

Spokes Action Update 3.3.18

... 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.

1. The Tramline Extension and Spokes March 15 Public Meeting

The public consultation on the proposed tram extension is to begin in March and run for 4 or 6 weeks. It had been expected to start in early March but there are rumours it may be delayed to mid March. As mentioned in the lead article of the new Spokes Bulletin (which as always has gone to all Councillors) **initial hints are not at all encouraging**, though we will have to wait to see what is in the consultation before we can be certain. Could the delay be a hopeful sign, especially now that our concern is becoming known? There will be a Spokes website article as soon as possible once the consultation is launched and we will also email members fairly early on in the consultation period.

Hopefully the consultation will start before our public meeting! If not, the speakers will have a difficult time, given that two of them are top people in the project - Cllr **Lesley Macinnes**, Chair of Transport, and **Rob Leech**, the Project Director. Also, one of the Council Cycling Officers, **Martyn Lings**, will speak about the safety measures taken and planned for the existing tramline stretch (presumably also to be applied in the new stretch if it goes ahead).

Spring Public Meeting : all welcome : Thurs 15 March

Cycling and the Tram Extension

The Council is drawing up plans to extend Edinburgh Tram to Leith, Ocean Terminal and Newhaven

- ◆ What are your questions and/or concerns?
- ◆ How can the existing tramline injury record be avoided?
- ◆ What cycle facilities will be included in the project?
- ◆ What happens on lower Leith Walk?
- ◆ Will North Edinburgh cycle network link to Ocean Terminal?
- ◆ Could cargo bikes have a role in tram construction works?

Hear and debate the issues with the decision makers ...

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Cllr Lesley Macinnes | City Council Transport and Environment Committee Convener |
| Rob Leech | Edinburgh Tram, York Place to Newhaven Project Director |
| Martyn Lings | City Council Active Travel Officer dealing with existing tramline safety measures |

Three speakers, then audience QA and panel discussion ... chaired by **Dr Caroline Brown**
Asst Professor, The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University

SPOKES
For meeting tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg

STARTS 7.30PM, DOORS OPEN 6.45, ENDS 9.30
Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Come early ☕ coffee 🚲 Spokes stall 🖼 exhibition 💬 chat

Organised by **Spokes The Lothian Cycle Campaign**
St Martin's Community Resource Centre, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JGspokes@spokes.org.uk (0131) 313 2114 (Ansaphone)
www.spokes.org.uk Twitter: @SpokesLothian

The meeting poster is downloadable [here](#). We can also supply any number of paper copies – all members have been sent a couple of copies, but email or phone us if you can use some.

2. Spokes Bulletin no.130 – and thank you to our delivery volunteers!!

The Spring(!) Spokes Bulletin is now out, and many thanks to our intrepid volunteer deliverers - one member reports their envelope coming through the door during a blizzard! Fortunately quite a few deliveries were completed before the #BFTE weather took hold, but if you've not yet had yours you can understand the reason! The Bulletin is also online – see [main article](#) on the [website](#). If you are on twitter please RT our [Bulletin tweet](#).

3. Paths/Cycleroutes ... plans, works, frustrations & delays

- ◆ **March 7, 6.30-8pm Lower Granton Road path proposal – public meeting.** A year ago the Council consulted (including a leaflet to every house in the area) on creating a cycle path avoiding Lower Granton Road – a road which is very unpleasant to cycle or walk along due to its narrow width, narrow footway and parked cars. In recent years there have been crashes, hitting parked cars and the houses which open right onto the footway. The consultation results were very positive, and the Council is we believe planning to build the path this financial year. The plans and the consultation results report are on [this Council web page](#). Now, however, a local group has raised a series of problems – they want a more ambitious (and costly) scheme, to form part of the Council's [Waterfront Promenade](#) and also to wait until the plans for a possible tram extension here are clearer [this is many years away, if at all]. In an

ideal world both suggestions make sense, but in the real world they could delay the project drastically. There may be other issues we are not aware of – we have only just heard of this local unhappiness with the project – although it seems rather strange given last year's very positive feedback.

