

# Spokes Action Update 03.11.18

... 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. Spokes Bulletin 132

- ◆ The new bulletin is now out, and many members will already have received their mailing – delivery by our volunteers began on Saturday 27 October. In case yours hasn't yet arrived, see this article on our website, which includes a download of the Bulletin... [www.spokes.org.uk/2018/10/spokes-bulletin-132-cycling-for-more-people](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2018/10/spokes-bulletin-132-cycling-for-more-people).
- ◆ Your mailing also contains various **inserts**, including a quiz/ prize draw for an e-bike – this is only available with the printed insert, not online.
- ◆ Let us know if you can use **extra Bulletins** to leaflet bikes at your workplace, local shops or elsewhere.
- ◆ Please note that our printer gives us more of the **A4 posters** than we need, since they only print in certain quantities – so we sometimes put 2 copies of the poster in every envelope, hoping you can use them.

## 2. Spokes public meeting : **Diversity Rules!** : Thurs 15 November

- ◆ We've got a great public meeting coming up, with 8 speakers (each for a strict 5 minutes!) telling us what they are doing, and what else needs doing, to encourage cycling for all, regardless of age (young or old), gender, ethnicity, physical abilities, wealth, or whatever. Then a full audience Q/A and panel discussion with the speakers, chaired by our member **Alison Johnstone MSP**.
- ◆ Also **stalls**, **Spokes maps** (special stall prices), **tea/coffee**, and a **membership desk** for checking/ joining/ renewing.
- ◆ **Full details in your mailing and on our website in [this article](#).**
- ◆ Please help advertise the meeting...
  - ✓ Retweet [our tweet](#). Or your own tweet: use **hashtag #SpokesMtg**.
  - ✓ Pin up the poster at work or in local shops, cafe, etc
  - ✓ Tell interested friends and colleagues about the meeting.
  - ✓ Come to the meeting!!
  - ✓ If you are good at note-taking, please send us any notes you make, especially of the QA, but also of the talks – we may be able to include them in our report of the meeting.

**Autumn Public Meeting : all welcome : Thu 15 Nov 2018**

**Cycling for All .. Diversity Rules!** Age, high or low Fitness, or not Gender, whatever Ethnicity, whatever etc, etc.

Getting about by bike should be – and can be! – for almost everyone. Hear from the people who have achieved it, and discuss what is needed! Infrastructure ... Suitable bikes ... Buddies ... Confidence ... and ???

the good and the bad

A wide range of organisations fostering diversity in cycling will each speak for 5 minutes on what they do and why it matters ... then a 1-hour panel discussion and Q/A chaired by Spokes member **Alison Johnstone MSP**

<b>West Lothian Bike Library</b> David Liddell	<b>Woodland Wheels</b> Anna Canning
<b>Horatio the e-bike – our journey so far</b> Councillor Mark Brown	<b>Ageing Well</b> Marilyn Bryce
<b>ELREC</b> (Ed & Lothians Regional Equality Council) Ruth Murray	<b>Bikes for Refugees</b> Marjan van de Weg
<b>All-Ability Cycling &amp; VIE Velo</b> David Glover	<b>Knox Academy, Haddington</b> Arlene Goddard, 50 years!

**Starts 7.30 Ends 9.30**  
**Doors Open 6.45**

**SPOKES**

**Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, EH1 1EL**

Meeting tweeting (@SpokesLothian) - Use hashtag #SpokesMtg  
Facebook [Spokes Lothian] - We hope to live stream the meeting

**Come early ☕ coffee Spokes stall 📺 exhibition 🗨 chat**

Organized by **Spokes: The Lothian Cycle Campaign** ([www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)) 0131 313 2174 (@spokeslothian)  
St Martin's Community Resource Centre, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JG [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) Twitter: @SpokesLothian

*Click for pdf*

## 3. Annual renewals

- ◆ Members who **haven't yet renewed for 2018** receive a reminder in this mailing, and renewal now will count for both 2018 and 2019. If you did *not* receive a renewal form then you are fully up to date, and will be asked to renew for 2019 in your next (February) mailing.
- ◆ **If you haven't renewed in 2017 or 2018** this will be the last Spokes email circular you receive.
- ◆ We are changing the system for members who have set up a **standing order** - in future you will be automatically renewed. However, we will still send you an annual printout of the information we hold, so you can tell us of any changes.
- ◆ More about joining, renewing and donating at [spokes.org.uk/membership](http://spokes.org.uk/membership) and [spokes.org.uk/donations](http://spokes.org.uk/donations).

