation about this point. The High Street will only be truly cycle friendly if there is a cycle-friendly surface. If you decide to argue for 'flat-top' setts, make clear you mean the ones at the junctions above, not the ones in the St Giles/Council section.

B. SHANDON AREA CAR PARKING

The Council's South West Neighbourhood Partnership is looking at parking problems in the area - blockage of narrow streets and street corners, access for emergency vehicles, and any other aspects. A good opportunity also to mention local difficulties caused for safe cycling.

Further information, and a link to the proposals, is at

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20055/south_west_neighbourhood/596/what_s_on_in_south_west_edinburgh/6

There will be 2 drop-in sessions where council officers will provide information and consult on measures proposed for the area.

Tues 16 April and Weds 17 April
both 4-7pm
at Craiglockhart Primary School.

If you are unable to attend you can also submit comments via the email address on the above web page.

C. PRINCES ST / GEORGE ST FUTURE

Finally, please remember to participate in the consultation on the future of Princes St and George St. Full details are in the current Spokesworker (April 3) which you can find at...

www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/spokesworker/