

Spokes Action Update 05.01.19

... 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. Happy New Year (and how you can help make it so!)

- ◆ Our website has an article on 2019 prospects for cycling policy and developments locally and Scotland-wide. The article is currently the top story – find it [here](#). If you use twitter, please RT the tweet about the article, [here](#).
- ◆ There's also an [article about 2018](#), drawing on responses to our tweets during the year.

2. Spokes public meetings 2019

We are planning 3 major public meetings for 2019, as below. We'd welcome ideas/comments for any.

- ◆ *March – Cycling, Transport & Climate.* With the [Climate Bill](#) reaching a crucial stage in the Scottish Parliament, the [catastrophic science-based warnings](#) of Sir David Attenborough, and [still-growing transport emissions](#) in Scotland, we're planning an important meeting on the lines of our [2015 meeting on this topic](#).
- ◆ *June – Edinburgh City Centre Transformation.* The full report and recommendations should be available by June (see 2019 article in 1 above) and councillors may need help in retaining their courage!
- ◆ *November* – Your suggestions welcome for a topic of major interest/ concern.

3. Annual renewals

- ◆ Members who are due to renew for 2019 will receive a notification in their February mailing. Please don't ask to renew before then (unless you still have a renewal form sent to you last year).
- ◆ We have changed the system for members who have a standing order or a regular PayPal donation (if registered on our membership database). If so, you will now be renewed automatically – we will still send you a renewal form with your details on it, but you need not reply unless there are changes to it.

4. George Street consultation – *ends Jan 25*

- ◆ The seemingly unending saga of the future of George Street continues! - but now is **your opportunity** to comment on the 'concept design' now out for consultation. Please do take this opportunity and, if possible, support the main points in our response (below) as there will also be opposition.
- ◆ The Consultation web pages are [here](#) and there is a lot more background [here](#). If you are short of time, a short response is fine – see our comments in the next bullet point for suggestions. Or, if you can, read the full Spokes response and make a detailed response of your own, emphasising any points that especially concern you.
- ◆ The Spokes response is [here](#). Our top concerns are...
 - A high quality cycleroute, kerb-separated from both the motor and the pedestrian areas. This is particularly important as George Street is at the heart of the Council's flagship [CCWEL West to East cycleroute](#) project, but this central section is being designed separately under the George St project.
 - Removal of central car parking is great, but we don't feel the design goes far enough in reducing traffic.
- ◆ If you use twitter, please RT [our tweet](#), to encourage others to respond to the consultation.

5. Sheriffhall roundabout - and its connections - *emails needed*

- ◆ Since our last circular, we are delighted to say that **the leaders of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils have agreed to meet Spokes** to discuss provision of connecting cyclist routes linking from the roundabout to the various important destinations from it, and our suggestion that this be funded through the South East Scotland City/Region Deal (which is funding the new roundabout/flyover itself).
- ◆ If this location and these routes matter to you, and you have not already contacted politicians, it would be useful to do so now, to keep up the pressure before our meeting.

Background (copied from our previous circular)

- ◆ 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 cyclist routes 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 cyclist route 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).

6. Developer planning proposals - public drop-in exhibitions

- ◆ NB – Only limited info is available online, as these are exhibitions/consultations which are now legally required for major developments prior to submission of a planning application. Go to...
[*www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_applications/288/view_and_comment_on_planning_applications*](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_applications/288/view_and_comment_on_planning_applications)
- ◆ Enter the full reference code below into the 'keyword' box on the above website, then look at 'Documents.' The one called 'Application Form' is likely to have time/place details of the exhibition(s) as well as contact details of the applicants, for further info or to confirm dates.
- ◆ *If you'd like to contact Spokes on any of these proposals* email [*planning@spokes.org.uk*](mailto:planning@spokes.org.uk) or phone Peter Hawkins 443.6712.
- ◆ 18/10006/PAN **Major residential development east of Corbieshot.** Bounded by The Jewel, Asda site, Corbieshot, railway. **Exhib'n** Hay Business Centre, Hay Ave., **10 Jan.**, 2.30 - 7.30pm
- ◆ 18/10244/PAN **Student accomodation & commercial**, 61 London Rd. Site bounded by London Rd and Clockmill Lane, just N of railway. **Exhib'n** Meadowbank Church, London Rd, **31 Jan.**, 2-8pm
- ◆ 18/09804/PAN **Mixed use including student accomm**, 24 Westfield Rd - site on NW corner of junction with Westfield Av, opposite Sainsbury's. **Exhib'n** Gorgie-Dalry Church, 190 Gorgie Rd, **15 Jan**, 2-8pm
- ◆ 18/09808/PAN **mixed use incl. Student accomm**, 543 Gorgie Rd - on S side of road, just east of Water of Leith. **Exhib'n** Stenhouse Church 537 Gorgie Rd., **9 Jan.** 2-8pm.

7. Scotland rail developments

- ◆ *Sat 19 Jan* [Building Scotland's Best Railway](#) Speaker **Alex Hynes**, Managing Director of ScotRail Alliance – the top guy!! Meeting of various railway societies, but open to all. **2.30pm**, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace EH1 2JL. *Queries...* Dr Peter Howell 0131 334 6232. Your chance to ask about any aspect of Scotland rail development – including bike/rail! e.g. find out more about the exciting plans for bike carriages on the Oban line this year, and other northern rural lines in 2020 – see back page of [Spokes 132](#). And our [bike/rail webpage](#) (to be updated soon).

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk *Includes...*
 - [See 4 above, ends 25 Jan] George Street & First New Town
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
 - Join East Lothian Citizens Panel, to comment on local issues
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot *Includes...*
 - [ends 16 Jan] Transport Noise Action Plan
 - [ends 28 Jan] Closing public roads to allow motorsports
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** 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 Check it out in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the website addresses above (there often is!) *Includes...*
 - [ends 28 Jan] Scottish Parliament RECC survey (or submissions) on the Bill to make 20mph the defaults speed limit for urban areas in Scotland.

9. Finally

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often 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:updates@spokes.org.uk).