**Please turn over for important consultations, closing soon!**

## 4. Edinburgh City Centre Transformation – ends 12 November

- ◆ Perhaps Edinburgh's most important consultation since the congestion charging referendum - play your part and don't let this one go the wrong way! The consultation results will set the scene for how bold will be the Council's proposals next Spring for a drastic reduction in city centre traffic, and accompanying measures to make it a better place to get about on foot, by bike and by public transport.
- ◆ Details here... [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CET/info/6/about/12/about](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CET/info/6/about/12/about)
- ◆ Survey here ... [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/connecting-our-city-transforming-our-places](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/connecting-our-city-transforming-our-places)
- ◆ Spokes has also made a more detailed response, [here](#). See also the report of our [public meeting](#) on the City Centre Transformation and on Glasgow's equivalent 'Connecting the City' project.
- ◆ What you can do ...
  - ✓ Complete the survey on the council website above
  - ✓ Retweet [our tweet](#) about the consultation.

## 5. Tram extension to Newhaven – ends 11 November

- ◆ As you will read in our new Bulletin, we are delighted that the [previous disastrous plans](#) for Leith Walk have been radically changed, thanks to the many responses to that consultation. Instead of on-road advisory lanes, with parking bays painted in them, and close to the tramlines, there will now be segregated cycle lanes for the whole of Leith Walk. **Thank you** if you responded to that consultation!
- ◆ However, serious problems remain. Please help us by making your own response to the new consultation, which is here... [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/ce/tramstonewhaven2](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/ce/tramstonewhaven2). You don't have to answer all questions – just those that are important to you and which you have time to think about.
- ◆ Unfortunately the Spokes response is not yet ready, but a few points are below which you might like to consider for your response, and we suggest they go in the question numbers shown (we have suggested two separate issues for qn.2)
  - ✓ **Qn.2 (a) Provision for 2-way safe cycling must be made in Leith Walk during the 1½ years of construction** – as was done during the 9-month closure of Leith Street for roadworks. This is not mentioned in the consultation, but it was earlier announced that there would be a complete closure (including bikes) southbound, and northbound a single traffic lane without even a cycle lane – this would be disastrous for safe cycling, given the hopeless alternative detours – and would also be bad for [shop trade](#) during the 1½ years.
  - ✓ **Qn.2 (b) The final plans must include high quality provision for cycling at the Foot of the Walk junction, and from there right through to destinations such as Ocean Terminal and Newhaven. Also, this must be part of the whole project, so that it is implemented no later than the tramline laying.** Good provision is not easy, given the width of some roads which will have tramlines. We understand that a separate package of cycling provision is intended, but has not yet been designed, and it is not even clear if the funding will come from the tram project (as it should). We are extremely concerned this could mean it will not be done on the same timescale as the tramlines, meaning major dangers and tramline crashes from the start, as with the existing tramlines.
  - ✓ **Qn.3 Elm Row** We support the planned traffic restrictions in the retail area here, and the general improvements. However, there should be segregated cyclist routes on both sides of Leith Walk between Elm Row and Picardy Place, not just on the east side. Also the 2-way cyclist route on the east side should continue as 2-way along Elm Row as far as Montgomery Street.
  - ✓ **Qn.5 Constitution Street.** Two alternatives are shown, but neither is good for cycling safety, particularly at and near the tram stop. This emphasises the importance of 2(b) above, where safe alternatives must be provided *at the same time as the tramlines are laid*. We do know that Kirkgate is being looked at by the tram team, for a general upgrade including cycling provision.
  - ✓ **Qn.6 Leith Walk** In general, permeability is improved, but the planned Leith Walk segregated cyclist routes must be continuous across side roads. They should also be of suitable width and should be kerb-separated both from the road and from the footway - unlike the existing segregated section of Leith Walk where the cyclist route is separated by grooved tactile slabs.

