

SPOKES

Bulletin 95 Late 2006

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

LOOKING GOOD!!

2006 has been a fantastic year for Spokes, with three big achievements - at national, regional and local level. Each took great effort, but will get lots more people onto bikes in coming months and years. We're helping towards a healthier population and lower CO₂ emissions - though far more is needed for the future of the planet and its people.

Here is what Spokes and our members achieved in 2006...

- ✧ A huge advance in Sustrans Scotland funding. Early this year Spokes exposed an impending crash in Scottish cycle projects - due partly to a savage Sustrans cut by Lib Dem Transport Minister **Tavish Scott** from £3.5m in 04/05 to a mere £2m in 05/06. Our intense campaign helped inspire a LDem conference motion seeking more Sustrans funds [Spokes 94 p7]. Shortly after, Mr Scott unveiled the best Sustrans deal ever! - £4m at once for 06/07 plus £4m pledged for 07/08, at last enabling proper future planning. We could hardly have devised a better deal ourselves! There are also recent hints that the LD conference motion may inspire exciting *Holyrood manifesto* commitments.
- ✧ Big SESTRAN funds for quality cycle routes between Edinburgh and nearby areas. Spokes has lobbied hard for commuting routes on vital corridors such as the A8, A90 and A71 [Spokes 93, 91]. Edinburgh, Mid and West Lothian then applied to Regional Transport Partnership SESTRAN, and were granted significant funds for 06/07 and 07/08 [Spokes 94 p1,7]. Without doubt your letters about these routes helped SESTRAN take this seriously.
- ✧ A reversal of Edinburgh Council's ban on coloured city centre cycle facilities. This story does not end until the Streetscape Manual's final version. However, the Planning Committee decided red surfaces could be used meantime, and Convenor Cllr **Trevor Davies** said the manual should allow colour "on main traffic routes like Lothian Rd and Princes St" though not the Royal Mile or the new Castle Street - a sentiment we fully support. Since then, Potterrow has been resurfaced - though not yet the biggest safety-need location, the Mound [see p3].
- ✧ On top of these lobbying feats, 2006 saw big growth in cycle promotion. TryCycling in Edinburgh had a great public response [p2]; thousands of Spokes maps are selling; the Bike Station is so popular that 100 people turned up one Saturday to buy refurbished bikes; and Lothian Rd peak-hour traffic is now about 10% bike!

Our three big wins relied heavily on the many personal letters to politicians from ordinary cyclists - so if you wrote, thanks! Your letters and emails, personal views and experiences, combined with intense Spokes lobbying and research, really help politicians understand the issues.

If you're not yet a Spokes member - please join us. Discover the issues where your letter can tip the balance - don't leave it to someone else! Politicians do listen to a strong case backed by letters from concerned citizens.

...BUT IT'S NOT ALL ROSY

- ⊗ Despite our Sustrans success, total cycle spending is still falling as a percent of Scottish transport funds [p7].
 - ⊗ Not all Scottish transport partnerships take such an enlightened view of cycling as does SESTRAN [p7].
 - ⊗ Some councils in our area are installing more and more pinch-points, one of the worst features for a cyclist [p3].
- Please write about these issues!! - see articles inside for info

Holyrood Hustings 21 November
 Spokes autumn public meeting - see page 2



Commuters - like these, with Lothian MSP **Robin Harper** at TryCycling's commuter challenge - and families like below - all will benefit from the new Sustrans & SESTRAN money.



LOCAL 06/07 PROJECTS OVER £100K

- £ A8 path surfacing [fuller A8 path improvement in 07/08]
 - \$ New Water of Leith bridge, path upgrade to Curriehill Station, then signed to Riccarton via Curriehill Rd
 - £\$ Canal surfacing, city to Wester Hailes
 - # Surfacing Jewel-Asda-Newcraighall Rd path [in future also offroad link to Newcraighall and Musselburgh]
 - \$ Start work on Rodney Street cycle tunnel
 - £ Eskbank-Dalkeith-Gorebridge path upgrade/completion
 - £ Midlothian path to Millerhill and Queen Marg campus [more major projects are funded for 07/08 from sources \$ and £ below, plus others nearby in Fife, Falkirk, Borders, Clackmannan]
- KEY...
- \$ Funded by the new Sustrans money - see main article
 - £ Funded by SESTRAN money - see main article
 - # Other funding - developers and CWSS money

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!!

