

# ***Spokes circular to members in the Lothians [outside Edinburgh] and nearby 19.10.2015***

**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  | <i>soon</i> A2, Oct 24             |
| B. Mainly East Lothian | <i>soon</i> B1, Oct 21; B2, Oct 25 |
| C. Mainly MidLothian   |                                    |
| D. Mainly West Lothian | <i>soon</i> D3, Oct 21             |

## **A. ALL AREAS**

### **A1. SPOKES MAPS OF THE LOTHIAN – HELP US WITH LOCAL SALES!!**

The Spokes maps are not on sale as widely as we would like – we hear of people who have tried unsuccessfully to buy a map in their local town. This is a big shame, given the effort that has gone into producing the maps, and their great value for people wanting to find routes and places to cycle.

A member from Dalkeith has recently approached local shops, and several agreed to try selling our Midlothian map on a trial basis, with 5 copies. It has gone well – one shop has already ordered 20 more maps.

Please contact us if you are willing to be a local 'agent' for your town. You would visit any local shops you felt appropriate (e.g., bike shop, newsagent, garage, bookshop) and then you would check up on them every so often. We would either post the maps direct to the shops, or send a supply to you, and you would take them to the shops.

If you can help us in this way, please contact [tim@vizualz.co.uk](mailto:tim@vizualz.co.uk).

### **A2. SUSTRANS CEILIDH – Sat 24 October**

*"Come and join us at a Ceilidh to celebrate 20 years of Sustrans National Cycle Network. All welcome and you don't have to be a cyclist or know how to dance. All dances will be demonstrated."*

**Date-** Saturday 24th October, Doors open 7.30, dancing 8-11.30pm

**Venue-** St. Bride's Community Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace, Haymarket, Edinburgh EH11 2DZ. <https://goo.gl/maps/4I2Qy>

**Band-** Ceilidh Caleerie, community band of Scots Music Group

**Tickets** £10, Children £5, bookable online at <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/events/ceilidh-edinburgh> or available from the venue, St. Bride's, by phone- 0131 346 1405

**For more information** contact, Nicola McNeill,- [nicola@longniddry.net](mailto:nicola@longniddry.net)

To find out more about the National Cycle Network see <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/national-cycle-network>

### **A3. SPOKES AUTUMN PUBLIC MEETING – November 17**

*Climate, Transport and Cycling -*

Full details and poster download at [www.spokes.org.uk/2015/09/nov-17-public-meeting-climate-transport-cycling](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/09/nov-17-public-meeting-climate-transport-cycling)

### **A4. MY FAVOURITE BIKE RIDE – SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION – results**

Thank you everyone who entered. We eventually had quite a few Lothians entries, and the first prize winner was from East Lothian, with Midlothian and West Lothian also represented in the top ten. Full details here...

[www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/competitions/2015-comp-my-favourite-bike-ride](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/competitions/2015-comp-my-favourite-bike-ride)

## A5. 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 <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2077/View-object-to-or-comment-on-a-Planning-Application>

**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?

## A6. TWITTER @SPOKESLOTHIAN & OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA *[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 and we hope to soon get them also appearing automatically on our facebook page....

Our facebook page has recently been resuscitated.

<http://www.facebook.com/#%21/pages/Spokes-the-Lothian-Cycle-Campaign/169099526468801>

And of course, there's the website...

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

## B. MAINLY EAST LOTHIAN

### B1. E.LOTHIAN SEGREGATED ROUTE CONSULTATION - *Weds 21 Oct, drop-in 5-7pm*

"East Lothian Council is investigating the feasibility of creating an East Lothian Segregated Active Travel Corridor (SATC), which will connect East Lothian's major settlements to Edinburgh and beyond, with spurs to local towns and villages. The proposed active travel route (cycling, walking) will form a key component of East Lothian's Green Network. As part of the study, Ironside Farrar has been appointed to facilitate a workshop to discuss the route of the SATC and better understand opportunities and constraints, in context of the local development pressures and connections to existing path routes."

The workshop is at Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre, Haddington Rd, Musselburgh EH21 8JJ. Please drop-in anytime between 5.00 – 7.00pm.

If you can't make it but have comments and/or questions, contact [jane.dixon@ironsidefarrar.com](mailto:jane.dixon@ironsidefarrar.com). 0131 550 6500. [I can't find anything about it on the council website].

## **B2. DREM – GULLANE PATH CAMPAIGN – *campaign walk Sun 25 Oct***

This long and persistent campaign to provide an alternative to the dangerous main road to Drem station is continuing with a community walk along the preferred route for a new path. Starts 10.30am at bottom of Saltcoats Rd, Gullane. More about the walk... <https://twitter.com/dgcorepath/status/651021077548789760>.

Background to the campaign ... <https://sites.google.com/site/dremgullanepath/>

## **B3. EAST LOTHIAN PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONSULTATION – *comments by 20 Nov***

The Council is consulting on employing its own parking wardens, now that Police Scotland has withdrawn its Traffic Warden service. More info... [eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/new-arrangements-for-parking-enforcement/consult\\_view](http://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/new-arrangements-for-parking-enforcement/consult_view).

