

SPOKES, The Lothian Cycle Campaign, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG ☎ 0131.313.2114  
[This is a postal address / answerphone - SPOKES is a voluntary body with no staff] www.spokes.org.uk spokes@spokes.org.uk

### 96% of Spokes members say YES to Edinburgh's plan for Transport Investment & Congestion Charging

Edinburgh City Council has sensational support from Spokes's 1200 members in its brave plans for a safer, cleaner city, more space for walking, cycling, buses, taxis and trams, and less domination by private cars. Even members outside the city, despite negative campaigns by some of those councils, show a stunning 89% in favour, recognising that Edinburgh's plans will bring a far wider benefit, with transport investment across the region, and reduced congestion for private and commercial motorists still needing to drive into the city in rush hours. Without the proposals, congestion is set to rise rapidly as traffic grows.



Conservative leader David McLetchie opposes Edinburgh's Transport Initiative - and upsets Santa!

In our survey, members cited economic and public health benefits, the hugely successful London example, and the fact that £2 (weekdays only) is low compared to the overall cost of owning a motor vehicle. The package will also help councils achieve CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goals. Mankind is in danger of unleashing huge natural forces through climate change, "*the greatest environmental threat facing us all*" [Prof Curran, Spokes 89], yet transport emissions are rising fast.

Support was not uncritical, however, with some wanting assurance of better public transport and cycle facilities in advance, and others questioning how the income would be spent. Such criticisms are answered in the 2004 independent public inquiry report - see [www.transport-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.transport-edinburgh.org.uk).

#### MORE ATTENTION URGED FOR CYCLING

However the inquiry report did support one concern of members, that too little revenue might go to walking and cycling: "*The indicative figure of £13m for cycling networks and promotion for Edinburgh is very small ... and there is no specific provision for improved cycling facilities elsewhere in Sustran area.*" Although £13m (over 20 years) is a big increase on now, total available transport investment from charging in the same period is projected as £760m. London, in comparison, is funding £12m of cycle

projects in 2004 alone, rising each year to £30m in 2009.

There is every hope we can get the £13m substantially raised, since the inquiry recommends the proposals are revised to realise the full potential of "non-motorised transport modes." Transport supremo Cllr Andrew Burns confirmed to Spokes that such details are only preliminary - refined proposals will be sent to the Minister. *We urge readers to raise this with councillors during the campaign and after the referendum - if it is successful!*

Even before any investment, lower motor traffic will help cycling, walking, buses and taxis, usage of which all rose in London. Cycling, for example, grew over 20% in the first year - along with *reduced* cycle injuries [increasing bike use is probably the best way to improve safety - see Spokes 87, p7].

A YES vote is vital not just to Edinburgh's future but also to sustainable transport throughout Britain. Many cities are now looking to Edinburgh's referendum. If it fails politicians elsewhere will lack the courage to try anything similar for years - whereas a yes vote could trigger new progress in sustainable transport across the UK.

*Spokes urges readers to play an active part in ensuring a YES vote in the referendum !!*

#### THINGS YOU CAN DO...

- ☞ Go to [www.getedinburghmoving.org](http://www.getedinburghmoving.org) to help and to join the mailing list of the voluntary support group.
- ☞ See the official support group [www.yestoedinburgh.org](http://www.yestoedinburgh.org).
- ☞ Put a poster in your window. Spokes members have already received posters - phone 664.0526 for more.
- ☞ Talk to friends and colleagues; get them to vote.
- ☞ Respond to articles or letters you disagree with in the Evening News, Scotsman, etc - put the positive case!

#### Inside: Black cycle lanes / Bikes and tram

#### BIKES AT NUMBER ONE!!

- ⚙ The **Sustrans Network** has been voted top lottery-funded project for public impact. [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)
- ⚙ The **Bicycle** has been voted top British invention of the last 250 years - The Times, readers' poll.
- ⚙ **Waverley Station**, nominated by Spokes, has won top bike-rail station 2004 thanks to its housing of the Bike Station, improved bike parking, cycle noticeboard, etc.

#### WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

- ⚙ "A brilliant questionnaire - I congratulate Spokes on their excellence as a witty, efficient, cheerful pressure group," Spokes member, replying to survey [see p2].
- ⚙ "I've just received the latest issue of Spokes- very useful information as always," Glasgow City cycle officer.

