

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk) [twitter SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian) Facebook  
St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG - this is a postal address, Spokes is a voluntary body with no staff.

## YOU DID IT!!

By March 2014 there should be a high quality bike route all the way from Edinburgh [Roseburn] to the Forth Bridge, for commuting, leisure and tourism, thanks to a £1.25m package assembled by Edinburgh Council and Sustrans. The worst section, Burnshot to Barnbogle, should be rebuilt by this July.

Leading from Scotland's Capital to the Forth Bridge, Fife and the North, this vital tourist and local route is currently a desperately bad advert for Scotland.



Pic: Mike Lewis, [20milers.blogspot.co.uk](http://20milers.blogspot.co.uk)

Spokes has fought for many years for a major upgrade. [For more about our long lobbying saga see Spokes Bulletin 110, or see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : Edinburgh : A90]. We advised members when were particularly useful times to write and who to contact. **The new cash is thanks to the**

- INSIDE**
- ◆ Spokes Summer photo competition [p2]
  - ◆ Strict Liability CycleLaw pullout [centre]
  - ◆ Coming soon: Edinburgh & Lothians [p3&6]
  - ◆ Consultations: Edinburgh & Scotland [p6]

## PRINCES STREET SHOCK

Edinburgh is risking its growing reputation as a top UK bike-friendly city. Imagine a Danish tourist arriving on the airport tram, or at Waverley, to find 'No Cycling' signs in Scotland's premier street! Or a family wanting to visit Princes St Gardens then cycle to a couple of shops - but banned. Twenty years after Edinburgh City Council proudly opened its first Princes Street cycle lane [photo at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 27.4.13] this could be the new reality.

The recent City Centre consultation proposes sending cyclists to George St and back as if bikes are cars, rather than permeable city centre access. We await the outcome.

**See the full Spokes response** [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 27.4.13 news] and **contact your councillors** [[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)].

**many letters from concerned members of the public to politicians. If you wrote – take a bow! - you helped.**

In 2006, Regional Transport Partnership SESTRAN agreed £4.6m for this and other routes out of Edinburgh, but tragically the new SNP government cut their money. Then in 2007 the government promised to invest in bridge "cycle links"; but no money appeared until 2011 when phase 1, Barnougle to Easter Dalmeny, was at last built, gaining wide praise from users [Spokes 110]. **ctd p3**

## 'TOUCH PARKING & DIE'

One of the worst problems about urban cycling is cars parked in cycle lanes. It was the top concern in our survey of member views on the Council's Quality Bike Corridor [p4 and [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), Apr 24 news]. Parking often also makes segregated facilities impossible.

Parked cars mean moving out into the traffic, plus the danger of 'dooring', a car door opened in your face. Such hazards are scary for all and deter some people entirely.

Sometimes the parking is an enforcement problem, but most often it is actually legal. Parking is only illegal in a 'mandatory' [solid white line] bike lane, or in an 'advisory' lane when yellow-line restrictions apply. Some advisory lanes work fairly well at times when single yellows apply (usually in rush hours) but fail badly at other times.

To ban bike-lane parking is easy technically but hard politically. Councillors get fierce complaints from car users and shop owners, despite evidence\* that attractive walking/cycling streets work better than if car-lined.

\*e.g. *Bicycling means Business* at [advocacyadvance.org/resources](http://advocacyadvance.org/resources); or *Shoppers and how they Travel*, Sustrans info sheet LN02.



Cllr Jim Orr

**Andrew Gilligan**, London Cycling Commissioner, extolling their otherwise bold new cycling policy, confessed, "**touch parking and you die**" [[cycletondoncity.blogspot.co.uk](http://cycletondoncity.blogspot.co.uk) 4 Apr]. In contrast, **Cllr Jim Orr**, Edinburgh's Cycling Supremo, has publicly put his head on the chopping block, promising to take this seriously and seek solutions [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), Apr 13].

**If this matters to you**, email your councillors about bike lane problems and ask them to speak to Cllr Orr. Find them at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

**And it has already been done in Edinburgh – see p3.**

## Stop Press: BIKES UP AGAIN

On a cold, windy day, with rain forecast, our May traffic count had a new record for bike numbers (just!). Overall the picture was confusing, due to a huge shift in cars after Mound reopening [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) documents : technical : counts].

**Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press every so often. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your question with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!**

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN BULLETIN

G The Guardian (S)H (Sunday) Herald  
SG Scottish Government LTT Local Transport Today

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**ON ALL RIDES:** Please ride considerately and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your own safety.

**Spokes Sunday Rides - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!'** First Sunday each 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](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuart@snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073.

**Easy: 'Twenty Milers'** Mainly paths/quiet roads, 10-3, 2nd Sat of month. Mike Lewis 343.2520 [mike@cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:mike@cycling-edinburgh.org.uk).

**Weekends - 'Mellow Velo'** - Hostel/ B&B w'ends - evolved from Spokes weekends group - [www.mellowvelo.org.uk](http://www.mellowvelo.org.uk).

**More Edinburgh rides/events** [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk) - includes 'very easy' rides, usually last Sun of month

**Go Bike!** Glasgow area, 1st Sunday + others [www.gobike.org](http://www.gobike.org)

**June 15-23 National Bike Week** [bikeweek.org.uk](http://bikeweek.org.uk)  
**& Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** [edfoc.org.uk](http://edfoc.org.uk)

**The NBW/EdFoC week includes some fantastic events...**

**June 15 St Andrews ride** The 33<sup>rd</sup> year of this great ride! [www.leprahealthinaction.org](http://www.leprahealthinaction.org) : get involved : events.

**\*Events below:** see [www.edfoc.org.uk](http://www.edfoc.org.uk) for times & places.

**Spokes members will also receive a full printed program.**

**\*All week** - local rides, maintenance sessions, exhibitions, etc.

**\*June 15 Bicycle Culture by Design** - talk by Mikael Colville-Anderson, founder of [copenhagenize.com](http://copenhagenize.com).

**\*June 15-20 Monumental Motion** - Copenhagen photo exhib

**\*June 22 'King of the Mountains'** - climb the city's steepest roads! Donation to Spokes thanks to [www.harts-cyclery.co.uk](http://www.harts-cyclery.co.uk)

**\*June 22 The Carbon Cycle** - talk by Kate Rawles on her USA ride exploring climate change effects & attitudes

**\*June 23 Bamboo bike BBQ** - social event to end the week!

**Jun 19 Spokes Bike Breakfast** City Chambers, 7.45-9.45. All cyclists welcome. Stalls, rolls, tea/coffee, chain-clean, security marking and your chance to lobby councillors.

**Speakers** [8.45ish] Cllr **Jim Orr** [council cycling leader] and **Alison Johnstone MSP** [Cross-Party Cycle Group co-convenor].

**Rides to the breakfast** (with councillors & MSPs) from various parts of the city: see [www.breakfastbikeride.org.uk](http://www.breakfastbikeride.org.uk).

**More info:** [bikebreakfast@spokes.org.uk](mailto:bikebreakfast@spokes.org.uk)

**July 6 Canal Festival** [Spokes stall] Lochrin Basin 453.4617.

**Aug 4 Tour de Forth** Mercy Corps ride [tourdeforth.com](http://tourdeforth.com) & p5

**Sep 8 Pedal for Scotland** The big ride [www.pedalforscotland.org](http://www.pedalforscotland.org)

**Other dates and info:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) events column

## ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

**To suggest bike parking sites:** [cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Adult cycle training:** 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto:info@thebikestation.org.uk)

**Www.travelinescotland.com:** bikes on rail, bus and ferry.

**Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian:**

[Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323 [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).

**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366

**Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]

**Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.

**Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : links : reporting

**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 02089641021

## CYCLING WITH A PURPOSE PHOTO + CAPTION COMPETITION

*Our great summer competition tradition continues...*

In 2013 we're looking for a photo and caption on the theme of *Cycling with a Purpose* - 'useful' cycling such as shopping, school, health, carrying, getting somewhere, etc.

