

Spokes Hustings Group 5

Sarah Boyack (Labour) Main emphasis on Cycle Tourism. Government not exploiting this potential. Every council should think about cycle tourism. One group member said he had found Scotrail staff unfriendly towards cyclists.

National cycle Network very piecemeal – better planning is needed, with local plans calling for dedicated cycle provision in all new developments, and better join up between authorities is needed.

The group pointed out that shared spaces are problematic and one member called for parallel cycle provision with all new trunk road developments.

Emma Farthing Sykes (Lib Dem) Asked about Presumed Liability she had no idea and said more research was needed.

On funding she said Lib Dem policy is 10% of transport budget for active travel, and said she would be prepared to charge motorists more e.g. bridge tolls and congestion charge. She said we need a more joined up approach to public transport, with better affordability and more cycle provision on trains, plus more infrastructure for electric vehicles. She is an advocate of cycle training in schools, but a member of the group said cycle training doesn't impact cycling takeup. Emma also said that she personally is in favour of allocating road space to cyclists.

Alison Johnstone (Green Party) said that the government needs to show leadership in order to get all local authorities spending on cycling. On urban and national networks she said that we need to allow them to grow, starting with places like schools and hospitals, and keep on adding whenever funds are available.

She was asked about cycle provision on the East Coast railway (cross border, and therefore not Scottish Gov business). New trains are being introduced and she recommends us to lobby.

Jim Eadie (SNP) was asked what he is planning to say to his colleagues to encourage them to put more money into cycling. He said he wanted to talk about cycling investment rather than funding. He said it is moving up the agenda, and the idea of an exemplar project would be a game changer. He referred to National Planning Framework 4, and said he was in favour of reinstating Edinburgh's south suburban railway.

Sandy Batho (Conservative) was asked if the Conservatives represented the car owning lobby, but he pointed to Boris Johnson as a counterexample. He said he was against a fixed percentage of the budget being allocated to active travel because it diverts money from things that benefit all road users, including cyclists, e.g. potholes. He said he was in favour of congestion charging. When asked how he would drive cycle investment he said look at what's needed and fund it, but all sections of the community need to be convinced.