*And thanks from Spokes to all of you who write to MSPs, councillors, etc. We'd truly achieve a lot less without you!*

**Help SPOKES, other cyclists, and yourself by writing to your MSP, MP, councillor and the press every so often. See back page for contacts. Ask your MSP / MP to raise your questions with the relevant minister. Send us the results!!**

## MEMBERS' SURVEY

We surveyed members to ascertain views on controversial issues. With 144 replies so far it's great to see them very much in line with how Spokes centrally has been lobbying.

The results will encourage us to continue along the same lines - but we very much urge *you* to play *your own part* by contacting your councillor on any of the points that particularly concern you. *If councillors also have to reply to individual members of the public it hugely helps Spokes.*

Below also are all **comments** made on at least 5 forms [the number is shown] plus one or two imaginative other points!

**q1 TRANSPORT EDINBURGH** [charging + investment]

8 Significant income must go to cycle/walk provision

6 More alternatives should be in place before charging

**q2 RED SURFACING FOR CYCLE LANES/ASLS**

9 Much clearer for motorists and all road users

6 Makes for greater safety

5 Inconsistency is confusing to road users, so hazardous

3 The aim is to enhance our auld heritage, so remove bus stops, drains, etc, and make traffic lights shades of grey!

**q3/4/5 TRAMS AND BIKES**

*Note: 95% support tram if bike facilities largely preserved/enhanced, but falls to ~50% if Princes St cycle lanes disappear or North Edinburgh Network cut. Different people were concerned about onroad and offroad - so overall concern is well over 50% considering both issues.*

10 At-grade road crossings of North Ed path unacceptable

10 Princes Street facilities must be improved, not lessened

6 North Edinburgh network an excellent facility

6 Tram is very expensive - better to improve buses

6 Tram is vital, even at expense of some cycle facilities

5 Princes Street needs Dutch-style or central cycle lane

Questions [Notes.. (a) questions below are slightly shortened. (b) %'s exclude don't knows - not more than 10 in any qn]	Strong support	Slight support	Slight oppose	Strong oppose	% yes % no
1. Do you support the council's 'Transport Edinburgh' initiative, comprising congestion charging and transport investment - mainly public transport, cycling, walking?	123	14	2	4	96% 4%
2. Do you feel cycle lanes and advanced stop lines should continue to have red surfacing? [see p1/p7 of Spokes 89]?	123	17	2	2	97% 3%
3. Do you support trams, assuming Princes Street cycle lanes remain, maximum possible consideration for cyclists onroad elsewhere, and the North Edinburgh offroad path remains reasonably level and 3m+ wide (narrower at some bridges)?	Please read q3-5 before answering any of them				
	115	18	5	2	95% 5%
4. Do you support trams if North Edinburgh offroad path rises to road level at some bridges, with light-controlled road crossings, but Princes Street & elsewhere onroad remain as in q3?	22	52	42	18	55% 45%
5. Do you support trams if Princes St cycle lanes are removed but N. Edinburgh path, and onroad elsewhere, stay as in q3?	25	45	35	32	51% 49%

## OTHER CAMPAIGNS

*See p4 for how to contact councillors & MSPs...*

☸ Our survey shows huge backing for the fight [Spokes 89] to maintain **red surfacing in cycle lanes and ASLS**. Coloured surfacing has two benefits. It encourages more people to cycle - e.g. *"I wouldn't have taken up cycling to work but for the increasing number and visibility of cycle lanes"* [Ed Uni staff member]. A new report also finds increased "perceived levels of safety" from bus/ cycle lanes like Edinburgh Greenways [LTT 16.12.04, TRL610]. Second, coloured surfacing cuts motor vehicle encroachment [Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/96]. In response to one constituent, **Cllr Allan Jackson** [Tory Transport spokesperson] has ascertained that a final decision will be taken by councillors - so if you haven't yet asked your councillor for support, please do so now!!

☸ We are delighted to report that **Tram** promoters TIE have prepared drawings confirming that, as originally promised, **North Edinburgh path** will be maintained with no road crossings. Width will be 3m at all bridges except Telford Road [2m]. However, there is still no guarantee a **Princes Street** cycle facility will remain - although this concerned even more members in our survey [above]. Several respondents also said that with the Street being entirely redesigned for the tram there should be scope for a central or Dutch-style path. **We urge you to contact councillors about Princes Street** - removal of a through cycle facility would be disastrous.