Top entries will win one of the great prizes below - first prize chooses first and so on. **Closing date: Fri Sept 6.**

- **ScotRail:** Return 1<sup>st</sup> ticket for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- **Edin Bike Coop:** Revolution Tune-up advanced tool-kit
- **Sustrans:** Set of Sustrans Scotland maps
- **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket
- **Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant:** Lunch for 2
- **Peter's Yard:** Food hamper, voucher, keep-cup & baking book
- **Reiss Hairsalon:** Hair cut and finish
- **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2 **Cameo:** Offpeak tickets for 2
- **Velo Ecosse:** Bike service
- **Bike Smith:** Bike service, value £20

Note that your entry may be used by Spokes in Bulletins, our website or other ways. By entering you agree to this.

Also see our great previous comps such as *Cycling Jokes*, *Favourite Rides*, *Path Art* and *Cycling Solutions* at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - downloads - odds&ends - competitions.

**Download an entry form [with rules] at this address.**

## SPOKES MATERIALS

**Cycle-awareness video** Spokes is creating a short video of situations where cyclists are at risk - pinch points, dooring, etc. The video is funded by a donation in memory of Spokes/CTC member Audrey Fyfe, who was killed by a car turning across her in 2011 [p7]. We hope it will be used in driving schools, fleet training, etc. We welcome suggestions and contacts.

**Factsheets** \*means printed copies available. Or download all our factsheets at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice.

- ♦ **\*On Shared Paths** - for path users to get on well together
- ♦ **\*Helmets : Safety Warning** - know both sides of the story
- ♦ **\*How to be a Cycling Flat-dweller** - storing your bike
- ♦ **\*How to be a Cycling Family** and **\*Get Your Child Cycling**
- ♦ **How to run a 2nd-hand Bike Sale** - useful for schools etc
- ♦ **Collisions advice note** - what to do in a car/bike crash
- ♦ [in preparation] **Cycle storage in front gardens** [see p4]

**Submissions** We've been extra busy recently!! Find these & other papers in news or downloads at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

- ♦ **Cycling Action Plan for Scotland:** our response [7.2.13 news]
- ♦ **Public meeting report:** 'Cars down, Bravery not yet up' [13.4.13]
- ♦ **Members survey:** Princes Street and the Bike Corridor [24.4.13]
- ♦ **Coloured surfacing:** seeking a Council review [p4]

**Other website info** Try the tabs at the top, the 'cloud' on the right, the search box [it searches news *and* documents] or links from news stories. Main updates/news are tweeted and facebooked [go to twitter/facebook from the website].

## ☺ THANK YOU ☺

**Spokes is funded by donations from our 1000+ members and sales of our unmissable maps. So we can speak out without fear or favour, not worried about losing funds. Join Spokes! Download or phone for an application form.**

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please return your 2013 renewal form if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask - you'll get an autumn reminder if not, and you won't miss anything.



# LOCAL NEWS [more p4]

ctd from page 1

## A90 PATH

The government was further embarrassed when **Helen Eadie MSP**, supported by **Alison Johnstone MSP** and **Sarah Boyack MSP** branded the route a "disgrace" in a 2012 Parliament cycling debate [spokes.org.uk, 1.4.12 news].

At the same time, the government faced big pressure on general cycle funding, thanks to a massive campaign on their proposed 2012/13 cycle budget cuts [Spokes 112] and then the huge Pedal on Parliament [Spokes 113].

Thanks to this pressure the government boosted cycle cash slightly [p7]. Whilst far too low to meet the government 2020 target of 10% of all trips by bike, the money does make a real difference to specific projects. And the A90 path benefited, due to its high lobbying profile.

Sadly, Edinburgh City had to find match funds from its own cycle budget, and the Government is using cycling money rather than its huge bridge or trunk road budgets – though those budgets do fund the road approaches to the bridges. We lost that argument, so other projects which could have used this cycling money have to wait.

Nonetheless, the story shows the value of keeping up the pressure on politicians – the combined weight of many individuals, alongside focussed lobbying by Spokes, has won this victory. If you're not a Spokes member, please consider joining – *we'll tell you when is a useful time to write to who about what!!*

## FORTH BRIDGES FUTURE

The government promised that their new road bridge wouldn't mean more traffic in Edinburgh, as the existing bridge will only allow buses, walking and cycling [the new bridge bans cycling]. Few people believe this promise will last, and already councillors in Fife are pressing for more categories of traffic to be allowed on the existing bridge when the new one opens [LTT 8.3.13].

