

# ***Spokes circular to members in the Lothians [outside Edinburgh] and nearby 2.11.2014***

**Note:** If you wish to support or comment on any of the items below, email your local councillors and ask them to follow up the matter. You can use [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) to find your councillors (and MSPs and MPs). We would appreciate a copy of useful email(s).

*This circular contains the following sections...*

- A. Info for all areas
- B. Mainly East Lothian
- C. Mainly MidLothian
- D. Mainly West Lothian
- E. Fife/Queensferry – Edinburgh, A90 path

## **A. ALL AREAS**

### **A1. LOTHIAN CYCLING – NOV 20 PUBLIC MEETING – *PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE!***

Our Autumn public meeting is about cycling development in the Lothians (including routes heading out from Edinburgh to the Lothians and to Fife). We have top transport councillors from all 3 Lothians councils and from Edinburgh, to speak and then answer your questions..

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/09/public-meeting-cycling-development-in-the-lothians/>

**This is a rare opportunity, so please consider helping to make the best of it** - to impress the politicians with the attendance from their areas, and to help them learn from (and compete with) each other. Here's how you can help...

- Come to the meeting
- Invite interested friends/ colleagues
- Tell local organisations who might be interested – bike clubs or shops, for example
- Tweet and/or give links to our above website article about the meeting
- Put up posters
- Leaflet bikes parked in your local town centre, at the railway station, etc [choose a dry day!]

You should receive your autumn Spokes mailout soon, including a poster and our autumn Bulletin – which contains a Lothians supplement. We can post you extra copies of the poster – we have lots of spares – and/or bulletin. If you'd like more please email [davedufeu AT gmail.com](mailto:davedufeu@gmail.com). [Also, say if you would like extras in future Spokes mailings too].

### **A2. LOTHIAN SUPPLEMENT TO SPOKES AUTUMN BULLETIN**

You can see/download our Lothians Supplement, either as one document, or individual pages for each council...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/bulletin/>

### **A3. FORTRESS WAVERLEY – *email your MSPs if you've not yet done so***

Many Spokes members from outside the city use Waverley with a bike, and many are concerned about Network Rail's cycling ban on the Waverley Bridge entry ramps - forcing bikes, pushchairs, luggage and large numbers of commuters and tourists onto the narrow footways whilst the wide adjacent roadway is just for the very occasional delivery van..

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/2014/07/fortress-waverley/>

Since we last circulated about this, our member **Mark Lazarowicz MP** (and others) have heard from Network Rail that they may reconsider their delivery arrangements (the rumour is that they might use Calton Road instead) but no time-scale has been given. We have given a link to the Mark Lazarowicz letter in the above website article.

**If you are affected, please do contact your MPs and MSPs** – the more emails the better! Say you are pleased to hear that Network Rail are reconsidering their delivery arrangements, and ask them to ask Network Rail for a time-scale and for an assurance that a Waverley Bridge ramp will then be given over to pedestrian/cycle-friendly conditions.

## A4. LOCAL CONSULTATIONS & PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Check your council website occasionally for anything where comments may be useful. Here are the addresses...

### Consultations

EL <http://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/>

ML <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open>

WL [http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council\\_and\\_government/consultations/](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/Council_and_government/consultations/)

**Planning applications** – see the links below to find the latest applications in each Lothians area

NB - there's a Spokes factsheet about commenting on Planning applications...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/advice/lobbying-councils/>

EL [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/200192/planning\\_online/1374/planning\\_applications\\_and\\_weekly\\_lists](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/200192/planning_online/1374/planning_applications_and_weekly_lists)

ML

[www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/180/development\\_management\\_planning\\_applications/374/planning\\_applications-search\\_and\\_make\\_comment](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/180/development_management_planning_applications/374/planning_applications-search_and_make_comment)

WL [www.westlothian.gov.uk/1210/161/PlanningApplications/](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1210/161/PlanningApplications/)

**Points to look for...** Do plans for new developments, shops, businesses, etc include bike parking and/or storage? Do new residential developments provide adequate and secure bike storage? What about access or connections to nearby networks, etc, etc?