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

G The Guardian SH Sunday Herald
SE Scottish Executive LTT Local Transport Today

FOR YOUR DIARY

ON ALL RIDES: Please ride considerably and carefully. And you are entirely responsible for your own safety.

Spokes Sunday Rides - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!'
Usually 1st Sun of month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike must be in good order. If under 14 you must come with an adult. www.snowcycle.co.uk stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.
Dates: Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4.

Easy Rides Usually 15-20 miles on paths & quiet roads, some Saturdays 10-3. Mike Lewis 343.2520.

V. Easy Rides Usually 5-15 miles, paths, quiet roads. 10am last Sun of month www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk 558.2647

Go Bike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign rides. 1st Sunday + some others. www.gobike.org 07932.460093 info@gobike.org.

Edinburgh cycling events www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk

Oct 16-Nov 4 Stop Climate Chaos and the Botanics have organised an amazing program of expert talks, top speakers and family events, leading up to 4 Nov. Details: 311.6512 www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org. See p6 for more on climate.

Nov 4 Climate Change Global Day of Action to mark the international climate meeting. www.globalclimatecampaign.org

Oct 23-29 Energy Efficiency Week www.est.org.uk.

Nov 2,9,23,30 Making Cycling Mainstream professional development workshops. www.cyclingscotland.org.

Nov 11 Access Volunteers Workshop Stirling 01577.861222

Nov 14 Stirling-Alloa rail project progress report: a chance to ask about bike carriage/parking! CRAG meeting, City Chambers, 7.30, coffee at 7pm. 558.8042, Patrick Hutton.

Nov 16 Cycling Scotland Conference Edinburgh EICC. "Integrating cycling into the wider transport network." Main speaker: Minister **Tavish Scott**. info@cyclingscotland.org.

Nov 21 Spokes Public Meeting - Holyrood Hustings - Cycling in Transport Policy. All parties represented at Holyrood have been invited to speak and answer questions. **Help influence party manifestos for the 2007 elections!** St George's West Church, Shandwick Place, 7.30, open 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat. [More info: jackieh@waitrose.com](mailto:jackieh@waitrose.com).

Donald Anderson Lab, Ed South candidate, was council leader

Mark Ballard Green, List MSP for the Lothians

David Davidson Conservative, MSP, Transport Spokesperson

Fergus Ewing SNP, MSP, Transport Spokesperson

Mike Pringle LibDem, MSP for Edinburgh South

Nov 27 Future Energy Supply: will Peak Oil spark a global crisis? conference www.depletion-scotland.org.uk.

Dec 12 Airdrie-Bathgate rail project Details as Nov 14. **Note:** Sadly, Spokes had to object to the A-B Bill. It omits walk/cycle access to stations, and the replacement Airdrie-Bathgate path is poor. Peterhawk@care4free.net 443.6712.

Jan 7 Transport Strategies & Plans for Edinburgh Area Neil Renilson, Transport Edinburgh Ltd. Details as Nov 14.

Feb 13 SESTRAN Regional Transp. Strategy As Nov 14.

Mar 13 First ScotRail achievements/aspirations As Nov 14
2007: Velo-City Conference, Munich www.velo-city2007.com.

SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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CYCLING RECIPES

Not only are they great route-builders, but first prize in our competition went to **Sustrans Scotland** office staff. Marks went to transportable, healthy, simple, cheap and low-food-miles recipes, but above all for an enthusiastic description.

The **Sustrans Scotland Super-Snack** needs no work till you stop at a local shop to buy a roll, cheese, tomato, fruit, choc and cake. Shove these into your pannier, then at 1pm find a suitable bench or log on which to sit and enjoy!

More conventionally, **Christine Thompson** was 2nd with her **Snack Attack Brack**. Briefly, soak 500g dried fruit and 1 cup brown sugar overnight in a cup of black tea. Next day, mix well with 2 cups SR flour and 1 beaten egg, pour into a well-greased loaf-tin, and bake 1.5-2 hours on middle shelf at 150C [gas 3] till firm and skewer test is clean.

Other prizewinners were...

3 **Mike Lewis - 20-mile muffins** [energy for 20 miles!]

