

Spokes Action Update 20.01.18

... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address it may not yet be in our database, so this message may go to your old address or possibly to both.

... **Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up.**

This circular to all emailable members comes sooner than usual after the previous circular, as there is an urgent matter – see item 1.

1. Picardy Place and Leith Street

The Council has now published its 'final' plans for Picardy Place, following December's consultation. See [this article](#) on our website for details, links to the report, and expected timescales.

Despite much public opposition to the gyratory concept, that has not changed (the council gives legal, financial and traffic congestion reasons). However, despite that, there have been major improvements to pedestrian and public space and to cyclist routes.

At a 'stakeholder' meeting, on Jan 19 we were told that **there is still scope for changes to the detail of the plans**, although not to the basic concept. Given that councillors are 99% certain to vote for the basic plan it is most productive to concentrate now on **those further improvements which are still possible**, and not spend all our effort just complaining about the gyratory.

Our website article explains some remaining issues that we consider particularly important and where change is still possible. Briefly...

- ◆ We'd like **Leith Street** to remain closed to traffic uphill from Calton Road to Waterloo Place, except for buses and emergency vehicles (at least until [major decisions](#) are taken on the city centre as a whole). This would allow one uphill traffic lane to be converted to an uphill cycle lane and a wider footway.
- ◆ All main 2-way cyclist routes must be **adequate width** (3m-4m).
- ◆ A cycle crossing is needed from the central triangle **to Union Place**
- ◆ Cycle connections **to/from Broughton Street** look problematic and need further discussion
- ◆ The Council should investigate locating the **tramstop platforms** outside the tramlines rather than between them.

WHAT YOU CAN DO – as soon as possible please [If you live in Edinburgh]

- ◆ If, after reading our article, you agree with us, please email your councillors telling them what changes you would like to see incorporated – mention the points that you consider particularly important, whether or not they are in the list above. Find your councillors [here](#). Try to be fairly brief. In our view it is now not worth spending a lot of time complaining about the gyratory – it is better to concentrate on the positives which may still be realistically achievable.
- ◆ If you have other ideas of potential significant improvements to the plans, please let us know.
- ◆ If you use twitter, please retweet [our tweet](#). Info will also soon be on [Spokes facebook](#).

2. #Spokes40 exhibition venues + venue help needed

The poster exhibition about Spokes's 40 years will be at the times/venues below. A link to a file of exhibition dates is on our [Spokes History webpage](#) - it will be updated when new dates/ venues are known.

Jan 4 – Feb 3	Out of the Blue , 36 Dalmeny St, Edinburgh, EH6 8RG
Jan 22 – Feb 9	Edinburgh University, Chaplaincy Centre Bristo Square
Feb 3 - Mar 3	Edinburgh Central Library , George IV Bridge

Can you offer a venue for a 2-week (or more) display, where the exhibition can be seen by members of the public? Or, can you ask at your local library, community centre, etc. Please make sure the venue is interested before contacting us, as we don't have a lot of time to approach lots of venues on spec ourselves. If you can help, please email mknottenbelt1@gmail.com.

3. Firestarter Festival, Jan 29 - Feb 9

The Firestarter Festival is an annual Scotland-wide series of events “celebrating creativity and innovation in public service.” Website with full details is at firestarterfestival.com. Relevant events locally include...

- ◆ Feb 9, 11am-3pm [Re-imagining your City](#) A pop-up mini-park in 4 car-parking spaces outside St Andrews House, the Scottish Government building in Regent Road, organised by [Walk Cycle Vote](#). There will be activities a-plenty, music, games, etc, etc. Spokes is hoping to be there – if you can be there to help for a period, please contact our stalls organiser, mknottenbelt1@gmail.com.
- ◆ Jan 31, 1.30-4.45 [Achieving Carbon Neutral Edinburgh](#) workshop [lunch available in cafe beforehand]
- ◆ Feb 7, 1.30-4.45 [Achieving a Just Transition to Carbon Neutral Scotland](#) workshop [lunch available in cafe beforehand]

4. Causey consultation **Jan 20 & 23**

Spokes (and many individuals) objected to previous plans for the Causey (the triangle adjacent to West Crosscauseway in the Southside) as they removed the Chapel Street cycle lanes. New plans have now been prepared which look a considerable improvement. Spokes comments on the current and earlier plans are on our website on [this page](#).

The new plans will soon be published as a Traffic Regulation Order for formal objections, but they are first being exhibited for comments and any final tweaks, to try and avoid objections at the formal stage.

[Sat 20 Jan, 2.30 – 4.30pm and Tues 23 Jan, 5.30–7.30pm](#) at Buccleuch & Greyfriars Church hall.

5. Official consultations – *Check out council and government consultations here...*

- ◆ Edinburgh consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk includes...
 - [Parking permits diesel surcharge](#) [ends Jan 28]
 - [Grange Road cycle/walk crossings](#) – final proposals [online consultation begins 22 Jan]
 - [Balgreen Road cycle/walk crossing](#) – final proposals [online consultation begins 22 Jan]
 - [Telford Road lane markings at Groathill Avenue](#) [online consultation begins 22 Jan]
- ◆ Edinburgh [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ East Lothian www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ Midlothian www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ West Lothian www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ Scottish Govt consult.gov.scot includes...
 - **Healthier Future** – actions on diet, activity and healthy weight [ends Jan 31]

6. Developer consultation exhibitions in West Edinburgh

Jan 29/30

Mixed use development Ref 17/06066/PAN

This is the site where Waitrose had previously applied, 181-195 St Johns Rd.

Exhibition at Astoria Centre, Kirk Loan, 29 Jan. 12-7pm and 30 Jan. 10.30-12.30pm.

We have not yet checked for cycling implications.

Feb 8/9

Gyle Centre extension. Ref 17/05894/PAN.

Exhibition at Unit 33, Gyle Centre, 8 Feb 3-8pm and 9 Feb 10-2pm.

[*Evening News article*](#)

Cycleroute improvements and signage badly needed. The design also need to be integrated into the Council's Community Links Plus [*West Edinburgh Active Travel Project*](#).

For more info on the above consultations paste in the above reference numbers at...

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/>

[but plans are unlikely to be published before the exhibitions]

7. Police Plan 2018/19 consultation **[ends 21 Feb]**

The Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires Police Scotland to produce an annual plan outlining the arrangements for the policing of Scotland. This plan is laid before the Scottish Parliament prior to the 1st April each year, and is also published online for the public to view.

Operational priorities in the Plan will be shaped by the results of a 'Your View Counts' survey, as well as by the Police's own analysis of risks. The Police are now developing their 2018/19 Plan, and you can help influence it by responding to the survey below...

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation/>

8. Finally

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- ◆ We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). Follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent tweets also appear on our website.
- ◆ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook.
- ◆ The **Spokes Bulletin** is one of our main means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling development, and how people can help. Can you use a supply (large or small) to leaflet bikes at your workplace or on bikes parked around any areas of the city [not Haymarket or Waverley which we already cover] – or would your local cafe, barber, etc like 5 or 10 copies? If you'd like a supply of the current bulletin, and/or if you'd like a regular supply of future copies, email updates AT [spokes.org.uk](mailto:updates@spokes.org.uk).