

Colleagues,

An important consultation exercise is currently being run by the Council and gives us an opportunity to improve conditions for cyclists, city-wide.

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Environment/Planning\\_buildings\\_i\\_i/Planning\\_hidden/Planning\\_policies/Supplementary\\_planning\\_guidance/CEC\\_edinburgh\\_open\\_space\\_audit\\_consultation\\_draft](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Environment/Planning_buildings_i_i/Planning_hidden/Planning_policies/Supplementary_planning_guidance/CEC_edinburgh_open_space_audit_consultation_draft)

There are some really good things in the proposals, especially the concept of developing 'green corridors' for walking and cycling. However it is important that the Strategy and its accompanying Area Action Plans include as many specific green corridors as possible - once the final Strategy is approved by the council it will be much more difficult to get new ones added. Although Spokes has put forward several ideas, it is YOU who knows YOUR area, so please make sure the council hasn't omitted anything important in your area. You can comment online and/or by going to any of the area workshops that concern you.

The most important section of the document is Chapter 3, 'Green Networks'. The city is divided into 12 areas, and consultation workshops are being held in each in turn. The schedule is as follows - venue, followed by area to be consulted on; all take place 6.30-8.00pm:

26 April	Stockbridge Library, Hamilton Pl.	Inverleith
27th	Oxgangs Library, Oxgangs Rd	Pentlands
28th	St Brides Centre, Orwell Terr	South West
29th	Northfield/W'brae Comm Centre, N'field Rd Craigentiny/Dudd'n	
4h May	St Ninian's Church, St Johns Rd	Western
5 May	Davidsons Mains Ch, Quality St	Almond
12 May	Portobello Library, Rosefield Ave	PB, Craigmillar
12 May	Telford College, W Granton Rd	Forth
19 May	Gilmerton Comm Centre, Drum St	Liberton, Gilmerton

Unfortunately we've already missed South Central, City Centre, and Leith, but we can still submit comments anyway.

The doc has some very good specific proposals, such as:  
a new route from Roseburn to the Union Canal via Dalry Park;  
Canal to Morningside from Colinton Rd to Maxwell St along the South Sub railway route; Niddrie Burn restoration for route from RIE to Jack Kane Centre;  
Improvements to R Almond route; and  
an opening at western entrance to Port Edgar.

Please mention these good points when commenting.

My view is that we should ask for improvements to all cyclable routes which are possible commuter routes - to encourage cycling generally, and to meet the Charter of Brussels commitment of 15% modal share by 2020. Several existing routes only have metalled surfaces, so are unsuitable for all-year commuting because they get muddy in wet conditions. We need black-top.

From the Spokes map and my own experience, I have identified the following, which you could mention (area in brackets, if you can go to the workshops):

Kingsknowe - Balerno old rail path; serves commuters from Colinton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno (South West);

Water of Leith path from Baird Drive to Roseburn Park (South West);

Hermitage of Braid from Visitor Centre to Blackford Glen Rd (Liberton/Gilmerton);

Brunstane Station to B'stane Mill Rd (along Brunstane Burn) (Craightinny/Dudd'n);

'Sewage Works' path at Seafield Rd (PB/Craigmillar);

Newbridge-Kirkliston-Dalmeny old rail path (Almond).

Online comments can be sent to:

[openspacestrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:openspacestrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Deadline 21st May.

Peter