## COMING 2013/14

NB: See p6 for projects in the Lothians / outside Edinburgh.

There's a lot in the Edinburgh pipeline, much of it thanks to the council's 2013/14 cycle budget, now confirmed as 6% of transport capital and revenue spending [Spokes 115]. *The City's great budget commitment has also enabled it to win very significant Scottish Government additional money via the Sustrans match-funding scheme.* The Council now also has a fuller staff complement on cycling and walking, to enable budgets to be effectively used.

This 13/14 list does not include schemes funded from other budgets, such as what happens in **Princes St** and **Leith Walk**. Obviously programmes can also change for unforeseen reasons.

- ♦ **North Meadow Walk** Widen and resurface.
- ♦ **Edinburgh to Forth Bridge** Major upgrade - see p1.
- ♦ **Straiton-Gilmerton** Final link in route to Midlothian.
- ♦ **Leith-Portobello** Further phases at Leith & Seafield.
- ♦ **Craighleith to Botanics** Minor-road E-W route with improved junction safety. A future phase will remove traffic between Inverleith Park and the Botanics.
- ♦ **Corstorphine path** Access & lighting at Balgreen.

## BIKE LANE CARS

Yes, it is possible to get bike lane car parking banned!

A big campaign by Spokes and others achieved this in two phases, 2006 and 2009, on Old Dalkeith Road to the new Infirmary [Spokes 105]. There were problems from some frontagers, but council officers persisted and found solutions – *where there is a will, there is a way!*



**BEFORE & AFTER**

pics: Chris Hill; Michael Eddleston



## LEITH WALK

Leith Walk's future remains a mystery. An unprecedented joint submission by Spokes, Greener Leith, Community Councils and others [spokes.org.uk 14.1.13 news] called for a people-friendly street including a protected uphill cycle lane - but final plans are still awaited at this time.

- ♦ **Onstreet tenement overnight bike storage** Pilot schemes at last to go ahead in 2013 [Spokes 110 p3].
  - ♦ **Offroad network** Better accesses, drop kerbs, signing.
  - ♦ **Onstreet bike parking** Big program inc. city centre.
  - ♦ **Public bike counter** [picture] for Middle Meadow Walk
  - ♦ **And other projects**
- Projects below are to design for 14/15 build, assuming Council & Sustrans money continue!*
- ♦ **Meadows to Innocent**
  - ♦ **Meadows to canal**
  - ♦ **Roseburn path to canal**
  - ♦ **Roseburn path to Rose St**
  - ♦ **Usher Hall to Festival Sq [toucan] and so to Canal**
  - ♦ **Grange Rd crossing on KB** to Meadows quiet route
  - ♦ **Western General Hospital link to Telford path**

This *capital* program totals ~£3m. There is also ~£0.5m *revenue* funding for **maintenance, small schemes decided in local areas, monitoring, promotion, research, etc.**





# LOCAL NEWS [more p3]

*If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors!! See p8 or use [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).*

## HOME BIKE STORAGE

Over the last year [Spokes 114,115] we have highlighted the crazy situation whereby the council's Transport section works towards a target of 10% of all journeys by bike in 2020, while Planning orders removal of modest-size bike containers/sheds from front gardens. Recently **several families have won appeals**, after great persistence and stress, and with help from Spokes and local councillors. We are still getting enquiries.

This is not just an Edinburgh problem: there is an excellent paper from Ealing Cycle Campaign [at web link below] covering the same issues and the steps already being taken by councils there. Spokes member **Alison Johnstone MSP** is seeking Scottish Government legal changes so that modest garden bike stores are counted as 'permitted development.'

Meantime, Spokes has prepared a draft advice note [see web link below] giving ideas on garden bike storage. A motion by Green councillor **Nigel Bagshaw**, seconded by **Cllr Sandy Howat** SNP, instructs officers to investigate our points and help resolve this barrier to increased cycle use.

