

Spokes Action-Update 01 Feb 2020

... includes some **VERY IMMINENT** dates!

Spokes.org.uk St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road EH11 2JG 0131.313.2114 twitter [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian)

1. City Mobility Plan & City Plan 2030 – ends 27 March

Edinburgh City Council has published for consultation its draft [City Mobility Plan](#) (basically the future of transport till 2030) and draft [City Plan 2030](#) (basically the future of use of land in the city till 2030). Alongside the already approved City Centre Transformation approved last year, these proposed policies represent a very big moment in the development of the City, so it is important to get them right and ensure plenty responses to the consultations from people concerned about sustainability and active travel.

We listed some relevant points from the Mobility Plan in our [email circular of 11 Jan.](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Submit your own response ... Spokes hopes to draw up our initial thoughts on both documents in the next few weeks, and send them to all members, to give you some ideas.
- However if you have any initial ideas, please email us a.s.a.p. so Planning Group can include them in our initial consideration
- The Council is holding a lot of staffed drop-ins. We strongly encourage you to go to one of these. The full list is [here](#), and summarised below.

STAFFED DROP-INS

- Mon 3 February 4pm - 7pm in Gilmerton Library, 13 Newtoft St EH17 8RG
- Sat 8 February 11am - 4pm in The Wash House, 3 Adelphi Grove, Portobello EH15 1AP
- Mon 10 February 1pm - 7pm in the Urban Room, Waverley Court
- Thurs 13 February 4pm - 7.30pm in Kirkliston Parish Hall, The Square EH29 9AS
- Wed 26 February 4pm - 7pm in YMCA, 1 Junction Place, EH6 5JA
- Wed 4 March 4pm - 7pm in Blackhall Library 56 Hillhouse Rd EH4 5EG
- Thurs 19 March 1pm - 8.30pm in St Bride's Centre 10 Orwell Terrace EH11 2DZ

2. Edinburgh Climate Emergency – consultation - ends 29 Feb

Having declared a Climate Emergency, Edinburgh City Council *"is embarking on a city-wide programme including a city Climate Commission to support and encourage public, private and third sector partners to take action."* The Council is seeking feedback from as many citizens as possible. Please complete the 15-minute survey [here](#). For further information, or to submit more detailed ideas, email strategyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk.

3. For Your Diary

- Tue Feb 4, 7pm **Swanston-Infirmmary-Portobello route proposal** (known as *Pentlands to Porty*)
The route (particularly south Edinburgh section) will be outlined and discussed at Fairmilehead Community Council, Fairmilehead Church (at Fairmilehead crossroads),. The meeting is open to all. Any queries, contact Stella of the Spokes South Edinburgh local group, email stella.thomson@blueyonder.co.uk. Route proposals are here... <http://www.elgt.org.uk/projects/walking-cycling/pentland-to-portobello-feasability-study/>
- Tue Feb 4, 7.30pm **Dunbar to Spott active travel route** East Lothian Council is holding an event to discuss this potential route. *Venue:* Spott Village Hall. *Info:* Iain Reid, 01620 827143, email ireid@eastlothian.gov.uk. We have also been sent this link which only seems to work if you are a facebook user <https://www.facebook.com/1487981788156556/posts/2514450538843004/>

