

This email was sent by SWEM to the Council, cc'd to a very large SfP consultation list, some 65 addresses – possibly the stakeholder consultation list for the Lanark Rd scheme (which also goes to emergency services, many councillors and officers, and local community councils). Since Spokes is referenced unreasonably, the Spokes reply below was sent to the same list.

On Tue, 30 Mar 2021 at 13:10, South West Edinburgh in Motion
<southwestedinburghinmotion@gmail.com> wrote:

To: <customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk>

We wish to make the following Formal Complaint and would be very grateful if you would acknowledge this and issue a Complaint number.

We look forward in due course to receiving a formal decision on whether our complaint will be upheld or referred to the SPSO.

South West Edinburgh in Motion

Formal Complaint: Spaces for People Consultation survey - asking respondents about schemes where no public information is available.

The Council's consultation survey asks respondents if they want to retain or remove 36 schemes that are not in situ. This is absurd. These schemes do not exist, plans have not been published and lamp post notification has not been mobilised despite using this mechanism to publicise the survey itself. In fact, in looking just at Slateford Road, council officers actually refused a request to publish the plans.

On what basis are residents and businesses to make a decision on whether or not schemes which are not in situ should be retained or removed? Furthermore in parallel, the Council has notified organisations on its Stakeholder Notification list of these schemes and has by definition excluded all other groups and communities. In addition, because the Council includes the Cycling Pressure Group, Spokes in its Stakeholder Group, its members will have the advantage of information about and plans for these schemes which is denied to the vast majority of residents and businesses. This is unfair and undemocratic, and may skew the outcome of the survey.

The survey should be paused or extended to give the opportunity for the Council to publish fully accessible plans for schemes which are not in situ, giving all respondents the same basis for deciding which of these schemes should be removed or retained.

Ends

From: Spokes <spokes@spokes.org.uk>

date: 31 Mar 2021, 01:19

subject: Re: Formal Complaint: Spaces for People Consultation survey - asking respondents about schemes where no public information is available.

Apologies for emailing this entire list, but since Spokes is specifically referenced in the SWEM email that you have received (below), and no other groups are referenced, we feel it necessary to respond to the implication that Spokes is being given special treatment in Spaces for People schemes.

The stakeholder circulars for each SfP scheme are sent to Living Streets for their expertise and local knowledge of pedestrian and related issues; to the Access Panel for their specific skills and local knowledge on accessibility for disabled people; and to Spokes in the same way on cycling and related. Thus the main categories of vulnerable road user are covered. Naturally Community Councils and relevant Councillors are also on the list, along with emergency services.

As far as we are aware all the above, including Spokes, are treated in exactly the same way in these stakeholder consultation emails, so why Spokes is specifically referenced in the SWEM email, when others are not, can only be a matter of speculation.

If there is validity in SWEM's claim of unfairness, then it surely must apply equally to members of Living Streets, of the Access Panel and indeed of Community Councils.

Finally, for the avoidance of doubt, and regardless of what you may see on certain social media, Spokes is not a collection of 'mamilis.' Our 1000 or so members range from the very young to the very old, with a bias towards middle aged and older age groups, and 40%+ female in all age groups except the over-70s. We were proud founder members of [Walk Wheel Cycle Vote](#), which now brings together a wide range of Scottish organisations whose aims include, *"ensure that our streets, paths and footways are accessible to everyone, whether on foot or using any form of mobility aid"* and *"every child who wants to can walk, wheel or cycle to their school."*

Ends