## A5. TWITTER @SPOKESLOTHIAN – *do you tweet?*

We have an active twitter presence <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian>. Please check it out every so often, and RT any tweets you support. The latest Spokes tweets now also appear on our website in the right-hand column.

## B. MAINLY EAST LOTHIAN

### B1. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAIN ISSUES REPORT – *please take part (from 17 Nov)*

This will be out for consultation from Nov 17 till (probably) mid Feb...

[https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/ldp\\_main\\_issues\\_report/consult\\_view](https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/housing-environment/ldp_main_issues_report/consult_view)

This is likely to be a vital document for the future of transport planning, including cycling. Please do submit your views to the consultation. Also, it would be great if any East Lothian member(s) could volunteer to draw up a Spokes response. We would assist by circulating your draft for comment to all East Lothian members and to Spokes Planning Group.

We recently responded to West Lothian's similar consultation. It was unfortunately last-minute and could have been more comprehensive. However, it might give you ideas. See this page...

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

### B2 CUTHILL PARK

This is a large park area at the west side of Prestonpans, with a very active supporting group...

<http://cuthillpark.blogspot.co.uk/p/about-park-and-friends.html>

One of the objectives is a path linking the park to Prestongrange Museum.

The Cuthill Park friends recently tweeted us asking for suggested bike facilities at the park – e.g. bike parking, a public bike pump, or other ideas. If you have ideas, please contact them by email [friendsofcuthillpark AT hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofcuthillpark@hotmail.com) or by twitter [@cuthillpark](https://twitter.com/cuthillpark).

### **B3. NORTH BERWICK CYCLE GROUP - 'CYCLEFORTH'**

A cycle campaign group has been created for North Berwick area., with objectives very similar to those of Spokes – to get better conditions for using a bike and to get more people cycling, especially for everyday journeys.

Amongst other ideas, Cycleforth is surveying the new John Muir Way cycle route, which has been rather slapped into place without adequate consideration of the cyclists who might use it – the group will be pressing for safety measures and tweaking of the route. Another aim is signed family-friendly cycle routes from the railway station to the two castles – little groundwork is required, just a commitment to get it done.

*For more info or to join the group...* email [committee@cycleforth.org.uk](mailto:committee@cycleforth.org.uk)

### **B4. DREM – GULLANE PATH CAMPAIGN**

This long and persistent campaign by 3 local people to provide an alternative to the dangerous main road to Drem station has reached a new stage, with a compromise route agreed by a poll of campaign supporters, but considerable council reluctance. For the latest updates and to see how you can help, go to...

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

The campaign also hit the Evening News (although the first para is rather too positive about the likelihood of an immediate solution) ...

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/transport/bid-to-get-cycle-route-after-ten-year-wait-1-3580124>

## **C. MAINLY MIDLOTHIAN**

### **C1. CYCLING STRATEGY - *please comment (from 10 November)***

The Council is to prepare a Cycling Strategy, partly in response to local people who have been lobbying the council on cycling issues.

To provide background, the council is running a survey to find out what people think about current cycling conditions and what improvements are needed. The survey runs from 10 November till 19 December and is expected to be online at <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/cycling-survey> [not accessible before 10 November.

For more info, or to discuss your ideas, contact the Council cycling officer Dave.Kenny AT midlothian.gov.uk, phone 0131 271 3398.

Please also pass on details to friends/colleagues who get about by bike in Midlothian – or would like to!

### **C2. BORDERS RAIL – BIKE CAPACITY – *lobby for better!***

It is expected there will only be 2 bike spaces per train on the new railway...

<http://www.bordertelegraph.com/news/borders/articles/2014/08/26/507465-on-your-bike-borders-railway-accused-of-missing-an-opportunity>

This is really poor provision compared to most other lines coming into Edinburgh – for example the North Berwick and the Glasgow trains – affecting both commuters and leisure users. If you'd like something better, email...

