

# Spokes Action Update 25.06.19

... 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. For your diary [we hope to have a **Spokes stall** at all these events, with maps at special stall prices]

- ◆ **June 26: 'Places for Everyone' meeting** by Spokes Party. 1930-2130, Bellfield, Bellfield Street, Portobello EH15 2BP [see [map](#)]. More info [here](#) (and you can turn up without booking).
  - ➔ What do great places look and feel like? Is it possible to redesign our streets and get about in different ways? What makes a vibrant local economy? How can we encourage walking and cycling? Can we have cleaner air and reduce climate change emissions? How does transformation happen?
  - ➔ You'll be able to learn from two speakers who are involved in improving local places...
    - [Waltham Forest Mini-Holland](#) - an exciting London project which has been visited by several Edinburgh councillors and officers who say we will see some of the ideas in Edinburgh, for example more 'filtered permeability' of streets
    - [Sustrans Scotland 'Places for Everyone'](#) – the new funding scheme replacing Community Links and which now requires higher standards for a Council bid for cash to be successful.
  - ➔ There'll be time for questions at the end as well as a chance to browse the Spokes stall and buy Spokes cycle maps at special stall prices.
- ◆ **July 6 Edinburgh Climate Festival** 12.00-21.00, The Meadows. Free, family friendly & community-led event celebrating and inspiring climate action. Featuring live music, performances, stalls, kids' and adults' activities, and loads more, this is not to be missed! Includes bike doctors to check your bike, and e-bike try-outs. More details, and register your interest [here](#).
- ◆ **July 7 Edinburgh Open Streets** 12.00-17.00, The 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Council's new car-free days, an early first step towards the [City Centre Transformation](#). [Open Streets website](#). [Trip Advisor](#).
- ◆ **Sep 28 & Oct 26 Farmers' Market** a.m., Castle Terrace – Spokes stall.
- ◆ **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). 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. Consultation drop-ins [more info below about major consultations]

- ◆ **Powderhall site** - there are **no drop-ins**. The dates in Spokesworker 10.6.19 were in fact from 2018 – apologies, our mistake!! For current state of play, see ... [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/powderhall](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/powderhall)
- ◆ **City Centre Transformation**  
June 26, 12-5, Grassmarket open-air consultation
- ◆ **Meadows-George Street**  
June 25-27, Central Library (unstaffed)
- ◆ **Meadowbank** [proposals for the land surrounding the sports centre]  
June 26, 5-7.30pm, Meadowbank Church, 83 London Road EH7 5TT  
June 27, 1-3.30pm, Craighentinn Community Centre, 9 Loaning Road EH7 6JE  
*More details...* [meadowbank@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:meadowbank@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
NB – note also the [just-approved nearby student housing](#), with 4 car spaces and over 200 bikes spaces!

### 3. Transformation consultation – ends 28 June

- ◆ Find the consultation at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk)
- ◆ If you have not yet responded, please do so!! There is an online survey *or* email your comments or queries to [EdinburghCCT@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:EdinburghCCT@edinburgh.gov.uk). Even a quick response, giving overall support, is very valuable, as there will be objections from people who don't like the plan.
- ◆ For background, and points to consider for your response, see the above meeting report and the May 11 article on our website, '[Yes, it's a Transformation.](#)' See also the [Summer Spokes Bulletin #134](#) and its supplement.

### 4. Meadows – George Street consultation – ends 7 July

- ◆ Find the consultation at [meadowstogeorgestreet.info](https://meadowstogeorgestreet.info)
- ◆ If you have not yet responded, please do so!! There is an online survey *or* email your comments or queries to [martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- ◆ Even a quick response, giving overall support, is very valuable, as there will be objections from people who don't like the plan. However if you have time to raise specific issues, some points to consider are below. Please tell us if we've missed anything!
- ◆ Overall – we are delighted, but...
  - ➔ *Timescale* – construction is not planned until 2022 (and could be further delayed if there are objections which have to go to a government Inquiry, as is currently holding up phase 1 of the West-East route for about a year)
  - ➔ *Type of cyclerooute* – a bidirectional (i.e. 2-way) cyclerooute is planned rather than unidirectional on each side of the road. There are arguments for and against. Generally we prefer unidirectional, but we are tending towards supporting bidirectional in this particular project – though see next para.
  - ➔ *Cyclerooute width* – the planned 3m is less than the 4m proposed for George Street. Spokes traffic counts show many cyclists in the rush hour, with most in one direction but a significant number the other way. A width of 4m is also much better for different types and ages of cyclists using the same route together, and for cargo bikes, trailers, etc.
  - ➔ *Junctions* – the design must enable cyclists to turn in and out of other streets safely, particularly if the route is bidirectional. This includes Chambers St, Candlemaker Row, Market St, Hanover St, and the existing semi-invisible left turn at foot of the Mound.
  - ➔ *Teviot Row* – a link to the university area should be included.