☸ Spokes is urging Edinburgh Council (or the regional transport body Sustran) to apply to the government Integrated Transport Fund for a major project of **high-quality links between Edinburgh and surrounding areas**. The Fund is for large-scale projects, and thanks to Spokes the Minister has confirmed this covers major cycle infrastructure [Spokes 89]. Since launching our campaign, members have written in support, telling of the terrible provision at roads such as the **A90** [cycling to be banned], **A8** [very poor alternative, "appalling indictment"] and **A71** [no path, "horribly narrow main road"]. **If you would be helped by such a project, contact your councillor asking them to investigate with their council's transport department.** Also copy your letter to Spokes and Edinburgh Transport boss Cllr Andrew Burns.

☸ **Parking in cycle lanes** is a continuing bugbear, but we have had more complaints about **the route to the New Infirmary**, Old Dalkeith Rd out to Fernieside, than any other. Many health workers use this fast, uphill road, with sun in their eyes at some times of the year. There is no need for local parking on most of the route, and Spokes has written seeking double yellow lines. **If you use the road, ask your councillor to lobby for this.**

☸ The Scottish Executive is consulting on what more must be done about **climate change** [end date 25 Feb]. We have again seen the power of natural forces, so this is very timely. Transport is far behind in reducing CO2 emissions [Spokes 89]. For the consultation document see [www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations) or phone 225.7815.

## THEY SAY ... VOTE YES TO TRANSPORT EDINBURGH

"I am a cyclist, car and public-transport user, and a pedestrian. The number of cars in Edinburgh *must* be reduced, and cycling facilities improved."

**Peter Glissov, Spokes member, Edinburgh**

"As a West Lothian resident, I am hugely in favour of the congestion charging plan ... I feel that the benefits to West Lothian residents are not being made clear by our council."

**Iona Evans, Spokes member, Stoneyburn**

"The City has a tremendous problem and the Council is actively trying to tackle it ... I think what they are doing is all positive ... it's something which is going to help."

**Sir Tom Farmer, owner of Autocare Garages**

"It's hard to recall the huge speculation and predictions of dire consequences before the introduction of London's charging scheme." ... "Doing nothing is not an option ... Go to the U.S ... 10-lane highways clogged with cars and lorries, at huge cost to the environment and quality of life"

**Alistair Darling, UK Transport Secretary, Edinburgh Central MP, former Edinburgh Transport convener**

[We compliment the Minister on admitting his mistakes - prior to Ken Livingstone's brave and successful initiative Mr Darling was highly critical in public, making its introduction yet more difficult].

## COUNCIL LEADER SPEAKS

Spokes has in the past criticised Edinburgh Council leader **Cllr Donald Anderson** for calling car-free day a gimmick [Spokes 88]\* but we can now only be impressed by the forthright way he is championing the Transport Initiative - despite the initial scepticism of some Labour councillors.

Cllr Anderson said that despite a major independent public inquiry, "*No viable alternative to congestion charging has come forward - simply because there is none. ... The plans have something for everyone. Car owners will spend less time in traffic, giving more time for family, friends and other interests. The 40% of households without cars will have greater freedom with faster, more frequent connections. Pensioners and students, heavily reliant on public transport, will enjoy a superior bus network. We will all benefit from cleaner air, fewer accidents and a more pleasant environment to walk, shop, work and cycle.*"

[[www.yestoedinburgh.com](http://www.yestoedinburgh.com), PO Box 28770 EH13 0AX]



\*As regards carfree day, we were delighted that in a recent Leader's report Cllr Anderson said, "*We will consider how we participate in European Car Free Day in future, and are aware that whatever we do we will be attacked by the Conservatives. However, it would be a backwards step if we did nothing ... and I believe that what has been achieved already can be built on.*"

"The London congestion charging scheme has seen a 20% increase in cycling levels ... we expect to see a similar positive effect on walking and cycling in Edinburgh ... We also badly need a farsighted council to lead the way in providing solutions to ease traffic congestion ... Should the referendum fail, similar innovative transport improvements are likely to be set back throughout the UK."

**John Grimshaw, Sustrans Chief Executive**

"The University would benefit from a less congested city and acknowledges why the City is promoting congestion charging as a component in containing traffic problems."