4 **Audrey Fyfe - Scottish energy bars** [oats-based]

5=**Veronica Gallagher - Porridge, raisins and honey**

5=**Mark James - Banana muffins** [no eggs so even vegans ok]

We hope to publish a booklet of best recipes - free to all members in the hope of doubling your commuting potential!

Our thanks to everyone who donated prizes...

www.kalpnarestaurant.com Indian vegetarian 0131.667.9890

www.engineshed.org.uk/cafe.htm vegetarian café 662.0040

www.filmhousecinema.com 228.2688

www.s-luca.co.uk Quality local ice cream 446.0233

101 Bike Routes in Scotland signed, author Harry Henniker

We welcome your ideas for an imaginative 2007 comp!!

CYCLING ONLINE

[Other useful and interesting websites were in Spokes 93]

www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk New local rides site

cyclinginedinburgh.info Excellent local news website/blog

www.cycle-route.com UK bike route database - add yours!

www.carplus.org.uk Encouraging car clubs and car sharing

www.carfree.org.uk Transport experts seeking carfree towns

www.whycycle.co.uk Jargon-free advice for new cyclists.

www.cockburnassociation.org.uk Local planning issues.

Autoholics Anonymous UK Humorous approach to wear people off car-addiction. [Stephan at web@worldcarfree.net](mailto:Stephan@worldcarfree.net).

LOCAL BIKE PROMOTION

Over the summer **TryCyclinginEdinburgh** brought cycling to events attended by over 400,000 people, from the Festival Cavalcade, with almost 100 cyclists of all types, to bike try-outs, Spokes maps and advice at local community festivals.

Edinburgh's TCIE-organised first-ever **Bike Film Festival** was a huge success, with several sell-outs and films moved to larger screens. TCIE's monthly very-easy **try-out social rides** attracted many people, aged 3 to 72, and averaging 40.

Edinburgh Council is rightly so impressed that a top-up grant has been awarded. The combination of the council's on- & off-road infrastructure with TCIE's passionate promotion is having a real impact on cycling in the city, and we congratulate organiser **Maggie Wynn** and all volunteers.

More info: www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk

The **Bike Station** continues to recycle 100's of bikes, is now an accredited cycle-training centre, and often works with TCIE on bike promotion. See p6 for new BS contact details.

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members whose mailing includes a renewal form haven't yet rejoined for 2006 according to our records. Please do now! Up-to-date members will receive a renewal form in February.

LOCAL NEWS

If anything on this page concerns you, please contact your local councillor [contact details p8]. For Edinburgh, also copy to transport boss Cllr Ricky Henderson.

STOP PINCHING!!

Perhaps the most awful pinch points we have ever seen have been installed by E.Loithian Council, in long stretches on the A199 near the racecourse and on nearby B6454 Pinkie Rd. Most of the A199 gaps are 3.45m wide - bang in the middle of the 3.1-3.9m range which is worst for cyclists, according to the Institution of Highway Guidelines, *Cycle Friendly Infrastructure*. Being a fairly fast main road, some motorists brake sharply, whilst others try to shoot past. So bad is Pinkie Road that buses were seen using the wrong side of the islands to get past a group of cyclists! A council letter to Spokes stated a full safety audit had *not* been done. They "fully support" the official guidance on cycling but say that, taking account of everything, it cannot always be followed!

If you cycle here please contact the council Environment Convener, Cllr Norman Hampshire [John Muir House, Haddington EH41 3HA nhampshire@eastlothian.gov.uk].

Central island pinch points are a well-known cause of fear and danger to cyclists. Very few cyclists die on the roads - but a Midlothian death in recent years occurred when a van cut in at a pinch point. Elsewhere, compensation has been paid to cyclists injured at such schemes. Their design, especially on less-wide roads, often totally ignores official and professional guidance about cyclists. Moreover a council could be liable if a central pinch prevents a motorist passing a cyclist in the safe manner shown in the Highway Code.

The best solution is no central islands; but where one is deemed essential for a pedestrian-crossing the guidance says a cycle lane 'should' be provided so motorists realise they are encroaching where cyclists may be. Midlothian did this years ago at the A701 Milton Bridge [photo]. We are told complaints then virtually ceased - and cyclists lobbied for similar arrangements at Bilston and other A701 islands.



