

Spokes circular : to East Lothian (urgent item), Midlothian, West Lothian

15.9.13

This is a circular to Spokes members in the 3 Lothians council areas. Apologies that most items are only relevant to your particular area, but putting them together is quicker - and you may just spot something of interest elsewhere!

BUDGET

Also, you may be interested in our initial thoughts on the just-announced government draft 14/15 budget...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/09/budget-bewilderment/>

EAST LOTHIAN

A. CYCLE FORUM - TUE 17 SEPT

EL Council holds a Cycle Forum open to any interested member of the public. The next meeting is this Tuesday 17 Sept, 13.00 at The Town House, Haddington (Buffet Room). It discusses current and future council cycling projects and any other relevant topics.

For further info or to be added to the email list for future meetings, contact Council cycling officer Iain Reid.

Tel: 01620 827143 Email: ireid@eastlothian.gov.uk

B. DREM-GULLANE PATH CAMPAIGN

The latest update is here...

<https://sites.google.com/site/dremgullanepath/newsletter>

You can also follow the campaign on twitter @dgcorepath or register for email updates at dgcorepath@gmail.com.

C. EL COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

Keep your eye on this council website page for transport-related consultations.

<https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/>

[Currently there is nothing relevant apart from a traffic regulation order to amend parking rules in Belhaven, Dunbar & West Barns].

D. SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION

You may be interested to know that 2 of the top 3 entries were from East Lothian!

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2013/09/pigeon-droppings-prevail/>

MIDLOTHIAN

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.

F. ML COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

Keep your eye on this council website page for transport-related consultations.

<Http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open>

[Currently there is nothing relevant]

WEST LOTHIAN

G. CYCLING IN LIVINGSTON

Whether or not you agree with his theories, there's a fascinating blog article by 'baldcyclist' at...

<http://baldcyclist.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/even-if-it-is-never-used-i-say-build-it.html>

H. FIRST BUS DRIVER CYCLE AWARENESS

You may be aware of the considerable cycle awareness efforts made by Lothian Buses. See

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/public-transport/bus/>

First Bus is often compared unfavourably with Lothian Buses in this respect.

However, we have heard from Mike Wilson, Recruitment & Training Manager for First Scotland East. He says...

I am putting together open weekends at the First Bus Training Academy Livingston for Cyclists. The idea behind it is for both parties (cyclists and bus drivers) to gain experience of each others requirements. If you or other groups would be interested in a visit, can you contact me via email and I will forward on more details, about the open day tour, of the training facilities which will also include bus driving vision/experience. David Brennan aka Magnatom has already visited the Training Academy and has written a blog on his website about his experience. The link [iswww.magnatom.net/2011/08/meeting-with-first-bus-outcome.html](http://www.magnatom.net/2011/08/meeting-with-first-bus-outcome.html).

If interested, contact Mike.Wilson@Firstgroup.com.

I. WL COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

Keep your eye on this council website page for transport-related consultations.

http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/consultations/

[Currently there is nothing relevant]

J. CANAL TOWPATH IMPROVEMENTS

A member of Spokes Planning Group is to draw up a plan / survey indicating existing surfaces and their condition along the Canal, together with any suggested improvements to the surface or other cycling aspects, to submit to Scottish Canals and Edinburgh and WL councils. It would be really useful if some interested Spokes West Lothian members could comment on sections of the towpath in their area.

If you can help please email marion@urbanpioneers.co.uk.

Incidentally, Linlithgow members may be aware that Scottish Canals has obtained match-funding from Sustrans to surface the towpath out as far as near the Leisure Centre. And the Council has obtained funding to design access ramps at that point and for the Academy. We hope the Council will again apply to Sustrans for funding towards building these accesses in the next round of bidding for match-funding.

Dave du Feu
15.9.13