- Your MSPs – find them at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)
- Abellio – the Dutch rail company who will take over ScotRail in April [[abellio.com/scotrail](http://abellio.com/scotrail)]. They have a great reputation for bike/rail integration, so ask them if they can improve on the current plans, and tell them why it matters to you. Email.. [scotrail AT abellio.com](mailto:scotrail@abellio.com).

### **C3. BORDERS RAIL – ROUTES TO STATIONS**

The Campaign for Borders Rail, which fought for the new railway and is now fighting to maximise its potential would find it very useful to have an audit of the 7 stations (now under construction) to find "*how well the seven stations connect to safe cycle and walking routes around them and identification of any obvious gaps where new links, crossings etc should be provided.*"

CBR has already had one success in getting agreement for a new direct path from Newtongrange Station to the National Mining Museum and more lobbying could be done if further opportunities are found.

However CBR have a great deal on their plate and cannot organise this audit themselves. If anyone is willing to take it on – or participate as a volunteer – please contact David Spaven, email david AT deltax.co.uk.

If someone can take on organising this we could email round local members again asking for volunteers to join in.

## D. MAINLY WEST LoTHIAN

### D1. GLASGOW-FALKIRK-EDINBURGH RAIL ELECTRIFICATION [EGIP project]

Work is now underway on this huge project. There will be a Network Rail Community Drop-In, 3.30-7.30pm on Thurs 6th & 13th November, at the Low Port Centre, Blackness Road, Linlithgow.

One vital issue will be the bike capacity of the new electric trains. The EGIP staff at the drop-in probably won't have answers, but it is important to keep the issue high in their minds. Emails can also usefully be sent to Abellio, who will be running all ScotRail trains from April 2015 [see C2 above].

More EGIP info on twitter at @NetworkRailEGIP or website <http://www.egip.info/>.

### D2. LINLITHGOW COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

*Transition Linlithgow* is showing the film *Thin Ice* on Tues 11 November, 7.30 in the Black Bitch [upstairs], as part of a general meeting. The film concentrates on the research and science which monitors the health of the planet. More info at <http://transitionlinlithgow.org.uk/> or email.. hello AT transitionlinlithgow.org.uk

Finally, *Linlithgow Plus* has a constant stream of **voucher offers**, several geared to non-car transport – for example a combined ticket for the Palace and rail travel to the town..

<http://www.linlithgowplus.org.uk/latest-offers.php>

### D3. WLC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, MAIN ISSUES REPORT [MIR]

The consultation is now closed. The Spokes response is at..

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

### D4. WLC NEW CYCLING OFFICER

The Council has at last appointed its new Cycling Officer, to replace Tobias Bauer. Send her your ideas for what the Council should be doing to improve cycling conditions... Email Deborah.Paton AT westlothian.gov.uk

## E. FIFE/QF ↔ EDINBURGH, A90 PATH

### E1. PATH AUDIT, FRIDAY NOV 14

Regular path commuter (from Edinburgh to Dunfermline) Derek Traynor has arranged for a council officer, Dave Sinclair, to accompany him along the path to check for any problems (including maintenance issues such as vegetation overhanging) on **Friday 14 November, starting 7.30a.m. at Balbirnie Place, Roseburn**. They did this last year, and produced a useful list of points, several of which were acted on.

Anyone wishing to join in is welcome, but it is essential to contact Derek in advance so he knows to expect you. Email derek.traynor AT btinternet.com.

As you probably know, Edinburgh Council has done a great deal of work on the path in the last 2-3 years, and users seem very appreciative. Derek says, "*This should be seen as a Flagship Route and as such we should be especially diligent in keeping the path in the best condition possible*" and his aim in organising this ride is to do just that.

Incidentally, the history of our campaign to improve the A90 path can be found here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress/documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/a90-forth-bridge/>