Illegal and antisocial parking can be dangerous and scary for cycling, but surprisingly this is not even mentioned in the website article as one of the reasons for the proposals!! The above link includes **an online survey** for your views, and if you wish to make further or more detailed comments, or have questions, contact [transportation@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:transportation@eastlothian.gov.uk) (attention: Peter Forsyth).

# **C. MAINLY MIDLOTHIAN**

## **C1. BORDERS RAILWAY - *please comment***

If you live in Midlothian, please complete this Government survey about the new railway... <http://questionpro.com/t/ALhcsZStFd>

## **C2. SPOKES MAPS ON SALE HERE**

Thanks to a local membe, the Spokes Midlothian cycle/walk map is on sale at two Eskbank shops... **Eskbank Trading** (2 Station Road) and **Short's Self Drive** (39 Bonnyrigg Road). See item A1 above.

# **D. MAINLY WEST LOTHIAN**

## **D1. LINLITHGOW, SELLARS ROAD PATH EXTENSION?? - *please write now***

The Council has obtained Sustrans cash for a number of further projects in the current financial year, 2015/16. See item 14 here... <http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewSelectedDocument.asp?c=e%97%9De%92m%81%88>

The third bullet point includes drawing up plans to improve the existing path Sainsbury – Sellars Road – Canal. The value of this route could be hugely enhanced by extending it north, with a walk/cycle bridge over the burn behind Sainsbury. **The improvement in connections would be massive** – connecting south-west Linlithgow with north-west. i.e. Linking the housing to the south, canal, Academy, leisure centre, Sainsbury, etc with all the housing to the north, Linlithgow Primary, the Loch, etc, etc. If you agree, please contact your 3 Linlithgow councillors and ask them to make sure this option is included in the plans being drawn up. Find your councillors at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

## **D2. SUSTRANS WEST LOTHIAN VOLUNTEER RANGERS NEEDED**

[www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer/get-involved/vacancies/routes-volunteers-west-lothian-balerno-kirknewton](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer/get-involved/vacancies/routes-volunteers-west-lothian-balerno-kirknewton)

Training and support are provided by Sustrans, together with events where you meet up with other Sustrans rangers.

### D3. WLC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN [LDP] – *comments by Nov 22*

The Council is consulting on the above, Oct 12 - Nov 22. The plan sets out how West Lothian should develop in terms of housing, transport, etc in the coming years. It is a very important document – for example, when developers apply for planning permission they are less likely to succeed if their plans are not in line with the LDP.

The plan, an 'easy-read guide' and accompanying maps are at <http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/proposedplan>. The transport section of the plan is in paras 5.102 to 5.134, but other sections are also relevant – e.g. Town Centres, which comes after the transport section [the para numbers are muddled up, with two 5.133 and 5.134!].

As usual the plan talks of "priority ... to sustainable transport modes such as active travel, public transport and car share..." but it is not obvious that this will happen in practice. For example, the A89/A8 path is mentioned but there is no mention of cycling facilities in the sections on the A71 and A801.

How to respond...

- Online survey at [https://www.esurveycrator.co.uk/s/WLC\\_PROPOSEDPLAN](https://www.esurveycrator.co.uk/s/WLC_PROPOSEDPLAN)
- and/or email [wlldp@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:wlldp@westlothian.gov.uk) [also for any queries]
- and/or attend the exhibition/drop-in sessions, all 10am-8pm

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 10am -8pm	Civic Centre Reception, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 10am - 8pm	Reception area, Bathgate Partnership Centre, South Bridge Street, Bathgate EH48 1TS
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 10am-8pm	Education Room, Burgh Halls, High Street, Linlithgow, EH49 7AH
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November - 10am - 8pm	Reception area, Fauldhouse Partnership Centre, Main St, Fauldhouse, EH47 9JD
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 10am -8pm	Reception area, Strathbrock Partnership Centre, 189a, West Main Street, Broxburn

- The printed versions can also be seen in libraries and council info centres

In addition to your own comments, there would ideally be a spokes response, but this may depend on someone volunteering to do a first draft which we can circulate.

### D4. LINLITHGOW ALTERNATIVE TO THE (ABOVE) LDP – *drop in Nov 17*

The *Linlithgow Civic Trust* and *Linlithgow Planning Forum* (a collection of voluntary groups) are not happy with the Linlithgow section of the above council LDP and have prepared their own *Plan for the Future 2015-2030*. It includes several good cycling aspects. Their plan is available here...

<https://linlithgowplanningforum.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/plan-for-future-sept05.pdf>

There will be a **drop-in exhibition of the plan**, with members of the Planning Forum present, at the Low Port Centre, Nov 17, 10am-8pm. You can also send comments and questions to [chris.d.long AT blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chris.d.long@blueyonder.co.uk).

### D5. LIVINGSTON 20-MILERS

Volunteers from West Lothian Sustrans group organise monthly free rides (first Saturday of the month) which you are very welcome to go along to. They say that the rides *"are at the easy to moderate level, suitable for occasional and less experienced cyclists to encourage cycling for leisure and commuting. We favour easy paths and gentle gradients where possible, and aim to avoid heavy traffic. We will wait on stragglers, help with punctures. The rides are not suitable for unaccompanied children."*

Full details at <http://livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk/> or email [livi20milers@outlook.com](mailto:livi20milers@outlook.com).

Dave du Feu  
[davedufeu@gmail.com](mailto:davedufeu@gmail.com)