

# Spokes Action Update 18.10.19

... 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. Cyclroute to BioQuarter

- **Drop-in Sat 19 Oct, 11am-4pm, Cameron Toll shopping centre, outside EE store**
- **Drop-in Tue 22 Oct, 11am-6pm, BioQuarter Building Nine**
- **Full consultation ends 25 November**

- ◆ Edinburgh Council is consulting on a segregated cyclroute (and walking improvements) from Cameron Toll (in fact the bottom of Craigmillar Park) to Edinburgh bioQuarter including the hospital, medical school and research park.
- ◆ You can find the online consultation at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk), along with other consultations, and a direct link is [here](#).
- ◆ One of our Planning Group members has had a very quick look and said the plan looks like "a real game changer" and "can't see anything I'd disagree with" which sounds pretty exciting! **Of course we'd like to hear your views but, even more important, do reply to the consultation as an individual if this route might be of any interest to you.**
- ◆ Over the years since the new hospital was built, Spokes has done a lot on cycle connections. Long ago, when there was absolutely no chance of the political courage for segregated facilities, we fought alongside the Hospital Bike Users Group first for a roadside lane; and then when cars started to park in it, for double yellows (a very hard fight then). These improved conditions have helped to build usage and thus help make the case now, together with a braver political context, for a fully segregated route.
- ◆ We are hopeful that the intense objections which city centre segregation proposals have received from a small number of people, and which have led to very lengthy and continuing delays, are much less likely in this project, as there are very few houses or businesses fronting onto the road, and there is more road width available. So perhaps this project will be able to keep to timetable for once!
- ◆ A couple of general point you might make in your response are the importance of keeping to **timetable**, and also that **funding** must be sorted in good time – it is likely that Sustrans will contribute 50% match-funding, but where will Edinburgh's 50% come from, given their existing commitments to big active travel projects such as the west-east route and Meadows to George Street? Other points might be **connections** from the route to the city centre and to Kings Building.

## 2. For your diary

- ◆ We hope to have a **Spokes stall** (with maps at special stall prices) where stated below. Please come along and say hello, or offer to help. Please also notify us (in good time) of any local festivals/events you hear of where a good number of people are expected, in case we can manage a stall.
- ◆ Oct 26 [Edinburgh Farmers' Market](#) 10am-2pm, Castle Terrace – **Spokes stall**.
- ◆ Oct 31 [Climate Crisis – Local Action](#) Public meeting by Edinburgh Active Citizen Group. 7-8pm, City Chambers, High Street. Speakers from FOE Scotland and Extinction Rebellion Scotland.
- ◆ Nov 2 **Out of the Blue Eco-Fair**, 11am-4pm, Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street EH6 8RG – **Spokes stall**. Stall helpers are still needed. *If you can help* 11-1.30 or 1.30-4 please contact [katesturrock63@gmail.com](mailto:katesturrock63@gmail.com).
- ◆ Nov 3 and Dec 1, midday-5pm [Open Streets](#) in Old Town – road closures to allow community activity
- ◆ **November 15 [Friday] – Spokes autumn public meeting. "New Cycling Solutions for Edinburgh"**
  - ➔ Main speaker - [Richard Armitage](#) a founding director of the European Cycle Logistics Federation, and involved in cargo bike and bike-hire operations in Manchester. Also...
  - ➔ [Cllr Lesley Macinnes](#), Transport Convener, particularly on Council **cargo-bike initiatives**
  - ➔ [Edinburgh Cycle Hire](#) and [Cyclehoop](#) (who are to install Edinburgh's secure onstreet bike storage).

### 3. Transport Bill report

- ◆ **Thank you if you emailed MSPs following our last circular.** The Scottish Government agreed to support one of the two amendments that concerned us - but, inexplicably, not the other. The Bill has now been passed, so there is no further opportunity on this at present.
- ◆ The rejected amendment was to **prohibit car parking in mandatory cycle lanes** and had been heavily pushed by Cycling UK with an online action page. It was a fairly technical issue, and there are not a great number of mandatory lanes anyway, but it would have shown willing by the government had they supported it.
- ◆ The amendment which succeeded was to try and help **reduce the delays** currently suffered by some segregated cyclerooute proposals, due to small numbers of determined objectors, as with Edinburgh's west-east city centre route. John Finnie MSP had originally proposed an amendment which would have transferred, from the government to councils, the responsibility for dealing with such objections. The government refused that, so John Finnie then put forward a softer technical amendment, which was accepted. It means that the government can now itself change the rules without having to wait for the next Transport Bill – which could be years away. The government has also agreed it will consult on changing the rules. This is not going to help the current delays in the west-east route, but hopefully within a year or two, depending on the consultation outcome, the rules will be made more realistic.
- ◆ The above were only relatively minor aspects of the Bill. The main issues, on which Spokes had commented at earlier stages, included **Workplace Parking Levy, Pavement and Double Parking, and Low Emission Zones**. There is a good commentary by Friends of the Earth pollution campaigner, Gavin Thomson, at [foe.scot/will-transport-bill-need](http://foe.scot/will-transport-bill-need).

