

Spokes Action Update 20.4.18

... 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. Tramline Extension – final drop-in Sat 21; final comments April 29

- ◆ The final **public drop-in exhibition/consultation** opportunity is Saturday 21 April, Ocean Terminal, 12noon to 5pm.
- ◆ The **online consultation** ends on Sunday 29 April. The consultation website is here... consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/tramstonewhaven
- ◆ As you will know, Spokes is *extremely concerned* over the plans as they affect the northern/lower section of Leith Walk, which we consider to be not just inconvenient and unpleasant for cycling, but positively dangerous – they have certainly not learned the lessons of the first tramline.
- ◆ Quite apart from the final layout, during the 18 months (*one and a half years*) of construction, all traffic – *including bikes* – will be banned from cycling north down parts of Leith Walk, and southbound there will be just one lane for all traffic including bikes. The Council managed to provide a 2-way cyclistroute during Leith Street closure – the same *must* be done here.
- ◆ However, the Council seems to have been taken aback by the level of concern, and say increasingly strongly that they are willing to *consider* substantial changes to the proposals, such as major traffic restrictions, redesigning tram stops and removing the central strip between the tramlines. This is encouraging, since at our public meeting before the consultation began the message seemed to be that many of these issues were pretty firmly decided. **This makes it all the more important and valuable for you to respond to the consultation – even a brief response with 2 or 3 main points will help.**
- ◆ There is a detailed article about the proposals and a section on *what you can do* on our website (see April 11 article). The direct link to the article is [here](http://www.spokes.org.uk/spokesworker). There is more info specifically on Leith Walk in the 28 March issue of SpokesWorker here... www.spokes.org.uk/spokesworker.

2. Pedal on Parliament 2018 – Sat 28 April

From the [PoP website](http://www.pops.org.uk), Edinburgh page...

We're on: once more we'll be pedalling on the Scottish Parliament on **Saturday 28th April** to tell our politicians that we want to see a cycle-friendly Scotland. Spending on active travel may have gone up this year, but it's still not enough – and there are [still other changes](#) that are needed to make cycling safe for everyone.

So join us **at 12 noon at the Meadows**, with [feeder rides](#) coming in from all across Scotland. [The route](#) will be the same as the last PoPs, including the iconic Royal Mile, and ending at Holyrood Parliament.

Although we're making a serious point about making cycling safer and easier, the day itself will be light-hearted. The pace will be slow and easy for people – however little their legs may be. It will be **non-confrontational** and we co-operate fully with the police, council and all relevant authorities. We've arranged for roads to be closed during the ride itself. We'll do our best to make sure that the good folk of Edinburgh can go about their normal Saturday business (although we'd be delighted if they chose to join us instead) so we won't be blocking roads or holding anyone up any more than we have to to be safe.

Spokes note: As always there will be a Spokes stall – come along to say hello, to help if we need more help and/or to buy Spokes maps at our special stall prices.



3. West-East cycleroute, CCWEL – **traffic orders, April 20 – May 18**

- ◆ The traffic orders (TRO and RSO) for phase 1 of the Council's West-East cycleroute (Roseburn to Haymarket) have been published for comment and/or objection, closing 18 May.
- ◆ Although there are some aspects that could be better, the Council has made all the major changes they are now likely to make, and on balance Spokes is highly supportive of the scheme. **There are likely to be objections to the Orders because of reduced parking/loading space in some areas, so it is really important for those who support the plans to say so – a short email of support saying why this scheme matters is all that is necessary.** If you have comments/suggestions on matters of detail, that is of course fine to mention, but if so we hope you will feel able to begin your response by saying you support the plans overall.
- ◆ To see the Orders, go to [this page](#) of the Council website. Or just go to the main Council home page edinburgh.gov.uk and search for TRO.
- ◆ A fantastic set of annotated drawings, making it all much clearer, has been produced by **Roseburn Support Group** – see the article called "TRO and RSO Consultation" at roseburncycleroute.org.uk.
- ◆ **To submit your comments and support for the plans** please email trafficorders@edinburgh.gov.uk. In order for your email be valid for this statutory process it is essential to ...
 - state you are commenting on/ supporting (or objecting to) Orders TRO 17/91 and RSO 18/05
 - state your full name and address

4. Other Dates

- ◆ **April 21, 9am-1pm (this Saturday):** Spokes stall at Castle Terrace [Farmers' Market](#)
- ◆ **April 21, 9am-1pm (this Saturday):** Spokes stall at Royal Commonwealth Pool – also displaying our highly-praised #Spokes40 anniversary exhibition; plus the RCP is organising '[bike security](#)' stalls.
- ◆ **April 24 (Tue) & 26 (Thu), 4-7pm:** A Council team will be on the North Edinburgh Network at Five-Ways Junction promoting their "[please think of other path users](#)" campaign.
- ◆ **June 3, 2-4.30pm: Climate Workshop** by FOE Scotland and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. To book, use the link for this workshop (or others in Scotland) at foe.scot/climate-action-workshops-film-tour.
- ◆ **June 7-24: Edinburgh Festival of Cycling**, including 4 Spokes events instead of our usual 2! Please save the dates!! .. more details, including locations, will be in the EdFoC website and programme, and in our late-May Spokes members' mailing (which includes the EdFoC programme) and our website.
 - **June 12, 6.15pm Infrastructure Ride – the good & the bad**
 - **June 13, 7.45-9.15 Spokes Bike Breakfast**
 - **June 13, 7.30 (doors open 6.45) Spokes Summer Public Meeting ...** [City Centre Transformation](#). This promises to be a great meeting, with speakers including...
 - **Daisy Narayanan** Leader of the [City Transformation Project](#), and Deputy Director of Sustrans Scotland [Twitter](#)
 - **Prof David Begg** chair of [Glasgow Connectivity Commission](#) and former Edinburgh City Transport Convener
 - **June 18, 7pm Talks/videos/discussion: Cycling Past/Present/Future**, 40 years Spokes experience