Now Granton Community Council has called a meeting to discuss the issues - a council officer will be present and tea/coffee available beforehand at 6.15.

... Weds 7 March, 6.30-8pm, Royston Wardieburn Community Centre, 8 Pilton Drive North.

We urge members who live in or cycle in Granton area to go along and discuss the issues. Note that spaces are limited and the notice says booking is required. See grantoncc.scot/lgr-paths.

- ◆ **North Edinburgh Network diversions.** We have been notified of major drainage and resurfacing work planned for 12 weeks, starting March 7. The first phase is the Blackhall path, March 7-23. There will be significant path closures and diversions (some on trafficked roads, some walking along verges) which will be shown on posters at each end of the diversion. Working hours are 0730-1730, Mon-Fri, and we *think* the paths will be open most evenings and weekends (i.e. outside working hours) but have not yet confirmed that. **Enquiries to:** John.McCormack@balfourbeatty.com.
- ◆ **Cycleroute project delays** Spokes is very concerned over lengthy cycle project delays - many of these are well known to members, for example Meadows to Canal, and the Onstreet Bike Storage project, but a new batch of delays has just been announced. The main problem seems to be staffing rather than the availability of funds to do the work. Spokes has written to Cllr Macinnes, the Transport Cttee chair, and there is [an article on our website](#) giving the background and a link to our letter. You can help us improve things! - see our suggestions at the end of the article.

4. Dates

- ◆ **March:** The **exhibition about Spokes's 40 years** is expected to be at Kings Buildings Library (Thomas Bayes Road) for much of March (exact dates not yet fixed). A link to a file of exhibition dates is on our [Spokes History webpage](#) - it will be updated when new dates/ venues are known. If you can offer a venue for 2-weeks (or more) where the exhibition can be seen by members of the public please email mknottenbelt1@gmail.com. e.g. your local Library or similar? Please make sure the venue is interested before contacting us, as we don't have the time to approach lots of venues on spec ourselves. Example – see the Portobello Library picture on page 2 of [Bulletin 130](#).
- ◆ **March 12:** [Bike Station](#), **Community Consultation** – all welcome, 6-8pm, 250 Causewayside.
- ◆ **March 22: Public Health & Cycling** A day seminar (10.30-15.00) of speakers and workshops bringing together health professionals with people involved in cycling and walking development. Free and open to all. More info and sign up [here](#).

5. The Lothians

There's an unusually high number of opportunities from the Lothians in this issue...

- ◆ **Linlithgow** [Air Quality Consultation](#) **ends 4 April**. This is a really important consultation, as the Council needs to be meeting its legal obligations on air quality in the High Street. We are not sure if Spokes will have the capacity to respond, and very much hope that individual members will in any case make personal submissions as people who live in or visit the town – and perhaps provide a draft for Spokes. The consultation document is a huge 'pick and mix' of ideas, and obviously there's a big temptation for the Council to go for measures which don't cause aggro from drivers – for example new roads avoiding the centre (which will increase total traffic, even if not in the High Street) or adjusting High St pedestrian crossings to make 'smoother' traffic flow. There are also *traffic reduction* ideas in the consultation, such as charges for High Street parking, but the easy option for councillors will be not to pick these. *The Council's actions should focus heavily on traffic reduction but we fear they will not.*
- ◆ **Penicuik** Whilst Spokes is non-party-political we always try to mention when a Spokes member is a candidate in an election. Spokes member [Helen Armstrong](#) is standing as a Green candidate in the Midlothian Penicuik by-election on **22 March**.