### 4. Bus Lane hours of operation

- ◆ If you were a member back in 2015, you may remember the then Council inexplicably decided to rationalise all bus lane times at the lowest possible level. This meant scrapping Saturday bus lanes and making all other bus lanes peak-time only. Spokes took a major role in organising opposition, and we achieved an incredible 150 individually written objections, including from some community councils. However the council had made up its mind and the objections were refused. Unfortunately the regulations were the sort under which objections do *not* have to be passed to a government inquiry. Report here... [www.spokes.org.uk/2015/06/bus-lanes-150-objections-rejected](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/06/bus-lanes-150-objections-rejected)
- ◆ Following that decision, bus patronage has fallen. This graph shows the trend beginning... [twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/966349398195220480](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/966349398195220480)
- ◆ Moreover, the benefits for cyclists are reduced, and pedestrians get traffic and pollution right next to the footway more times of the day.
- ◆ **The Council is now about to consult on exactly what we asked for at the time, 7-7-7 operation, i.e. 7am-7pm, 7 days a week!!** This was thanks to an initiative at the Transport Committee by Spokes member Cllr Chas Booth, which we were pleased to see was accepted by the SNP/Lab coalition.
- ◆ The consultation is due to go live on October 31, and will presumably be at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk). There is also a 'stakeholder meeting' 10-12am on Thurs 21 Nov, to which we can send 2 people. In case we can't fill both places from Planning Group, please get in touch if you have a particular interest in this.

## 5. Thinking caps please!!

- ◆ **Spokes public meetings** – We'd welcome suggestions for future public meeting topics. The topics must clearly be of interest to a significant number of people, and ideally topics where we can make a difference by coming up with useful ideas, influencing the speakers, inspiring audience members into personal actions, etc. See links to past meeting reports at [www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/spokes-public-meeting-reports](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/spokes-public-meeting-reports).
- ◆ **Spokes annual competition** – We'd welcome ideas for future competitions. Again, we'd like topics that may generate useful results to encourage action by councils, organisations, individuals, and/or Spokes. Our [2018 competition](#) quite unexpectedly revealed the growing importance of e-bikes in enabling a whole new range of people to start cycling, and resulted in our [ebikes factsheet](#). Our [2019 competition](#) is resulting in another fascinating actsheet, which you'll find in the autumn Spokes Bulletin, out on 26 October. An earlier competition, Low Cost Ideas, generated simple infrastructure ideas which we sent to the Council, a few of which have been implemented and more are still in progress. See links to all past competitions at [www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/competitions](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/odds-and-ends-may-be-exciting/competitions)

## 6. 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.
- ◆ **19/04682/PAN Former Powderhall Waste site, Broughton Rd.** Mixed-use development bordering the rail line and runs westwards, to include the cycle path which leads to Mark's Park, so could be important. **Exhibitions** McDonald Rd Library, 23 Oct. 4.30-7.30; and Broughton Primary School, 24 Oct, 5.30-8pm
- ◆ **19/04534/PAN** New airport access road from the east of the terminal building at Edinburgh Airport to Gogar Roundabout. There are many arguments of principle (should growing access to the airport be facilitated?) and of detail (e.g. the road seems likely to stymie a planned pedestrian/cycle bridge over the railway, linking a major new housing development to the station and to the Gyle). **Exhibitions** November at Gyle Centre and at Airport. Dates/times not yet fixed. **Contact** – [Jade.Scott-Meikle@lichfields.uk](mailto:Jade.Scott-Meikle@lichfields.uk).

## 7. National Transport Strategy (Scotland) – *consultation closes 23 October*

[consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-transport-strategy](https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-transport-strategy)

Spokes is likely to urge a major rethink, with transfer of resources from expanding the road network to cycling, walking, public transport and ensuring that new development is only allowed where it is well served in these ways. **Please make your own response, and send us your thoughts.** Cycling UK has set up [a page to make it easier to respond](#).

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk), includes...
  - [Ratho Canal Wave Garden Bridge](#) – *closes 8 November*
  - [Cameron Toll to BioQuarter](#) – See also section 1 above – *closes 25 November*
- ◆ **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)
  - includes [www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/6171/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Improvements](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/6171/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Improvements)  
Note that this just lists forthcoming projects is not a consultation as such. However an email address and phone number are given, so please do submit any comments!!
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** [consult.gov.scot](https://consult.gov.scot)
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** [www.transport.gov.scot/consultations](http://www.transport.gov.scot/consultations), includes...
  - [National Transport Strategy](#), see section 7 above – *closes 23 October*
- ◆ **Just in case...** Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... [transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts](https://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!)

## 9. 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:updates@spokes.org.uk).