"I am delighted at the route chosen for tramline 3 from Waverley Station. This will greatly assist communications between the University central area, Kings Buildings and Little France [the new Infirmary]. It will be a vital plank in our ambitious plans for the Biomedical Research Park at Little France. I understand tramline 3 is largely to be funded by ... the congestion charging scheme."

**Prof Tim O'Shea, Principal, Edinburgh University**

"Business is reluctant to be drawn into public controversy ... but most businesses I have spoken to support the strategy including congestion charging ... If they go to London for meetings they see how congestion charging has freed the streets, making travel easier and reducing business costs. ... Business must stand up and be counted."

**Shonaig Macpherson, vice president British Chamber of Commerce, supporter of [www.yestoedinburgh.com](http://www.yestoedinburgh.com).**

## THE LONDON STORY...

*Before congestion charging ... 40% support, 40% against.*

*After 6 months ... 60% support, 25% against.*

*One year... Ken Livingstone re-elected Mayor of London, with a higher vote. His rival had opposed the scheme.*

## THE WEST LOTHIAN STORY...

West Lothian Council has been reported to Audit Scotland by West Lothian resident and Spokes activist Dave du Feu, for misuse of public funds in their campaign and proposed referendum on congestion charging. Government circular SDD 16/88 says that publicity about the policies of another council must be "*objective, balanced and informative.*"

However West Lothian talks only of the charging and omits the benefits to local residents. They don't mention the overall transport initiative, of which charging is just one side, and their referendum question covers charging only. As a result, many people think all the income will go into Edinburgh's coffers - whereas in fact the total paid by West Lothian residents will go to local transport initiatives. Other benefits include less congestion for those still driving into rush-hour Edinburgh (there is daily and growing time-loss already), and a cleaner more accessible city for those travelling there for work, shops, hospitals or entertainment.

[phone 01506.670165 for correspondence and local benefits list].

## THE LIBDEM MYSTERY...

Regrettably, Transport Edinburgh is opposed by LibDem councillors, denting their credibility as an environmentally brave party. However, Edinburgh's backers include the **University LibDems**, who branded LibDem councillors as foolish and opportunistic, LibDem Transport Minister **Nicol Stephen MSP**, and former LibDem national officer **Denis Sullivan** who now directs [www.yestoedinburgh.com](http://www.yestoedinburgh.com)! Perhaps most telling is that LibDem-controlled **Cardiff City Council** is now considering a congestion-charging scheme almost identical to Edinburgh's! [LTT 7.10.04]

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Spokes Sunday Rides** [www.snowcycle.co.uk](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073. Usually 1st Sun of month. Meet 10am, Usher Hall, Lothian Rd. Fairly gentle rides, 30-40 miles. Lunch at pub/café, or picnic. Showers won't stop us, but real bad weather may cause cancellation. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy, and aim for a fantastic time! **You must ensure your bike is working well, and ride considerately and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your safety.** If under 14 or unused to roads you must come with an adult. *Dates:* Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, June 5.

**Easy Rides** usually 15-20 miles on paths & quiet roads, Sat 10-3, roughly monthly. [Chris.Pearson@bcs.org.uk](mailto:Chris.Pearson@bcs.org.uk) 343.2520.

**Spokes Cycle W'ends** not in winter [Paul.McGuire@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.McGuire@ed.ac.uk).

**Feb 8 The Second Forth Road Bridge** - official speaker.

**Mar 8 First ScotRail** - performance and plans so far.

**Apr 12 TransDev** - how the Edinburgh trams will operate.

*All 3 above meetings are by Capital Rail Action Group, at City Chambers, High St, 7.30 [coffee from 7pm]. 558.8042.*

**Apr 14 Designing for Cyclists - New Perspectives** day conference, Nottingham University 0115.951.4132.

**Apr 22 Scottish Transport Policy** day seminar by Scottish Transport Studies Group [£175]. A Spokes rep is on the closing panel discussion. [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com) 0131.272.2116. [similar seminars Glasgow Mar 11, Inness Mar 18, Perth Apr 15].

**May 31-Jun 2 Velo-City International Cycle Conference**, Dublin. 'Delivering the Vision' [www.velo-city2005.com](http://www.velo-city2005.com).