Councils in our area have differing attitudes to central-island pinch points. In Edinburgh every new traffic scheme is audited against their *Cycle Friendly Design Guide*, which should prevent the worst cases. Other councils use islands if there is a clear pedestrian-crossing need, but not otherwise, whilst others seem to use them for general traffic-calming! A Spokes letter to West Lothian Council on pinch-points, quoting cycle engineers and official guidance, is available at www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - submissions. See also www.thebikezone.org.uk/thebikezone/campaigning/pinchpoints.html.

If central-island pinch-points endanger you - in any council area - write to your councillor. And please send us the reply, so we can build up local evidence.

COLOURED SURFACING

Despite the Planning Committee decision [p1], and although several central-area lanes have now been resurfaced, the worst case of central-area deterioration and danger, The Mound, is untouched! The pictures speak for themselves. *If this concerns you, please contact your councillor.*



Note: The Napier University research project showing car violation of black cycle and bus lanes to be 5 times worse than for coloured is now at www.spokes.org.uk [in downloads - technical]. And for the overwhelming public consultation response, see Spokes Bulletin 93 p3 [in downloads - Bulletins].

BIKE PARKING

Edinburgh has a good record on cycle routes and lanes - at least compared to other councils - but has been very remiss on parking. Yet who will cycle from A to B if there's nowhere safe to keep your bike at B? - or even at A!!

Some years ago Leith/Southside/Straiton Bus Corridor had a full parking audit, and 100's of Sheffield racks were fitted. These were hugely welcomed and are heavily used, greatly benefiting local shops. But apart from that one-off scheme, street bike parking gets far too little attention. For example while we support guardrail removal, the council refuses to recognise its major bike parking role, so now many shopping areas are denuded of convenient places to lock your bike. Princes Street in particular brings continual complaint.

The new Council **Parking Strategy** [Spokes 93] largely continues the pattern, though the Council rejected our idea to more correctly name it 'Car-Parking Strategy!' Parking is also a major issue in our comments on the **Local Plan** and **Local Transport Strategy** [www.spokes.org.uk - downloads].

As for **domestic parking**, the Council's tenement parking experiment has taken several years to get not far. And while the Council tries to insist on bike parking in new flats, the need for time-consuming officer-attention too often means actual schemes have major flaws. Edinburgh Central MSP Sarah Boyack, commenting on Edinburgh Local Plan, tells of constituents buying flats 'with bike parking' only for it to be shared, or off-site, or even not to materialise at all!

However, the new Parking Strategy does promise some change, and a shopping-area bike-parking audit has begun. Please suggest shopping-area Sheffield rack sites to Caroline.Burwell@edinburgh.gov.uk [copy to Spokes].

Sustrans Scotland ... GET1

Our vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment.

We are the charity behind a series of practical and innovative solutions to some of the UK's biggest transport challenges. Sustrans Scotland is based in Edinburgh and employs 14 people working on a variety of projects throughout Scotland.

Scottish Executive funding

The Scottish Executive's Transport Group is providing £4 million funding to Sustrans for the development of the National Cycle Network (NCN) in both 2006–07 and 2007–08. We are managing a number of projects ourselves, but the majority of the funding will go to a variety of partnership projects across Scotland. We have agreed with the Executive key criteria for projects. Where appropriate, they must:

- Assist in the completion of the NCN
- Link into traffic generators, particularly schools, and offer people alternatives to help tackle the 38% of journeys under two miles that are made by car. (National Travel Survey 2005)
- Take forward feasibility and design studies previously funded by the Executive

Edinburgh and Lothians projects

Spokes members may be interested in a number of projects being taken forward across the Lothians in 2006-08 using the Scottish Executive funding:

- Link between Currie High School and the Union Canal including a new bridge over the Water of Leith
- Improvements to the Union Canal towpath from Ashley Terrace to Wester Hailes, Edinburgh
- Continued work aimed at re-opening the Rodney Street Tunnel on NCN 75 between Broughton Road and Scotland Street, Edinburgh

Upgrades or improvements to the routes between:

- Inverkeithing and St Davids Harbour in Fife
- Roslin and Loanhead in Midlothian
- Cramond and South Queensferry through Dalmeny Estate (part of the Round the Forth route)

There are also various route upgrades and construction works on the Round the Forth route in other council areas.

With funds from SESTRAN (the Regional Transport Partnership for SE Scotland) we are working with Midlothian Council on a new traffic-free path from Dalkeith to Gorebridge to replace paths that will be lost when the Waverley rail line re-opens.