- Tue Feb 4, 7.30 **Campaign for Borders Rail** speaker about the present and future of the Borders Railway – good opportunity to ask about bike carriage issues, links to stations, and future extension of the line to Carlisle. **CRAG meeting**, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace EH1 2JL. Open to the public. More info: Lawrence Marshall, 0131 669 1336, lawrence336@btinternet.com. Several people usually go to the Bow Bar after CRAG meetings. CRAG website capitalrail.org.uk.
- Fri Feb 7, 1pm **Drem-Gullane path campaign** Diggers come on site for the first phase of this long-campaigned-for route. The campaign is holding a 'ground-breaking' ceremony and wants as many people as possible to come along. Event is in Gullane at the corner of Main Street and Fenton Road. [Event tweet](#). More info dgcorepath@gmail.com.
- Tue Feb 11, 2-7pm **Trams to Newhaven staffed drop-in** McDonald Road Library. Opportunity to ask about the planned works and how it will affect your travel during the 18 months of work. Points of interest – **(1)** we expect there to be a temporary 2-way Leith Walk cycle route throughout the works (from this Spring) as well as the permanent one on completion **(2)** Cargo bikes are being made available by the council via sustrans to support local businesses during the works **(3)** proposals for cycle facilities *beyond Foot of the Walk* seem to be far slower than we had hoped and expected, meaning that tramlines may well be in place long before there are bike alternatives. TramstoNewhaven website is ... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven.
- Feb 20-23 (5pm on 20th to 9pm on 23rd) **Health Hackathon**, including active travel discussion. *Hundreds* of health professionals, techologists, innovators across Europe (including this Edinburgh event) spend 75 hours working on the future of data-driven health and social care. Spokes member Prof Chris Oliver ([@cyclingsurgeon](https://twitter.com/cyclingsurgeon)) is leading discussion on active travel. Fee £45; student £25 including 10 meals. **Spokes has been offered two free places** – If interested email Spokes@spokes.org.uk by midnight Sat 8 Feb saying why you would like to attend, and if more than 2 apply we will select on that basis. Full details, and if you wish to book & pay direct, click on... productforge.io/events/digital-health-product-forge-2020.
- Feb 22 **Spokes Spring Mailout (+ Bulletin 136)**. Usual stuffing/delivery helpers will be notified.
- Tue Mar 3, 7.30 **LNER (London-Edinburgh-Aberdeen trains)** The Stakeholder Engagement officer, Ben Garratt, will be speaking – great opportunity to ask about bike carriage spaces and inflexible rules. Here's an example... [Dr Graham Mackenzie's experience](#) and [formal complaint](#). CRAG meeting - Venue and contact details as Feb 4.
- Mon Mar 23, 7.30 (6.45 for coffee, stalls) **SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING 'LOCAL BIKE CAMPAIGNING'** Details... www.spokes.org.uk [Jan 22 blog post]. Please also [retweet our tweet about the event](#). We also have a [factsheet](#) on the topic of the meeting.
- Tue Apr 7, 7.30 **Levenmouth Rail Campaign** Speaker from the campaign – the Scot Gov has agreed to reopen the line. Associated cycling provision is promised but we don't have details (it's in Fife, not in our area). Anyone interested please get involved to ensure good links between stations and local communities/destinations are included as *an integral part of the project* – not left for a later date and not left up to the Council, as the govt did, disastrously, when reopening Bathgate/Airdrie. This is a CRAG meeting – venue etc as Feb 4. Campaign website levenmouth.co.uk
- Tue May 5, 7.30 **Trams to Newhaven** (provisional) CRAG meeting, venue etc as Feb 4.

4. Updated Edinburgh Spokes Map

Due to continuing popularity of our Edinburgh map, we had to order a second reprint. We took the opportunity to do some revisions, adding the new Granton coastal route, the Shawfair railway path, a revised bike shop list and many small corrections /updates. The map is now on sale in bike shops or see spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps to buy by other means. *Note:* this is a revised edition 10, not a full new edition. We hope to fully survey Edinburgh then publish new edition 11 in 2021.

Work on our fully-surveyed Midlothian map continues, with many thanks to our local member surveyors and Andy who is doing the technical artwork. We hope the map will be out late spring/ early summer.

5. Bike access to public sites – *volunteer(s) needed*

People who like to get about by bike are often frustrated by poor bike access and parking at destinations, and poor *How to Get Here* information on destination websites, with no or inadequate cycling info. An example which our planning group has recently worked on is Murrayfield where all three aspects are pretty pathetic - but the same could be said of many public buildings, supermarkets, NHS sites and so on.

There is now a possibility of a major project to tackle this, prepare advice material and engage with site managers. [Changeworks](#) has applied for a large lottery grant to work with community groups to reduce Edinburgh's carbon emissions, and their application has reached the final shortlist. The grant would support a number of projects in Edinburgh, almost certainly including a Spokes project on this topic.