## 6. George Street consultation - *drop-ins Nov 8,9,10*

- ◆ The seemingly unending saga of the future of George Street continues. Some “initial concept designs” are going on display shortly. We expect them to appear on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#) around November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Staffed drop-ins have already been announced, all at the City Art Centre, 2 Market Street EH1 1DE, as follows...
  - ✓ Th 8 Nov, 2-7pm
  - ✓ Fri 9 Nov, 11am-5pm
  - ✓ Sat 10 Nov, 10am-4pm.
- ◆ We have not seen the plans, but it is critical that the Council's planned [West-East cycleroute](#) is well catered for. From one or two early hints, we are not convinced that the designers will give it enough weight, though we genuinely do not yet know. It would be nice to be pleasantly surprised!

## 7. Sheriffhall roundabout - and its connections - *emails needed*

- ◆ Thanks to [major efforts](#) by Spokes, alongside Gorebridge Community Development Trust, the plans for the new flyover/ roundabout have been changed to incorporate what looks like high quality cycling provision, crossing all the arms by convenient and fully segregated provision.
- ◆ Unfortunately the routes linking the roundabout to important destinations, including Dalkeith, Edinburgh, the Infirmary, Shawfair, etc, are far from ideal, largely on main roads. We have now launched a campaign to get decent links built at the same time as the roundabout, rather than ending up with “an oasis of cycling excellence in a desert of underprovision.” The obvious way to achieve this, and perhaps the only way to do so in a reasonable timescale, is through the '[City/Region Deal](#)' – a sum of over £1bn which is intended to boost the economy of the Edinburgh City Region. The roundabout/ flyover itself is being funded entirely through the Deal, so we are asking for a single integrated project which funds and builds the connecting cycleroutes as part of the one project.
- ◆ The City/Region Deal is controlled by all the Councils in the region, so we have written to the leaders of the two relevant Councils, **Edinburgh** (Cllr Adam McVey) and **Midlothian** (Cllr Derek Milligan) asking that the Sheriffhall project is expanded to include the cycleroute connections. Our letter is [here](#). We have already achieved some [good press coverage](#).
- ◆ **How you can help.** If you live in Midlothian, or if you live in Edinburgh and cycle to/from Midlothian (or would like to) please email as below in support of our proposal, **explaining why it is important to you**. **Send us a copy of any useful replies.** Normally we would not suggest emailing the Council Leader, but it is relevant in this case as our proposal is based around the City/Region Deal, which they have a major role in controlling.
- ◆ **If you live in Midlothian** email [derek.milligan@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:derek.milligan@midlothian.gov.uk), and send a copy to your own ward councillors. Find them at [midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Councillors.aspx](http://midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Councillors.aspx).
- ◆ **If you live in Edinburgh** email [adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk) and send a copy to your own ward councillors. Find them at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors).

## 8. Climate – *FOE/SCCS online action*

- ◆ There is a major feature on climate and some Scottish transport relevancies in the new Bulletin (page 5). The article was also tweeted [here](#).
- ◆ If you would like to support the campaign to toughen the Climate Bill which is currently in the Scottish Parliament, FOE and SCCS have created a web action to make it easy to contact your MSPs. It is at [act.foe.scot/SCCS-climate-change-act](http://act.foe.scot/SCCS-climate-change-act)

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk) *Includes...*
  - [See 4 above] Connecting our City, Transforming our Places
  - [See 5 above] Trams to Newhaven
  - [Ends 22 Nov] Granton Waterfront Regeneration – including 4000 houses; major cycle infrastructure needed!
  - [Ends 7 Dec] Planning for Change – i.e. preparing the Council budget
  - [Ends 31 Dec] Powderhall Waste Station site redevelopment
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)
- ◆ **Midlothian** [www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open)
- ◆ **West Lothian** [www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations)
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** [consult.gov.scot](http://consult.gov.scot) *Includes...*
  - [ends 23 Nov] Noise Action Plans
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** [www.transport.gov.scot/consultations](http://www.transport.gov.scot/consultations)
- ◆ **Just in case...** Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... [transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts](http://transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts) Check it out in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the website addresses above (there often is!).

## 10. Finally

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk).
- ◆ We are active on **Twitter** [@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:spokes.org.uk).