

Spokes circular to members in: **East Lothian, Midlothian+Borders, West Lothian**

30.11.13

This is a circular to Spokes members in the above areas. Apologies that most items are only relevant to your particular area, but putting them together is quicker - and you may well spot something of interest elsewhere!
Please note that the dates for items in red are very soon.

If you wish to contact your councillors about any item, with comments, suggestions or congratulations (they like that!) you can find them easily at www.writetothem.com.

ALL AREAS

A. Remember to check your council consultation website every so often!

Some consultations slip through, but you should at least find the most significant ones here...

eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/consultations/

B. Proposed Long Distance Routes

See under *Midlothian* and *East Lothian* below respectively for the **Solway-Forth** and **John Muir** proposals – although in fact these proposals both affect more than one council area.

C. Other Spokes news / info / ideas

Stay updated by checking our website periodically <http://www.spokes.org.uk>.
Follow us on twitter @SpokesLothian

WEST LOTHIAN

A. *Mon 2 Dec* - Linlithgow Cycle Action Group

8pm, 28 Oatlands Park EH49 6AS. Email cmfischbacherATyahoo.co.uk Phone 01506 840300.
Everyone interested in improving cycling conditions in and around Linlithgow is welcome. *Provisional agenda includes...*

1. Canal developments - (Richard T)
2. A706 developments (Paul Shave)
3. CWSS money
4. High Street projects - Alan B
5. Linlithgow planning forum - volunteer needed

B. RecycleABike – Wanted: old bikes, parts, accessories

A new project by West Lothian Council to recondition and recycle old bicycles. The project aims to utilise the skills of offenders placed on a Community Payback Order and is overseen by qualified technicians. The refurbished bikes will be distributed to local charities who work with children. More details and contacts here...

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/sitecontent/news/latest/recycleabike>

C. A89 path Boghall to Leyland roundabouts, to complete A89 route

West Lothian has obtained 50% match funding for this path from Sustrans and is now going through the legal processes before constructing the path. More info...

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/sitecontent/news/archive/2013/September/cyclenetwork>

MIDLOTHIAN

A. *by 6 December* Bonnyrigg, Lasswade and Poltonhall – the future

If you live, work or otherwise use these areas, please complete the council online survey on how you would like the areas to develop. An excellent chance to suggest cycling improvements, whether routes, bike parking at shops or other destinations, or other traffic issues. Cycle routes are even mentioned in the questions (Q14,15)! There is also an incentive of a prize draw for a £50 meal in a local restaurant. www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultations/Let_s_Talk_About_Bonnyrigg_Lasswade_and_Poltonhall_/index.aspx

B. Solway – Forth C2C long-distance recreational route

John Grimshaw and Associates have been working with Upper Tweed Railway Project on cyclist routes in the Upper Tweed area [John Grimshaw was the founder of Sustrans]. They are now developing the idea of a coast-to-coast signed route using existing paths and quiet roads. Several coast-to-coast [C2C] cyclist routes already exist in England but this would be Scotland's first.

An exciting interim report on the Upper Tweed Project is now out, and this includes in Appendix 2 an outline map of a potential Solway-Forth route.

<http://www.johngrimshawassociates.com/#ScotlandsGreat>

<http://www.johngrimshawassociates.com/downloads/UpperTweedRailwayPath.pdf>

Several publicity initiatives are likely in 2014, including test rides along all or parts of the route. If you have suggestions or would like to get involved in testing and/or promoting the concept, contact johnATjohngrimshaw.co.uk. If you decided to get significantly involved, please also let us know, as it would be useful to have local contacts/promoters if we are asked to help promote this in 2014.

Separately, please also consider signing up as a supporter of the Upper Tweed Project.

<http://uppertweedrailwaypaths.org.uk/>

EAST LoTHIAN

A. *by 18 December* Council budget

If you'd like funding for cycle projects continued, or to rise, take part in the budget consultation.

https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/communications/you-pay-now-have-your-say/consult_view

B. *meeting soon* John Muir Way festival, 2104

The John Muir Way has existed as a walking route, Berwick to Queensferry, for some time with many sections cycleable. Recently it has been extended through West Lothian and right through to the West Coast at Helensburgh, although many sections here are still to be finalised or developed.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Muir_Way

The official opening through to Helensburgh will be in April 2014, the 100th anniversary of John Muir's death. There will be a week of celebrations April 17-26, including walks/cycles on many parts of the route. www.snh.gov.uk/enjoying-the-outdoors/year-of-natural-scotland-2013/celebrate-john-muir/john-muir-way/

Sustrans is playing a large part in this and is organising an ideas/planning meeting (with mince pies) in December at their Edinburgh (Haymarket) offices. Anyone with ideas or interested in being a local contact (e.g. to help with a local cycle on the route) is welcome. **Please email katharine.taylor@sustrans.org.uk urgently** – the meeting may be any time in December.

C. Drem-Gullane path campaign

Following further negotiations the campaign is to organise another public meeting in Gullane to decide on the next steps in lobbying the council. Further details from Iain Monk...

Email dgcorepath@gmail.com Twitter [@dgcorepath](https://twitter.com/dgcorepath)

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

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

D. East Lothian Council Cycle Forum

All interested cyclists are welcome to attend. Next meeting, Tues 4 Feb, 7pm, Haddington. For further details and to get on the email list, contact ireid@eastlothian.gov.uk.

E. East Lothian Path upgrades consultation

The Council has commissioned *P4 Projects* to look into costs and feasibility for path upgrading or new projects in various part of the county – see list in the letter below. If you have comments or queries, please contact Andrea Partridge at...

P4 Projects, 3 Drum Park, Lower Largo, Fife KY8 6DA

01333 320701

07787 536575

Unfortunately we don't yet have an email address.

One Spokes member says he believes there is a threat that the path at Pinkie St Peter's [last on the list above] may be closed because of school security fears, and he suggests commenting on this if you feel it important.

The full consultation letter now follows....

I have recently been contracted by East Lothian Council to carry out a feasibility study on the upgrading of a number of paths in the Council's area.

The paths that I am considering are:

- Pencaitland Railway Path;
- Longniddry to Haddington Railway path;
- Prestonpans to Cockenzie by Cockenzie Power Station;
- Wallyford to Pinkie Path (The Drift) and the link to the station;
- New path linking car parks 1 and 2 at Longniddry Bents;
- Options for the Pinkie St Peter's Path, Musselburgh.

Upgrades to the railway paths may include resurfacing with a bound material such as tarmac or similar. This report will consider the options that are available and the pros and cons of different surface types;

The re-connecting and upgrading of the path between Prestonpans and Cockenzie will be for the benefit of both communities and will allow children to walk and cycle to school. This route is identified in the East Lothian Core Paths Plan;

Upgrading of the Drift Path between Wallyford and Pinkie will improve the active travel options and allow children to walk and cycle to school;

The new path at Longniddry Bents will provide a multi-user link for those using the John Muir Way, the North Sea Cycle Route and National Cycle Route 76. P4 Projects has been asked to explore a route on the north side of the road from Dean Road, Longniddry to the east end of car park 2.

Options will be explored to open or re-route the path adjacent to Pinkie St Peter's Primary School in Musselburgh.

The Feasibility Study will also seek suitable funding sources for work that is deemed to be appropriate. This may include the Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding as a key part of the study is to increase the number of people walking and cycling

The routes that are being considered are strategically important and have the objective of encouraging new users to walk, cycle and ride in a safe and traffic free environment.

I am seeking views from a range of stakeholders and would be grateful for any thoughts that you may have on the upgrading of these paths or any other improvements that could be made.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.