Further afield, we are hoping to begin development of a traffic-free path from Oban to Fort William (NCN 78) in 2007–08.

For more information contact Sustrans Scotland Director:
john.lauder@sustrans.org.uk

Safe Routes to Schools (SRS)

In April, the Safe Routes team in Scotland received a grant from the Scottish Executive for the SRS team:

- provides advice, information, support and resources to schools, communities and School Travel C
- works with partner organisations to develop and practical projects to encourage travel sustainably on their journey

This year, we are working on a transition to Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) Scottish Health Promoting Schools Units are given towards the end of P7 about a school; the development of advice and guidance in schools to promote active travel; and at schools. For more on all SRS projects visit www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk

Or contact: phillippa.davison@sustrans.org.uk

Volunteer Rangers

We now have over 250 voluntary rangers working independently, but are also part of the Liaison Ranger for the Forthside Group.

'Earlier this summer the Forthside Rangers were given a grant from the Scottish Executive to develop a series of rides we've organised. To address some of the issues, we are making suggestions for improvements and identifying which sections will need to be upgraded. The group came into existence in February 2006. The group is now working on the Round the Forth route (Route 76) and Round the Forth and Kinross. We meet twice a month: once to plan and once to perform some of our work. The group regularly helps us feel more of a team and "being a Sustrans ranger" thing even more so.'

Rangers can get involved in various tasks including signing, lobbying, promotion and public relations. To become a Sustrans Ranger, contact your local Sustrans Ranger.



'TING PEOPLE MOVING

SRS)

Scotland was delighted to receive
re for the second year running. The

support and training to school
vel Co-ordinators

ns to support the development of policy
ourage and enable more children to
urneys to school

ransition project in partnership with the
s Unit to look at what information pupils
out active travel to their new secondary
and guidance on how to use pedometers
el; and the installation of cycle parking
programmes, see:

sustrans.org.uk

y rangers across Scotland. Rangers
part of ranger groups. Mark Seaborne,
e Group, describes typical activities:

de Ranger group rode Route 76
man as part of a signing survey, one
sed. As well as addressing signing
ons for possible route improvements
will need particular attention from us.
n February. We cover the eastern end
d Route 1 between South Queensferry
onth: once to discuss group activities
r work collectively. Getting together
u team, and just makes the whole
even more enjoyable.'

ous tasks, such as path maintenance,
d photography. If you're interested in
contact sarah.jeffs@sustrans.org.uk



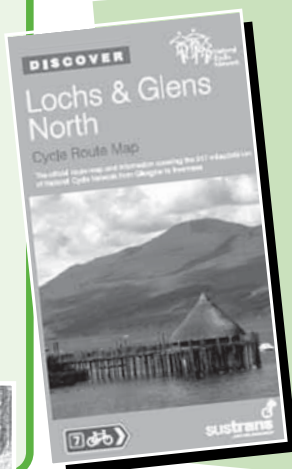
Active Travel Scotland

The aim of this programme is to bring about an increase in the number of Scottish people improving their health through physically active modes of travel. Our Active Travel Programme Co-ordinator promotes the health benefits of walking and cycling to policy makers and practitioners within councils, the NHS, local workplaces and communities. The Scottish Executive's *Prevention 2010* scheme aims to take health care into the community to *prevent* ill health rather than treat it. We are working in the pilot areas for this scheme: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and North Lanarkshire. Contact: frances.bain@sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans staff favourite routes

Sometimes we even get to cycle parts of the NCN ourselves! Here are a few of our best-loved local routes:

- **St Boswells to Galashiels** on Route 1 in the gentle Borders
- **Yair Bridge to Peel** on Route 1 ... a 2.5 mile traffic-free section
- **Grangemouth to Cowie** on Route 76 ... a really interesting wander through a part of the world everyone forgets!



New maps and leaflets

The new *Lochs and Glens North* map (Glasgow to Inverness) is now available. Our new-style maps contain area maps, tourist information and photos of what you can see along the routes. In early 2007 we will be publishing a new *Pocket Mountain Guide* to the Lochs and Glens route from Carlisle to Inverness. This will be the first in a series of long-distance route guides. To see the full range of retail items and to purchase maps, visit www.sustransshop.co.uk
For further information on Sustrans and National Cycle Network routes, including online mapping, see www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans Scotland

16a Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7TT
(0131) 539 8122 scotland@sustrans.org.uk



THE MISSING LINK...