### 5. Low Emission Zone (LEZ) – ends 21 July

- ◆ Find the consultation at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/edinburghlez](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/edinburghlez)
- ◆ If you have not yet responded, please do so!! There is an online survey *or* email your comments or queries to [spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- ◆ The Spokes response has not yet been drafted, but other environmental groups including FOE make the following points...
  - ➔ The proposals include a small low emission zone covering the Old Town, which will restrict polluting buses and HGVs from the end of 2021. However even the oldest, most-polluting cars won't be restricted until the end of 2024 - such cars should be restricted from the same date.
  - ➔ A larger zone, covering the whole city, will be in place from the end of 2023 but does not apply to cars at all - only buses, coaches, and HGVs. It should also apply to polluting cars, though with longer grace periods for owners of the less polluting cars.
  - ➔ If the plans stay as they are, one particular problem is that, since the central LEZ is small, drivers of the most polluting vehicles are likely to divert round it, thus merely transferring their pollution from shopping areas to residential, rather than changing travel mode or destination.
- ◆ FOE Scotland has set up an e-action which you can use if you wish to make a quick response rather than using the full consultation site above. [act.foe.scot/stop-dirtiest-vehicles-polluting-edinburgh](https://act.foe.scot/stop-dirtiest-vehicles-polluting-edinburgh)

## 6. Transformation – Spokes public meeting

We had a great public meeting, with over 100 people present!

Meeting report ... [www.spokes.org.uk/2019/06/spokesmtg-report-city-centre-transformation](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2019/06/spokesmtg-report-city-centre-transformation)

Tweet (please retweet) ... [twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1143095852854124544](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1143095852854124544)

## 7. Redford Barracks site – ends 5 July

The council is consulting on the future of this site, including how it can link in with the surrounding area.

Details and online survey at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/redfordbarracks](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/redfordbarracks)

## 8. Myreside Road – a.s.a.p.

- ◆ We have received several comments during the last year or two about cycling conditions on Myreside Road, particularly during school drop-off/pick-up times, which is when many commuter cyclists are using the road. Nor are conditions for school kids good on foot, let alone by bike. The advisory cycle lanes are routinely occupied by parked cars just at these times when they would be most useful for their intended purpose, and they are often totally car-free at the times when they are least useful! Ironically, this is the opposite situation to many main road cycle routes which tend to be largely car-free during rush hours (due to the peak-time yellow line restrictions) but are often jammed with parked cars off-peak.
- ◆ The Council is currently reviewing parking rule in the whole of Morningside, but a report to the Council Transport Committee does not even mention cycling in its comments on Myreside Road – though it talks about issues of pedestrian safety and vehicle sight lines.
- ◆ The road will become even more important for cycling once the Royal Edinburgh development is complete, as it will include a cyclerooute from Morningside (Maxwell Street) to Myreside Road – the Myreside Road end of the cyclerooute is already complete. The road will also become yet more congested, thanks to traffic from the development.
- ◆ **If Myreside Road affects your journeys, please email your councillors.** Ask them to ensure that cyclist safety and decent cyclist infrastructure is included in the Parking Review now underway, and to let you know what is happening. Find your councillors at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors).
- ◆ The [Spokes South Edinburgh Group](http://www.spokes.org.uk) is also chasing this up. If you do contact your councillors, please let them know. Email stellathomson @ blueyonder.co.uk.

