

# ***Spokes circular to members in the Lothians [outside Edinburgh] and nearby, 1.11.2015***

## **Notes:**

- These circulars are normally very very occasional, so apologies for another one so soon, but 2 or 3 important new things have come up. We have also repeated some items that are still valid.
- 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	<i>soon</i> B1 – Nov 2,4,5,9,11
C. Mainly MidLothian	<i>soon</i> C2 – Nov 3
D. Mainly West Lothian	<i>soon</i> D3 – Nov 2,5,9

## **A. ALL AREAS**

### **A1. 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)

### **A2. 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?

### A3. 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. 'EAST LOTHIAN ON THE MOVE' – ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKSHOPS – *November 2-11*

Following drop-in sessions earlier this year, consultants working for the Council have produced options for active travel improvements throughout the County, and are running workshops for each area. The workshops aim “*to determine a real set of actions that can be taken forward into Area Plans and the Active Travel Improvement Plan*”.

The workshops are all 6-8pm and include tea, coffee and sandwiches. I *think* these are 2-hour workshops, not drop-in sessions. If you have queries or want more info, contact the consultants [ejopling@peterbrett.com](mailto:ejopling@peterbrett.com) 0141 343 3318.

- **North Berwick Coastal** – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the Hope Rooms (EH39 4JD)
- **Musselburgh** – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Musselburgh East Community centre (EH21 8JJ)
- **Dunbar and East Linton** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November at Bleachingfield (EH42 1DX)
- **Preston Seton Gosford** – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Pennypit in Prestonpans (EH32 9BN)
- **Fa'side** – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Fraser Centre in Tranent (EH33 1AF)
- **Haddington and Lammermuir** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, Town House, Haddington (EH41 3DX)

Details of *previous stages* of the consultation are here...

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/1523/transport\\_and\\_streets/1674/east\\_lothian\\_on\\_the\\_move-the\\_route\\_to\\_smarter\\_travel](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/1674/east_lothian_on_the_move-the_route_to_smarter_travel)

### B2. SPOKES MAP SALES – *local volunteer(s) needed*

We've now got members in Midlothian and Livingston (C3 & D1 below) who have contacted 3 or 4 local shops (general store, newsagent, bikeshop, etc) to see if they'd try stocking the local Spokes cycle map, and who will visit them occasionally and help get maps to them if necessary. But no East Lothian volunteer(s)!! It would be great to have one or two people – perhaps one each in **Musselburgh & Haddington**, to take this on. If you can help, please contact Tim Smith, email [tim@vizualz.co.uk](mailto:tim@vizualz.co.uk).

### B3. EAST LOTHIAN SEGREGATED ACTIVE TRAVEL CORRIDOR [SATC]

We'd be interested to hear briefly from anyone who attended the recent consultation on this. The following is an extract from the minutes of the June East Lothian Cycle Forum, about the proposals...

*“The likelihood of a significant number of new housing/developments being built and planned in East Lothian in the next 10-20 years will bring significant pressure to the existing transport network. As part of the Council's strategy for mitigating this impact, within the LTS [Local Transport Strategy] there will be a requirement to consider sustainable travel options, to include improvements and better access to public transport, rail stations etc and walking and cycling infrastructure.*

*With that in mind discussions have taken place about utilising the former A1 trunk road, now the A199 which runs from Musselburgh via Haddington to Dunbar, as a main commuting cycle corridor route - linking with the various towns and villages and cycle routes nearby, to provide the opportunity for every day functional cycling as an alternative to private vehicle use. One of the former A1 trunk roads characteristics is the width, which could allow space to accommodate segregated cycle lanes, a key safety factor in considering cycling for short functional journeys and commuting.*

*The consultation findings will submitted by the end of October, to be considered for inclusion in the LTS.”*

## B4. DREM – GULLANE PATH CAMPAIGN

This long and persistent campaign to provide an alternative to the dangerous main road to Drem station has continued with a well-attended community walk along the preferred route for a new path, supported by local MSP Iain Gray. For pictures and latest developments see the twitter account, <https://twitter.com/dgcorepath>.

## C. MAINLY MIDLOTHIAN

### C1. BORDERS RAILWAY (1) – **November 19**

A Community Rail Partnership [bordersrailwayforyou.co.uk](http://bordersrailwayforyou.co.uk) has been set up to support and promote use of the Borders Railway. For more about CRPs see the [ACoRP website](#). If you have ideas for *community projects* to boost rail use on the line, there is cash available for suitable initiatives – this could include initiatives related to bike/rail.

A launch event is to be held on **19 November** at the National Mining Museum, Newtongrange, 5.30-7.30, mainly aimed at people interested in helping promote the railway. *More info:* [info@bordersrailwayforyou.co.uk](mailto:info@bordersrailwayforyou.co.uk). If you wish to attend, email them if possible and say which town you are from.

Our bike/rail person Ewan Jeffrey is hoping to get involved with the CRP but cannot attend this meeting. If you attend, he would be interested in any feedback, especially if related to cycling. *Email:* [BikeRail@spokes.org.uk](mailto:BikeRail@spokes.org.uk).

### C2. BORDERS RAILWAY (2) - **November 3**

The Capital Rail Action Group has a meeting (open to all) where railway historian and campaigner DrAnn Glen will give an illustrated talk on the rebuilding of the Waverley route to Tweedbank - based on her book "**The Waverley Route - Its Heritage and Revival**". Ann will also have copies of her book for sale. The meeting is at 7.30 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. *More info:* [here](#) and/or email [lawrence336@btinternet.com](mailto:lawrence336@btinternet.com).

### C3. SPOKES MAPS ON SALE HERE

Thanks in part to local member David Wardrop-White, the Spokes Midlothian cycle/walk map is on sale at the following Midlothian outlets...

- **Eskbank Trading** 2 Station Road, Eskbank
- **Short's Self Drive** 39 Bonnyrigg Road, Eskbank
- **The Bike Shed** 13 Station Road, Newtongrange
- **Chapel Cross Guest House & Tearoom** 2 Penicuik Road, Roslin
- **Butterfly & Insect World** Dobbies Garden World, Lasswade
- **Halfords** 11 Straiton Mains, Loanhead

## D. MAINLY WEST LOTHIAN

### D1. SPOKES MAPS ON SALE HERE – **Linlithgow volunteer needed**

Thanks to local member Eric Ingram we hope to have the Spokes West Lothian maps on sale soon in several **Livingston** area shops. A volunteer to do the same for **Linlithgow** would be very welcome!

### D2. WEST LOTHIAN DRAFT ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN – **IMPORTANT - comments by 16 Dec**

The Council's active travel officer, Deborah Paton, has now completed the draft *Active Travel Plan*, and is seeking comments before a final version is produced. **This is a really important document for the future of cycling (and walking) in West Lothian, and will guide investment in future years.** The document covers not just cycling infrastructure but how to link up all departments of the council, together with community and other groups, to create "*a culture where active travel becomes the norm for suitable everyday trips.*"

It is very important for individuals to submit their own comments, and we would very much appreciate seeing a copy, to help with a spokes response.

For more background, and how to comment, see [www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/7880/Active-travel-planning-and-projects](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/7880/Active-travel-planning-and-projects). The draft plan itself is [here](#) [pdf 7MB].

### D3. WLC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN [LDP] – **drop-ins Nov 2,5,9; 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.esurveycreeator.co.uk/s/WLC\\_PROPOSEDPLAN](https://www.esurveycreeator.co.uk/s/WLC_PROPOSEDPLAN)
- and/or email [wldp@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:wldp@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\[AT\]outlook.com](mailto:livi20milers@outlook.com).