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www.eta.co.uk

SCOTTISH SPENDING

Total Scottish cycle project spending is still falling as a percent of overall transport, from 1.4% in 04/05 to 0.9% in 06/07, and even in absolute terms is only recovering to 2004/05 levels - despite the excellent news on Sustrans funding [p1] and increased Regional Transport Partnerships money. Cycle spending comprises 7 main sources - but whilst these two have risen they barely compensate for loss of the now-abolished Public Transport Fund [Spokes 93].

Scotland [£m]	04/05	05/06	06/07*	06/07**
cycle spending	11.9	10.9	[est] 8.3	[est] 12.0
total transport	883.4	1007	1281.4	1281.4
% for cycling	1.4%	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%

Notes: See Spokes 93 for how cycle spending is calculated.

*Original Spokes93 estimate **New estimate based on Tavish Scott Sustrans announcement [p1] and higher Partnership cycle spending.

If cycling is to be taken seriously - which given the climate and obesity crises it surely must be - then the Executive re-think on Sustrans has to be just the start of a major turnaround as in Denmark, Netherlands and Germany in recent years. A mere 0.9% of the transport budget is plumb crazy if the Executive is serious about a big increase in cycle use. Please ask your MSP - and your Holyrood candidates - what they will do about it!

In our National Transport Strategy submission Spokes showed how funding could be increased [www.spokes.org.uk-downloads]. In particular, councils and partnerships must be much better rewarded if they take cycling seriously.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT

The Executive has set up regional partnerships comprising all councils in each area, with £35m in 06/07 and in 07/08. Councils will still fund most purely local transport projects.

Will all partnerships take cycling seriously? Official Executive guidance* says they should [see Spokes 94 p7 and Spokes notes at * below]. But - regional priorities are expected to vary [SE letter 31.7.06]. With partnership funds rising, 'big' public transport is moving in and, unlike the old Public Transport Fund, the money can also go to roads. Minister Tavish Scott says £35m a year "represents a huge increase for public transport, walking and cycling" [letter to Jamie Stone MSP 22.6.06] but he also told Parliament [15.12.05] a new A801 "is exactly the type of route" that is intended!

Our initial investigations do suggest huge variation - with the big partnerships allotting from 2% to 24% for cycle projects in 06/07!! The real stars, at over 15%, look to be NESTRAN [N.E.Scotland], SESTRAN and S.W. Scotland. However, partnership spending has to be approved by the Executive - surely it is inconceivable they will approve those plans which neglect the Guidance on cycling???

Partnerships are now developing Strategies on which the Executive will base post-2008 funding. We urge readers across Scotland to lobby their partnership on its Strategy. Emphasise that partnerships abiding by the Guidance are likely to get more Executive funding!

*Guidance on Regional Transport Strategies, March 2006. See www.scotland.gov.uk/publications - transport - 08/03/06 or phone 0131.244.5077 for a copy. See www.spokes.org.uk - downloads - submissions for Spokes notes on using the Guidance to push cycling

CLIMATE CRISIS

"If you want to be frightened about anything, you want to be frightened about the impact of climate change" Local MP and calmest of Ministers, Alistair Darling [G28.6.06, Financial pages].

"If there is one message from our research it is the absolute urgency to act to curb dramatically our carbon emissions ... It is ... irresponsibility to ... refer to a 2050 target. The challenge is a radical shift ... by 2010." Tyndall academics "The forces which sought to sow doubt, like 1950s tobacco makers, are on the run. The public are going to be very very angry." Top Scottish commentator Iain MacWhirter [SH24.9.06]

Cycling - in Britain and around the world - is a part of the solution. Fighting to promote local transport, with reduced car and air travel, is part of our contribution.

CLIMATE CRISIS INFORMATION SOURCES

www.royalsoc.ac.uk/climate change Top scientists' site.
www.tyndall.ac.uk Researchers' crisis programme [G 15.9.06]
www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org Coalition of Oxfam, FOE, RSPB, Sustrans, Women's Institute, Unison, CAT, ...
www.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmenvaud.htm[7.8.06] Commons Environmental Audit Cttee Reducing Carbon Emissions from Transport - vital reading, but rejected by govt [LTT 10.8.06].
www.guardian.co.uk/environment News, links, articles.
www.turnuptheheat.org Geo.Monbiot exposes 'greenwash'
www.climatecrisis.org www.aninconvenienttruth.org Al Gore's compelling film/book. His profits go to campaigning.
www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/environment/climate-change Scottish Executive official site - pity it forgets the M74!!
See also p2 [Oct 16 - Nov 4] for Climate Crisis talks/events.