## 9. Lothians

- ◆ **East Lothian Climate Change Strategy, 2019-24 – ends 22 July**
  - ➔ Details: [eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/climate-change-strategy](http://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/climate-change-strategy)
  - ➔ Covers both how to reduce E Lothian area emissions, and also how to become more resilient in the face of the climate crisis.
  - ➔ There is a questionnaire at the above web page, and/or email [climatechange@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@eastlothian.gov.uk).
- ◆ **Midlothian one-way streets – ends 8 July**
  - ➔ Midlothian Council contact for this process is David.Chambers@midlothian.gov.uk 0131 271 3500.
  - ➔ The Council is formalising its list of one-way roads as they are not all covered by an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order. No new one-ways will be created in this process, but the Council wishes to identify all existing one-ways and would like to hear of any not on their list.
  - ➔ A full list of known 1-ways can be obtained from David Chambers above, but briefly includes parts of **Dalkeith** (Eskdaill St, North Wynd car park, Primrose Cres, Tait St); **Loanhead** (Clerk St, Muirfield Gdns); **Mayfield** (Langlaw Rd); **Newton** (service road by A6106); **Penicuik** (High St service rd); **Rosewell** (Prestonhall Cres and Rd); **Roslin** (Station Rd).
  - ➔ Midlothian Council is not looking at **2-way cycle access in these roads** as part of this process, but Edinburgh now has a policy that all one-way streets should be modified (except in exceptional circumstances) to allow 2-way cycling. This would be a good opportunity for Midlothian to adopt such a policy – indeed further traffic regulation orders would be necessary to allow it at a later date. The method of enabling 2-way cycling would vary in each particular road - often a contra-flow lane would not be necessary, just something such as 'no entry for motor vehicles' at one end of the street.

## 10. Developer planning proposals

### Instructions...

- ◆ There are 2 main types of application, depending on whether the reference code ends in **FUL** or **PAN**.
- ◆ A **FUL** application is a full (and usually final) application for planning permission, on which you can object or comment on the council website below. There is not usually an exhibition or drop-in at this final stage, just the online info.
- ◆ A **PAN** is a 'proposal of application notice' consultation which developers are required to undertake for major developments before making a FUL application. It must include a public drop-in exhibition. At this stage you send comments to the developer, not the council. You can comment at the exhibition, but for major comments an email may be more reliable, and also gives you a record of what you said. The developer's subsequent FUL application must take account of comments from the PAN consultation.
- ◆ For either a FUL or PAN, you can find out more (including the email contact) by going 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.' For a **FUL** application, all details should be there. For a **PAN**, the document 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. However details of PAN developments are not usually online but will be at the drop-in exhibition. **It is worth confirming date/time/place of drop-ins as developers occasionally change them without the change appearing on the council website.**

### Current important developments...

- ◆ *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.*
- ◆ 19/02604/FUL **Gyle Centre Proposed Extension – ends 3 July**
  - ➔ This is an **appalling** proposal from the active travel perspective, especially cycling, and even for public transport it could be much better – please object!!
  - ➔ The plan is for more retail, cinema, leisure, plus a walking link to the nearby tram and train stops. However this major development should include a travel plan with clear targets to reduce emissions, reduce car access and increase walk, cycle and public transport access. For pedestrian access, the tram/station link needs a high quality covered walkway, and the existing subway needs to be much-improved and CCTV'd.
  - ➔ For cycling, there should be **safe cycling routes across the car park, linking to the existing and planned cycleroute networks in the area**, instead of which cycling is virtually forgotten other than the easy option of bike parking – loved by developers as they can say they have considered cycling.
- ◆ 19/02357/PAN **'Forth Bridge Experience' Reception Centre – exhibition 18 July**
  - ➔ Drop-in exhibition/consultation 18 July, 3-7pm, Orocco Pier, High St, Queensferry
  - ➔ The proposed visitor centre is close to the Kirkliston-QF railway path, but we understand that *no thought at all has been given to cycle access to the centre* (though doubtless the easy bit for developers, bike parking, will have been thought of – not that they even always get that right!)
- ◆ 19/02623/FUL **Haymarket Development** (the old goods yard, more recently a car park) – **ends 12 July**
  - ➔ A massive development of office, residential, etc, in an absolutely critical location for bike routes. Please do comment – or object “until cycleroute provision is adequate.”
  - ➔ Parking provision seems good, with 688 bike spaces and only 55 car spaces.
  - ➔ However the application's map only shows 'footways' through the site. Even if these are intended for shared use (which would in any case be far from ideal), the widths, surfacing and the connections outside the site are all unclear.
  - ➔ In fact, the site could and should provide the essential final link in a direct quiet route from Bruntsfield and Marchmont, through to Haymarket Station and to the forthcoming CCWEL west-east segregated cycleroute. Already many cyclists use the quiet route down Leamington Terrace, over the canal bridge and the West Approach Road light-controlled crossing; but then with poor final connections to Haymarket. A quality route through the development would provide this final link.
  - ➔ Secondly, the Council Transformation plans include (we understand) segregated cycleroutes on Morrison Street. The developers should work with the Council to ensure there is enough width available, and also a cycleroute connection to Morrison Street should be included along the road called Morrison Link.

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk) *Includes...* See 3,5,7 above
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk) *Includes...* See 8 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)

## 12. 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!!

## 13. 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@spokes.org.uk](mailto:updates@spokes.org.uk).