- ◆ **Musselburgh** [Sustainable and Accessible Transport Network Masterplan](#) **Ends 16 March**. This is an interesting consultation where you can enter your ideas on an online map – instructions [here](#). It's great to see quite a few [comments/ideas already submitted](#) by Spokes members – please join them! No email address is given, but if you have any queries we suggest contact EL Council cycle officer Iain Reid, email ireid@eastlothian.gov.uk. Phone 01620 827143. A later consultation phase will take place in mid-April, to include details of potential new cycleroutes.
- ◆ **East Lothian Cycle Forum** **March 8**, Haddington Town House, 2pm. Open to everyone living in or with an interest in East Lothian, to discuss local cycling issues, project and problems. On the agenda at this meeting is likely to be the 6 or so East Lothian entries from our [Low Cost Ideas competition](#). More info, Iain Reid (see previous bullet point).
- ◆ **West Lothian Bike Library** **Every Thurs/Fri, 10am-2pm** West Lothian Bike Library is a not for profit, community interest company aiming to make cycling an activity for all, regardless of background, income or ability. Info on their activities at www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk/about.
- ◆ For **other Lothians consultations**, see (6) below 'Official Consultations,' for links to each Council's consultations website. Current consultations there include...
 - **Midlothian** **Green Network Supplementary Guidance** **Ends April 3**
 - **East Lothian** **Housing Strategy** **Ends March 9**



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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk includes...
 - [Marionville Road, central island](#) ??pinch points?? **Ends March 11**
 - [Davidsons Mains Park cycleroute E Barnton Av to QF Road](#) **Ends Nov 1** [surely a mistake?]
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk includes...
 - [East Lothian Housing Strategy](#) **Ends March 9**
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open includes...
 - [Green Network Supplementary Guidance](#) **Ends April 3**
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** www.transport.gov.scot/consultations

7. Planning applications and PAN consultations

[PANs are public consultations by developers prior to the submission of a major planning application]

Burdiehouse **March 14** consultation at Valley Park Comm. Centre, 37 Southhouse Road, 4-8pm. New school for additional support needs, Burdiehouse Cres, on the site of demolished Burdiehouse Primary School. Consultation Ref 18/00237/PAN. Contact: Ryan.Moffat@edinburgh.gov.uk.

For more info on the above consultation(s) paste in the above reference numbers at...

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

[but note that plans are unlikely to be online or published before PAN exhibitions]

8. Cycle facilities as part of road resurfacing

Edinburgh Council now has a very welcome policy, which we had long argued for, that whenever there is a road resurfacing project they will consider what cycling and walking improvements can be incorporated at the same time – although if this means a substantial additional cost they may seek funding from other budgets, such as the cycle budget.

The provisional list of resurfacing projects for the coming year 2018/19 has now been published – it is very lengthy and *we would appreciate any interested Spokes members scanning it, particularly for roads that you use, and emailing us ideas as to which of the schemes could usefully have cycle facilities added.* You may also wish to email the Council direct yourself.

The list is in [this Committee report](#). For roads, see Appendix 5; for footways Appendix 6. [Note that both appendices have a serious typo in their headings, which should read April **2018**-March **2019**]. In the roads section, significant new cycle facilities are more likely to be agreed for roads in the sections called *Strengthening* and *Resurfacing*. Roads in the section called *Surface Treatment* are unlikely to get more than painted facilities – though obviously the case can be argued.

If there are any roads in the list that concern you particularly strongly, ask your local councillors to follow up your suggestion with the relevant officers.

9. Planning Bill

The Scottish Government has published a Bill to change the law on Planning. There is great concern over this Bill from environmental organisations, for various reasons including...

- ◆ Developers are allowed to appeal against refusal of planning permission, but affected individuals and community organisations are not allowed to appeal when a developer is granted permission
- ◆ National and regional strategic development plans will be every 10 years, instead of every 5, thus greatly reducing the chance for the public to influence Scotland's development.
- ◆ Simplified Development Zones could result in planning permission being automatically granted, without the need for a developer to submit a planning application or to consult with communities. This could include development in highly sensitive areas including SSSIs, National Scenic Areas, Conservation Areas and green belts.

Scottish Environment Link and FOE are running a campaign, which amongst other things calls for equal rights of appeal. *There is an e-action making it easy to email your MSPs ...* act.foe.scot/help-plan-better-scotland.

Fuller background [here](#) and a press release [here](#).

More info: Daphne Vlastari, Advocacy Manager Scottish Env't LINK daphne@scotlink.org 0131 225 4345

10. 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).