

Nigel Bagshaw, Green

Introductory speech

Green councillors are all everyday cyclists as convenient, cheap and quick, so understand needs

Supported council cycle projects, 20mph etc.

Only party to oppose the cutback in bus lanes timings

Next council needs...

- tough cycle targets
- employer incentives to promote public transport & cycling
- good quality cycle network
- bike hire scheme
- “a much bolder view of future transport” with cycling a fundamental part of it.

Questions in groups

Funding: is 10% enough? Green promise 10% minimum for cycling, but budgets are tight. Walking would be extra, not in this 10%.

On road seg cycleroutes: Quality important; proper segregation and joined-up..

Council problem of staff cutbacks due to govt cuts in council funding – need to prioritise projects. Can't build everything at once, so need in the interim to use other measures such as keeping bus lanes as bike-friendly as possible and longer operating hours.

Future of Princes St: Difficult because so many bus routes use it. Need radical rethink of how people are moved, especially once tram extended to Leith, could carry many more of the people using Princes Street.

City centre different to other shopping areas – entertainment, enjoyment, etc; not bulk buying, so less transport needed.

Road danger reduction: separation of cycling & motor traffic important. Happy to look into an obligation to investigate incidents in detail.

Integrated ticketing: Councils don't have powers, but good idea.

Cycle storage/parking: should be mandatory for new shops & businesses

Congestion charging: see summing-up speech below

Deliveries by cargo bike? Would support this, especially as part of thorough rethink of city centre; looking at getting HGVs out of city centre.

Bike hire scheme: yes, and this is going to happen anyway

Low emission zones: want this; also need to reduce parking availability to discourage driving. St James Centre car park is a big failing.

Sunday car parking: Wants full restrictions (i.e. same as weekdays??) Also need proper enforcement of parking rules.

Why is there reluctance in decision makers to upset motorists? Fear of vocal motorist minority – the majority of trips in Edinburgh are by other modes. Need infrastructure measures to achieve modal targets.

Lift at Mound: Sounds a gimmicky idea, likely to break down; not good use of money

Holyrood park traffic: This is government control, not council.

What do other parties in the council really think about cycling? Every party has its dinosaurs – councillors are individuals and have own views, though normally vote with party policy. Labour group has a small contingent who don't understand cycling; SNP has a larger and more vocal 'anti' contingent, though they have quietened down a bit.

Summing-up speech

Splitting into groups was a great way to run the hustings, much better interaction with individuals than a panel sitting at the front; interesting that all groups were different.

Topic raised most in groups – unexpectedly, congestion charge! In general there is no public call for this, and politicians are very wary of it; so if we want it there is a need to be vocal about it. If it was tried, the Stockholm approach should be considered – a referendum after it has been in place for a time.

Need to have a big rethink about the city centre and how it operates; people want a better experience than now.