

# Spokes Action Update 19.04.19

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... 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.**

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## 1. For your diary

- ◆ *April 26-28* **Pedal on Parliament** This year's PoP is a series of local events across Scotland, to highlight local issues – rather than a mass ride to Parliament. There are several in Edinburgh and Lothians, many of them very imaginative. including one organised by the new [Spokes Party local group](#). Find them all at [pedalonparliament.org/2019-pop-up-pops](http://pedalonparliament.org/2019-pop-up-pops). *Support PoP and their excellent [manifesto!](#)*
- ◆ *April 27 (and May 25)* **Farmers Market, Spokes stall.** Castle Terrace, 9am-2pm
- ◆ *May 2, 6-8pm* **Edinburgh Bus Users Group** public meeting, Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace. Speakers include Transport Convener Cllr Lesley Macinnes and Richard Hall, Lothian Buses Managing Director. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edinburgh-bus-users-group-public-meeting-tickets-59046699267](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edinburgh-bus-users-group-public-meeting-tickets-59046699267)
- ◆ *May 5, 10am-5pm* **Edinburgh Council first Open Streets day.** The Royal Mile, Cockburn St and Victoria St will be closed to motor traffic, and open for walking, cycling and a wide range of activities. Council publicity will be launched soon (and will be promoted on Spokes twitter and FB), but early details are at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/connectingplaces/info/9/consultation/20/open\\_streets\\_consultation](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/connectingplaces/info/9/consultation/20/open_streets_consultation).

For more info and to send suggestions/offers email [openstreets@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:openstreets@edinburgh.gov.uk) – they are keen for as many activities as possible. It is important that the day goes well, as the Council hopes to hold Open Streets on the first Sunday of each month and, if successful, to substantially expand the area covered.

**There will be a Spokes stall and we are trialling a cargo-bike-based stall!!** Please come along and say hello (also spokes maps on sale at special stall prices). Get in touch if you'd like to organise an activity at our stall (e.g. a cycling quiz) or help in other ways.

- ◆ *May 22, 6-8.30pm* **Healthy Streets public meeting** by Friends of the Earth Edinburgh & Transition Edinburgh. Venue: David Hume Tower LG.07, 40 George Square EH8 9JX. [Map](#). Speakers include Edinburgh Transport Convener Cllr Lesley Macinnes and Active Nation Commissioner Lee Craigie. More info and booking at... [hs22may.eventbrite.co.uk](http://hs22may.eventbrite.co.uk). Spokes will be running a stall and facilitating in breakout sessions.
- ◆ *June 6-16* **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** [edfoc.org.uk](http://edfoc.org.uk) The usual huge range of events, including...
  - ➔ *June 11 (Tues)* **Spokes Bike Breakfast** 7.45-9.00am, City Chambers. A great selection of stalls, speeches at 8.30ish, police security marking and a £50 Edinburgh Bicycle voucher prize draw. More details to follow.
  - ➔ *June 14 (Friday)* **Spokes Public Meeting** The **City Centre Transformation** recommendations will be out – we hope (and almost expect) that they will be genuinely radical. The Transformation leader, Daisy Narayanan, will speak; followed by a responses from Spokes and from a councillor who is a Spokes member; then a one-hour QA so you have a full opportunity to grill the speakers. 7.30pm, Augustine United, George IV Bridge [doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls, chat]
- ◆ *November* – **Spokes autumn public meeting.** We are aiming for a meeting on "New developments in cycling as city transport" (including looking at what is or is not happening locally). We are hoping main speaker will be [Richard Armitage](#), a founding director of the European Cycle Logistics Federation, and involved in cargo bike and bike-hire operations in Manchester. We also expect to invite speakers from Edinburgh Council (on cargo-bike initiatives), [Edinburgh Bike Hire](#), and [Cyclehoop](#) (who have been appointed to install and manage Edinburgh's secure onstreet bike storage).

## 2. Major consultations – *please respond*

*There are 3 extremely important ongoing consultations at present, all of which could greatly improve cycling conditions. Please do respond to at least the one or two that concern you most.*

*Please also copy your response to Spokes, or email us with any points you'd like considered for the official Spokes response*

### ◆ **Waverley Station future – *by 25 April***

Waverley is preparing a masterplan to **double** its passenger capacity. This would be a massive rebuild, probably including new concourses all round the station at high level. This provides the opportunity for major cycling improvements – not just the obvious bike parking, access and 'bike hub' but also new routes. Spokes is suggesting re-instating the long-lost high-level connection between Jeffrey Street and Calton Road, providing a totally new link between the Old Town and Leith Walk. [Note also that there are separate Council intentions to make Calton Road walk/cycle-friendly, including possibly closing its Leith Street junction to motor traffic]. Another possible route might be Waverley Bridge to Calton Road.

More details *including how to respond*, on our website [[news item 5.4.19](#)].

If you use twitter please also RT [our tweet](#).

### ◆ **West Edinburgh Link – *by 10 May***

This is a major scheme for which the Council won substantial funding from the Sustrans Community Links Plus competition. With over 4km of segregated cycle routes, it aims to make the South Gyle Business Park bike-friendly, with links to and through it from the communities to north and south.