5. East Lothian Local Transport Strategy – **workshops April 24-26; online consultation ends May 10**

This is a very important document which will guide East Lothian Council's transport policies (including cycling and walking) from 2018 to 2024. The online consultation is at eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/east-lothian-local-transport-strategy.

Spokes centrally has not had the time to look at this and we are not sure if we will, but we very much hope local members will do so. We would also greatly welcome your thoughts and a copy of the comments you submit.

There are also consultation workshops on the draft strategy. If you intend to attend please if possible contact roadservices@eastlothian.gov.uk or phone 01620 827713. The remaining workshops are...

- ◆ **Dunbar** - British Legion - **24th April**, 7pm - 9pm
- ◆ **Prestonpans** - Town Hall - **25th April**, 7pm - 9pm
- ◆ **Musselburgh** - Esk Rooms, Brunton Hall - **26th April**, 7pm - 9pm

6. Other consultations – *Check out council, government & some other consultations here...*

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#) includes...
 - CCWEL TRO and RSO Orders – see (3) above.
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk includes...
 - [East Lothian Transport Strategy](#) *Ends May 10 – important policy document - see (5) above.*
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** www.transport.gov.scot/consultations

- ◆ **Dean Valley Regeneration [Water of Leith]** DVR is a local charity lobbying for restoration of the land along the Dean Valley from Stockbridge to Dean Village, including the Water of Leith path. They have an online survey **open till end of May** for completion by people who cycle on this stretch of path. Find the survey on their website at deanvalley.org.uk/news/cycle-survey-launched.

- ◆ **Young Scot Transport Survey** As part of the National Transport Strategy development, people aged 11-26 can complete a survey about transport [you have to sign in to the Young Scot website first]. Find the survey [here](#) or go to rewards.youngscot.org – activities – more – Transport Scotland NTS.

7. Planning applications and PAN consultations

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

PAN - Bath Street, Leith [Reference 18/01154/PAN] May 9, 3-7pm, exhibition/ consultation at Leith Library. Residential & commercial development for large site between Bath Street and Salamander St, as far west as Assembly St. As well as onsite cycle facilities, could request provision on Salamander St. Developer contact: james.f@ema-architects.co.uk.

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

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-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 road resurfacing projects 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. This was mentioned in our previous circular, but we have received very little feedback so far.* 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. Spokes office manager/organiser

Our volunteer office manager, Judy, who has been tirelessly efficient and pro-active looking after the office and related matters for a good many years, wants a change after the summer, so we are looking for a replacement [or conceivably two to work together]. If you are interested, please get in touch – email spokes@spokes.org.uk. When we needed a new treasurer, about 5 people with relevant experience or interest volunteered - it would be great if similar happened!! It will of course be possible to chat to Judy for more details, and to work with her for a changeover period during the summer. However, a rough outline of the work is below. Note that some of these duties can be shared, e.g. Resources Group helps when there are many renewals at the same time.

Mail

- Postal new member forms and renewal forms recorded and documentation sent out. Donations banked.
- Small map orders received by mail or e-mail sent out, payments recorded and banked.
- Miscellaneous mail and payments recorded, enquiries relating to maps, membership dealt with.
- Treasurer informed of payments.

Office manager responsibilities

- Check and ensure supplies of materials for mailings, stalls, meetings in office. Contact relevant organisations for suitable materials, in consultation with stalls organiser
- Ensure adequate stocks of maps in the office, replenishing supplies from the Map Store
- Be point of contact with St Martin's Community Resource Centre for spokes meetings in the office, updates on building works, events at the centre.
- General oversight and organisation of the office including Resource Group Meetings.

Liaison with other people is central to the job

- With Resources Group coordinator on any of the above, when needed
- With Treasurer re payments into account
- With maps team re supply of maps, orders.
- With volunteers dealing with membership database and general e-mail enquiries
- With stalls volunteer re documentation required
- With Traffic count volunteer re supplies from office
- With other volunteers and members re access to the office
- With the Community Resource Centre staff and volunteers

Specific time requirements

- The office manager normally attends Resources Group meetings, which discuss any of the above matters as and when needed. Meetings are held roughly every 3 weeks in the evening,
- The office manager should normally be at the office at least once a week, to keep all the above up to date. Having a regular weekly time is helpful to other volunteers who need access to the office but is not essential. The Resources Group coordinator also normally visits the office once a week which means that there is usually coverage twice a week in case of anything urgent.

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@spokes.org.uk.