

Spokes circular to members in the Lothians [outside Edinburgh] and nearby, 31.1.2016

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 to find your councillors (and MSPs and MPs). We would appreciate a copy of useful email(s).

This circular contains the following sections...

- A. Spokes maps of the Lothians
- B. Mainly East Lothian
- C. Mainly MidLothian
- D. Mainly West Lothian
- E. All areas

A. SPOKES MAPS OF THE LOTHIANS

We are trying to keep track of shops in the Lothians which sell the local Spokes cycling/walking map - it's not as easy as it sounds, as the maps are distributed in more than one way - and we are trying to get more outlets. The list below is those shops we know of that we *think* are currently stocking the map. NB – most of these shops only stock the map for their area, not all the Lothians maps.

You can help as follows...

- contact Spokes if you know of any mistakes in the lists below, especially any omissions
- contact Spokes if you'd like to become a local 'agent' to approach book, bike or other relevant shops in your town about selling the map
- publicise to friends, colleagues or anywhere relevant that these shops stock a great local cycle map!

East Lothian

- Ace Bike Co Ltd. Nth High St, Musselburgh
- Belhaven Bikes, Dunbar
- Law Cycles, North Berwick
- Mike's Bikes, Haddington
- Kesley's Bookshop, Haddington
- Nicholson's Newsagent, Longniddry

Midlothian

- Halfords, Straiton Retail Park
- Criterium Cycles, Dobbies Garden World
- Butterfly & Insect World, Dobbies Garden World
- Eskbank Trading, 2 Station Road, Eskbank
- The Bike Repair Shed, 13 Station Road, Newtongrange
- Short's Self Drive, 39 Bonnyrigg Road, Eskbank
- Chapel Cross Guest House & Tearoom, 2 Penicuik Road, Roslin

West Lothian

- Scot Cycles, Crofthead, Livingston
- Herbie's Bikes, Pumpherston

B. MAINLY EAST LoTHIAN

B1. EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL CYCLE FORUM – *Feb 9, 7pm, Town House, Haddington*

The Forum meets a few times a year to discuss progress on local cycle facilities and developments. If you are interested in attending, contact the Council cycling officer, Iain Reid, email [ireid AT eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:ireid@eastlothian.gov.uk), phone 01620 827143. Also inform Iain if you have any items you'd like to be on the agenda.

B2. EAST LoTHIAN SEGREGATED ACTIVE TRAVEL CORRIDOR [SATC]

Consultants are due to report to the Council in mid/late Feb on the concept of the SATC, running from Edinburgh's Innocent railway path, via Queen Margaret University, and then all the way through to Dunbar – a long term project that would almost certainly have to happen in stages, but potentially very exciting.

B3. LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

The County is covered by 6 Local Area Partnerships which amongst many other things discuss, and can to some extent act on, local cycling opportunities and developments. To contact your local Partnership, see...

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/200135/community_planning/1586/community_planning_in_east_lothian/11

B4. DREM – GULLANE PATH CAMPAIGN

This persistent campaign to provide an alternative to the dangerous main road to Drem station has continued, following its well-attended community walk along the preferred route last autumn. The campaign is supported by local MSP Iain Gray and MP George Kerevan, but there is an impasse between the Council, the local landowner and the campaign group. For pictures and latest developments see the twitter account, <https://twitter.com/dgcorepath>.

C. MAINLY MIDLoTHIAN

C1. BORDERS RAILWAY – *survey closes 5 Feb*

Midlothian Council has an **online survey** about travel to and from the stations at Shawfair, Eskbank, Newtongrange and Gorebridge. The Council also wants to know what improvements should be made so that more people travel to the stations on foot and by bike. [There's a £25 Argos voucher (or several?) to be won by entering the survey – presumably it's a lucky draw]. The survey is here...

<https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/active-travel> [this link may not work after 5 Feb, or the page may change].

Secondly - a **Community Rail Partnership** 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.

D. MAINLY WEST LoTHIAN

D1. WEST LoTHIAN DRAFT ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN

The Council's draft *Active Travel Plan* is now being finalised following last autumn's public consultation.

For more background, see www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/7880/Active-travel-planning-and-projects. The draft plan itself is [here](#) [pdf 7MB]. The Spokes and Sustrans submissions on the draft are on our website here.. <http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/west-lothian/>

D2. LINLITHGOW RAMP NEEDS PLANTING HELP! *Sat 19 March, 10-12am*

The new ramp from the Canal to Linlithgow Leisure Centre is looking rather bare, and local environmental group Burgh Beautiful is organising a morning to plant native species, including heathers and blueberries, in the area around the ramp. They have asked if some of the users of the ramp could come along and help. They say...

Burgh Beautiful needs your help! Cyclists and pedestrians have been provided with a new facility which provides a link from the Union Canal towpath to Linlithgow's leisure centre. But the ground round about has been left rather scarred. On the morning of Saturday 19th March Burgh Beautiful is organising a session to provide the area with plants indigenous to Scotland. To make this happen help is needed. If you can spare a couple of hours your support would be most welcome. Meet at the ramp behind the leisure centre for 10am on Sat 19th March. Wear old clothes. Bring gloves and a small fork and trowel if you have them - we can supply some.

If you are able to help, or have any questions, please contact Burgh Beautiful **now**, so they know that help is coming, and can if necessary remind you nearer the time! Contact Jean Long ... email [jeanlong AT blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeanlong@blueyonder.co.uk).

D3. LIVINGSTON BIKE MAINTENANCE + SAFETY EVENT *Sorry - Now fully booked*

If you'd have liked to attend, please register now for possible future events. Go to <http://livi20milers.blogspot.co.uk/>

Cost: It is free!! - thanks to *Put Your West Foot Forward, West Lothian*

Topics covered include:

- Bike components
- Bike safety check and fitting
- Puncture repair
- brake Replacement / adjustment
- Gear indexing etc
- Chain maintenance replacing & repair

D4. LIVINGSTON 20-MILERS

Volunteers from West Lothian Sustrans group organise monthly free rides (first Saturday of the month) at which you are welcome. The rides *"are easy to moderate, 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 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.

D5. FALKIRK OPEN SPACE STRATEGY CONSULTATION – *ends 29 Feb*

Falkirk Council is consulting on the above. The documentation is fairly massive, but you can look up and comment on specific areas, such as Bo'ness for example. Details and contact numbers for queries at...

<http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/consultations-surveys/consultation.aspx?aid=3731>

E. ALL AREAS

E1. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 16/17 BUDGET

Have you contacted your MSPs? It's particularly important for MSPs outside Edinburgh to hear from constituents, so if you'd like better funding for cycling please consider an email to your MSPs. With the budget process in its final stages it's important to write as soon as possible. We have proposed a politically realistic option of transferring 1% of the £820m trunk roads budget to cycling and walking – a pinprick in the trunk roads budget, but a substantial rise in the £39m active travel total, and enough to prevent the damage otherwise likely in cycling investment by councils all across Scotland.

More details, and what you can do on our website here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2016/01/scottish-budget-a-realistic-proposal/>

E2. 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/

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

ML

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?

E3. 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 is at... <http://www.facebook.com/#%21/pages/Spokes-the-Lothian-Cycle-Campaign/169099526468801>
- And, of course, there's the **website**... <http://www.spokes.org.uk/>