**June 11-19 National Bike Week** [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)

**June 25 St Andrews Ride** [www.lepra.org.uk](http://www.lepra.org.uk)

**July 18-22 Towards Carfree Cities** conference/AGM, Budapest. [www.worldcarfree.net/conference](http://www.worldcarfree.net/conference).

**Apr-Oct Perth & Kinross Cycling Summer** 01738.476515

## SUSTRANS NEWS

□ Sustrans Scotland is *still* not certain of its normal 'end-of-year' cycle project funding, though it seems likely. The Spokes funding survey [Spokes 89] identified last year's £2.5m on 50 schemes as extremely effective - every penny goes to cycle projects (unlike some other funding methods) and Minister **Nicol Stephen** called the work "high standard, on budget and in tight timescales" [SE5.7.04]. Thus we are amazed the Executive is so tardy with this year's money and **we urge Sustrans supporters to ask their MSP to improve procedures next year.** If this year's money is approved, a list of all projects will be published in Spokesworker, but local schemes include route leaflets, a full survey for Rodney St tunnel path, and path upgrades at Haymarket, Brunstane, Coburg St, Smeaton, Almondell, Dalmeny (lighting).

□ Sustrans Scotland **Active Travel Project** is distributing *Active Travel News* and *Safe Routes to Healthcare*. Contact [activetravelscotland@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:activetravelscotland@sustrans.org.uk).

□ See p1 for **National Cycle Network** voted number 1.

**"I'm interested in joining SPOKES. Please send an application form, and recent issues of SPOKES"**

Post this to: **SPOKES, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG.**

**Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope [9"x4" if possible].**

Please enter your name, address, postcode...

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

<b>H</b>	The Herald	<b>LTT</b>	Local Transport Today
<b>G</b>	The Guardian	<b>TIE</b>	Transport Initiatives Edin

## ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

**Cycle training:** 0141.229.5359 [training@scottishcycling.co.uk](mailto:training@scottishcycling.co.uk).

**Traveline Scotland:** rail, bus, ferry info [to include cycle aspects and cyclemap leaflets?] 0870.608.2608 [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk).

**Potholes, glass on cycleroutes, broken lights, etc anywhere in Lothian [including Edinburgh], or Falkirk District:** [Use number on nearest lamp-post to report exact location]. Phone 0800.232323; Or see [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) - transport -Clarence.

**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]:** Rapid Response 0808.100.3366

**Smoky vehicles hotline:** 0870.606.0440.

**Taxis:** The Inspector, 33 Murrayburn Rd EH14 2TF. 529.5800.

**Drink-driving, speeding, driving whilst disqualified, and other road crime:** Freephone Crimestoppers 0800.555.111.

**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 020.8964.1021

## LOTHIAN POLITICIANS

**Write to your area MSP or Lothians List (2<sup>nd</sup> vote) MSPs at:** Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. 0131.348.5000.

**or email:** [firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk). For example, [Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Sarah.Boyack.MSP@scottish.parliament.uk).

### LABOUR

Sarah Boyack, Ed Central

Susan Deacon, Ed East

Malcolm Chisholm, Ed North

Mary Mulligan, Linlithgow

Bristow Muldoon, Livingston

Rhona Brankin, Midlothian

John Home Robertson, E Lothian

### CONSERVATIVE

David McLetchie, Pentlands

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, List

### LIBDEM

Mike Pringle, Ed South

Margaret Smith, Ed West

### GREEN

Robin Harper, List

Mark Ballard, List

SNP Fiona Hyslop, List

Kenny MacAskill, List

### INDEPENDENT

Margo MacDonald, List

SSPColin Fox, List

**To find name/address/email of your Westminster MP...**

[www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm) 020.7219.3000.

**To find name/address/email of your local councillor...**

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) 0131.529.3186

**Write to councillors at:** City Chambers, High St, EH1 1YJ.

**Email councillors as:** [firstname.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk) e.g.

[Andrew.Burns@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Burns@edinburgh.gov.uk)

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk) 01620.827827

[www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) 0131.270.7500

[www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk) 01506.775000

**Europe:** [www.europe.org.uk/info](http://www.europe.org.uk/info) or [politics.guardian.co.uk/eu](http://politics.guardian.co.uk/eu)

**Sestran:** Cllr Russell Imrie, c/o Midlothian Council [above]

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*Members who receive a renewal form with this mailing must return it to renew for 2005, even if there are no changes.*

*Members not receiving a renewal form are up to date for 2005.*

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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