If the application succeeds we hope there would be money to employ consultants to do the donkey work of surveying sites and engaging with employers, but we would need a small group of people with a strong interest and willing to devote a certain amount of time in coordinating the project. Already one person from Spokes Planning Group and one from Resources Group have volunteered, but we ideally need a slightly larger group of 3 or 4 people, rather than just 2, to run the project. **If you might be interested in donating your time and enthusiasm for this very important topic**, please email spokes@spokes.org.uk.

6. Bikes abandoned on public racks – *help needed*

Sadly there are many examples of derelict bikes on public racks. They use space, look bad, and may give non-cyclists a poor impression of what it's like to use a bike in the city.

Edinburgh Council's system for reporting abandoned bikes is pretty obscure. Our understanding is that you have to notify the relevant Council Locality team. But few people even know that the Council has Locality Teams, let alone which team covers any given location where you may see an abandoned bike, or how to contact that team.



We are urging the Council to set up a more transparent system. There is clear information on the Council website for how to report many things. Just go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk and click *Report It* to see the many options – even reporting abandoned vehicles – but no option for abandoned bikes. **If you are concerned about this, please contact your councillors and ask them for a *Report It* option for abandoned bikes to be added on this page of their website.** Let us know if you get any useful replies.

Meantime, Spokes Planning Group member Richard Grant has offered to submit a report of abandoned bikes round the city to the Council, in the hope of at least getting a one-off cleanup, and making the problem more apparent to the Council. **Please can you help by reporting abandoned bikes to Richard.** Note that we are merely *reporting* the derelict bikes to the Council, not touching them ourselves.

Richard will not have the time to visit every reported site himself to check the reports before submitting them, so ***please follow the guidelines below...***

- **Only derelict bikes on public racks** (the 'Sheffield' racks usually on the footway) – not bikes in tenements or on racks on the premises of businesses, employers, etc.
- **State the exact location of the rack** as fully as possible
- **State whether the bike(s) are derelict**, i.e. parts missing or rusty chain off the chainwheel.
- **If not derelict, say why you are sure they are abandoned.** We wish all the reports to be pretty definite, not “I think this may have been abandoned”. This is so that Richard's report is fully credible to the Council and cannot be rubbished by whoever has to deal with it.
- **If possible send a photo/photo(s).**
- **Email your report(s)** to richardanthonygrant@gmail.com.
- **If possible send reports by Sunday 16 Feb**, but if you would like longer please contact Richard.

7. Developer planning proposal exhibitions/consultations

- There are several types of application, for which the reference code may end in FUL, AMC or PAN.
- A PAN is a 'Proposal of Application Notice' consultation which developers are required to undertake for major developments before making a FUL (full) application. The PAN must include a public drop-in exhibition, and 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 these comments.
- To find out more about any applications, click on *View and Comment* at ...
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20067/planning_applications/288/view_and_comment_on_planning_applications
- Now 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 contacting developers to confirm drop-in date/time/place** as developers occasionally change them without the change appearing on the council website.

Current important developments with probable cycling implications...

- If you'd like to contact Spokes on any of these proposals email planning@spokes.org.uk or phone Peter Hawkins 443.6712.
- 20/00283/PAN **Balerno, off Ravelrig Road** – huge site, residential development with some community facilities included. **Exhibition Balerno Community Centre Mon 24 Feb, 2-8pm.**
- 20/00260/PAN **Edinburgh Park, south phase.** Huge area east of tram, south of Lochside Way. **Exhibition at Novotel hotel, 27 Feb. 1-7pm.**

8. Spokes website future

If you have not completed the [Spokes website](#) survey there is still time to do so [here](#). Please complete the survey whether or not you ever use the Spokes website.

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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot
- ◆ **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!)

10. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk
- ★ We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](#). Follow us and ReTweet tweets that you support. Recent tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ★ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#).
- ★ To campaign effectively Spokes needs as many supporters as possible. If you are not already a member, you like what we do, and you'd like to keep in touch with developments, please join Spokes. For details of membership and how to join, go to www.spokes.org.uk/membership.