Whilst welcoming the scheme overall, we would like to see a lot of improvements, including routes to more housing areas, to West Edinburgh schools such as Craigmount, Forrester and St Augustine's, as well as to the Gyle Centre, canal and Water of Leith. Where such routes cannot be provided under this project, it should at least be designed to make future implementation as easy as possible. Secondly, the cyclist routes need higher priority – for example, single-stage crossings of main roads where possible, and well designed cycle/pedestrian priority over side roads. Traffic reduction measures are also needed, particularly in Craigs Road.

**More information** [westedinburghlink.info](http://westedinburghlink.info) *At this site you can also register for email updates.*

**Consultation survey** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/wel-concept](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/wel-concept).

**Drop-ins** April 25, 8am-5.30pm, South Gyle Crescent

April 27, 10am-4pm, Gyle Shopping Centre

**Council contact** [martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk) 469 3776.

### ◆ **Meadows to Canal – *by 31 May***

The long, long-awaited consultation on the revised proposals! We have not yet considered this in detail, but at first sight it looks pretty good. Send us your thoughts!

**More info and feedback survey...**

[consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/meadows-to-canal-cycling-and-walking-improvements](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/meadows-to-canal-cycling-and-walking-improvements)

Note that the survey is just one open-ended question asking for comments, so look up the documents below the survey link before answering it, particularly the [FAQ document](#) which gives the council's response to many of the more common questions.

**Drop-ins** April 29 and April 30, both 11am-7pm at Akva, Canal Basin.

### 3. Other council consultations

#### ◆ Rejuvenating Roseburn – *by 7 May*

Major environmental and 'place' improvements centred around the old bridge. These proposals, which have been developed with extensive local consultation, including Roseburn Primary School kids, are tied in with the Council's flagship West-East cycleroute (which incidentally is still pending a government inquiry to assess unwithdrawn objections).

We are fairly happy with these plans, though we want assurances that they will not prevent westward extension of the cycleroute in future (possibly on the south side of the A8) and that the setts proposed for the old bridge will be the flat-topped style. However, **we know there are some objectors** – mainly, we think, those who oppose the whole cycleroute concept, so **comments in support are very helpful**.

More info and feedback form [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/rejuvenating-roseburn](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/rejuvenating-roseburn)

Council contact [Rurigd.McMeddes@Edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Rurigd.McMeddes@Edinburgh.gov.uk)

On-site consultation April 30, 1pm-6pm. Please go along and show support (if you agree!)

Local Support Group If you live locally, join the community support group for the West-East cycleroute (particularly the Roseburn section) – [www.roseburncycleroute.org.uk](http://www.roseburncycleroute.org.uk).

#### ◆ Scotstoun Av [Queensferry] traffic calming – *by 12 May*

Info and feedback form [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/scotstoun-ave-traffic-calming](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/scotstoun-ave-traffic-calming)

#### ◆ Powderhall site, future uses for the site – *by 31 July*

Info and feedback form [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/powderhall](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/powderhall)

### 4. Lothians consultations

#### ◆ East Lothian Access Study – *by 10 May*

The Council is consulting on transport links along the A1 corridor through the west of the county. Please submit your views, to ensure that cycling gets full consideration. Particular points to consider are –

- Need for a safe cycling connection between Portobello and Musselburgh. Plans were published in 2017 by SEStran [sestran.gov.uk/publications/active-travel-link-musselburgh-portobello](https://sestran.gov.uk/publications/active-travel-link-musselburgh-portobello) but no one has yet found the cash – this should be a priority.
- Making use of the massive Cockenzie former power-station site.

Info and feedback form

[eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/east-lothian-access-study-case-for-change-scottish-1](https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/infrastructure/east-lothian-access-study-case-for-change-scottish-1)

### 5. Public meetings – volunteer joint organiser needed

Spokes runs 3 highly-praised public meetings each year, usually with attendances of 60-120. You can find reports on our website – click on [SpokesMtg](#) in the 'cloud' in the right-hand column, and see a wide range of comments and pictures at the twitter hashtag [#SpokesMtg](#).

A fair bit of work is involved in organising the meetings, including liaising with speakers, premises, stalls, media, technical helpers etc. Our excellent organiser of recent meetings, Martin McDonnell, would appreciate someone to work with him – and possibly in future take the main responsibility for particular meetings. Pro-activity, attention to detail, and an ability to work with others are all important. If you are interested, email [Spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:Spokes@spokes.org.uk). Great for your CV!!

## 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. **It is worth confirming date/time/place as developers occasionally change them without the change appearing on the council website.**
- ◆ *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.
- ◆ 19/01249/PAN **Sports 'village' on Peffermill playing fields.** Bounded by Peffermill Rd and the South Suburban railway. **Exhib'n** Cameron House Comm Ed Centre, Prestonfield Ave., **24 April**, 5.30-8pm; also at Clubhouse, 42 Peffermill Rd., **25 Apr.**, 4-8pm.

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk) *Includes...* See 2 & 3 above
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk) *Includes...* See 4 above
- ◆ **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)
- ◆ **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!) *Includes...*
  - [**ends 20 June**] **Future of UK aviation** – vital issue for the climate crisis. Details and how to respond... [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aviation-2050-the-future-of-uk-aviation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aviation-2050-the-future-of-uk-aviation)

## 8. 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).