BIFF

Biff is at www.biffonline.co.uk

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Chris Garratt & Mick Kidd



THEY WORK FOR YOU!!

Big changes are underway in council cycling responsibility.



Cllr Andrew Burns, now moved to Education, has been a true champion for cycling / green transport - whatever the press may think of him! It is said success in politics - even in life? - is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. Andrew devoted huge energy and time to understanding and pushing the case for more bike use, whether with the public, press or with sometimes-sceptical colleagues. The Council Cycle Forum flourished with him chairing, and he made time to pursue the many issues raised - always urging us do the same. And the perspiration was rewarded - with cycle use doubling under his leadership.



Matthew Simpson has been cycle officer for longer than anyone can remember - well, 1990 anyway - see the fresh-faced youngster in the photo! Onroad bike facilities were virtually unknown; many of today's fantastic offroad paths were unsurfaced, some not even dreamed of; and there

was no cycle-friendly design guide to move towards all traffic schemes being fully bike-friendly. So we owe a real debt to Matthew and can only be delighted his new job is in Development Control where one responsibility will be ensuring that new planning proposals are bike-friendly! We also congratulate the **City Development Department** on moving urgently to advertise the Cycle Officer post.

We welcome **Cllr Ricky Henderson**, replacing Andrew Burns as transport convenor. Cllr Henderson signed our petition for more car-free days at a Spokes stall a while ago, and belongs to War on Want and Greenpeace - so we trust he will continue the push towards the council's target for bike-use increase! **Write to him at** City Chambers, High St, EH1 1YJ, or email Ricky.Henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk.

2007 ELECTIONS

Further drastic change is certain in May's first-ever council elections under proportional representation (a form of it anyway!) In Edinburgh, and even some Lothians councils, no party will be in overall control, so all need to understand the issues of cycling - and sustainability in general.

Please contact political parties and your councillor - now - with ideas for their manifesto. For example...

- ☞ continue existing targets for increased cycle use
- ☞ 20mph limits in all residential and shopping areas
- ☞ coloured cycle facilities on all main roads

- ☞ high quality routes between Edinburgh and other areas
- ☞ copious bike promotion: support for the Bike Station and TryCycling, use of Spokes maps, and innovative ideas for door-to-door and employer-based travel planning.

LOTHIAN POLITICIANS

Write to your area MSP or Lothians List (2nd vote) MSPs at: Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. 0131.348.5000. **or email:** firstname.secondname.msp@scottish.parliament.uk. For example, 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

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

SSP

Colin Fox, List

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

www.parliament.uk/directories/directories.cfm 020.7219.3000.

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

www.edinburgh.gov.uk 0131.529.3186
www.midlothian.gov.uk 0131.270.7500
www.westlothian.gov.uk 01506.775000
www.eastlothian.gov.uk 01620.827827

Email councillors as: firstname.surname@councilname.gov.uk

e.g. Ricky.Henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk. Except that East

Lothian email is initialsurname e.g. jross@eastlothian.gov.uk.

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

Europe: www.europe.org.uk/info or politics.guardian.co.uk/eu

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

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Cycle training: 0141.229.5359 training@scottishcycling.co.uk.

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

Potholes, glass on cycleroutes, broken lights, etc anywhere in Lothian [including Edinburgh], or Falkirk District: [Use nearest lamp-post number to report exact location].

Tel 0800.232323; Or 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.

Dangerous drivers, mobiles, drink-driving, speeding, and other road crime: Freephone Crimestoppers 0800.555.111.

Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 020.8964.1021

RAIL NEWS

First ScotRail has excelled with bike space on new **North Berwick trains** and Spokes has supported their entry for a bike/rail national award. Initially 2-4 spaces were planned, but several E.Loathian Spokes members lobbied extensively, and there are 8 spaces per train [albeit some minor design issues]. Apart from commuting, Spokes some years ago found this the most popular local line for leisure cycling - try it!! *Hint:* check the wind for which direction to cycle!

"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...