**Finally if you or a friend have been refused permission or ordered to remove bike storage**, contact Spokes. Also contact your councillors for help and to ask why the council stops you storing a bike when it wants you to cycle!

[More info at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : garden storage]

## MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Although feedback from Spokes members is overwhelmingly positive, we have recently received a fair bit of criticism on social media. So can we comment on two points...

### **"Does Spokes represent all local cyclists?"**

Spokes does not claim to! We are a voluntary organisation with two objectives, and we welcome as members all who support them. Our aim is not to represent all cyclists [impossible anyway!] but to work towards our objectives...

- ♦ *To promote cycling, as part of a sustainable transport and access strategy, and to ensure that councils and government actively do the same.*
- ♦ *To publicise the benefits of cycling for the community and for individuals – like walking, it is cheap, efficient, enjoyable, healthy, non-polluting and intrinsically safe.*

A measure of our success is that bike commuting has doubled in every decade, from 1% of all trips to 7% now [at a time when it was static or falling in most of Scotland and the UK] and the trend continues. Sadly there are no historic official figures for non-commuting cycling, but similar growth rates seem likely, though starting from an even lower base.

### **"Spokes should not praise the Quality Bike Corridor"**

We try to take an open-minded view of QBiC, based on whatever concrete evidence exists. **The main evidence** is still to come, from Council monitoring, and should include data on cyclist numbers, on crashes before and after, and how these compare to non-QBiC areas. Evidence so far suggests **QBiC is an improvement but could have been much better.**

Two Spokes Forrest Rd traffic counts give a mixed picture: bike use static in one and up 10% in the other. But our results are confounded by the Mound reopening to cars, with a huge 33% rise, presumably transferred from N. Bridge/Lothian Rd.

Secondly, 86 people in our recent member survey answered the question about QBiC - 10% said cycling conditions now are "a lot better"; 66% "somewhat better"; 22% "the same;" and 1% "worse" [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) Apr 24 news].

To call QBiC 'ridiculous' or similar, as in some online blogs, thus seems out of line with wider user experience. Most agree, though, that QBiC could have been much better. What is important is to find lessons for the future - see below!

## QBiC: What the Dickens?

The Spokes member survey [web link above] received many comments on QBiC, as well as its moderately positive vote. The points made were largely in line with our existing views..

- ♦ **Parking in cycle lanes** is clearly the top issue. QBiC did toughen the previous parking rules, but the single-yellow restrictions are still far from ideal, and enforcement is also a problem. A more bike-friendly scheme needs *segregation* or at least *mandatory lanes*, but both mean much tougher parking measures and probably some re-routing of traffic. In this inner-city, shop-front area, councillors must be bold to reach truly cycle- and pedestrian- friendly solutions. *We await Cllr Orr's bike-lane parking deliberations* [p1]. Meantime why not fill in the Council's *parking survey* [p6].



*The Best of Times*



*The Worst of Times*

*Pictures: [edinburghcyclechic.wordpress.com](http://edinburghcyclechic.wordpress.com)*

- ♦ **The coloured-chip surfacing** is disappointing, being far less bright than the traditional red thermoplastic coating. Yet visibility is its *raison d'être*, with evidence that coloured surfacing reduces motorist intrusion and encourages more people to cycle. Chip colouring does have big maintenance advantages, but visibility has to be top priority. Chipping is also very cheap if a road is being resurfaced [e.g. Dalry Rd] but it is costly otherwise, this being a significant factor in QBiC's cost. **Spokes has asked the council to review colouring policy** – a brighter method is needed, particularly where parked or moving traffic may be on the cyclist's left [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : Edinburgh : policy].
- ♦ **The Hotel Missoni cycle lane** suffers bad encroachment.
- ♦ **Use of the term 'Quality'** was unwise! To the public this means excellence, but 'Quality Corridor' has long been used by traffic planners as a semi-technical term for an 'improved' and 'important' bus route - not for perfection. Leith-Southside-Gilmerton, for example, is a QBusC !



Journey by bicycle through  
lore and landscape.

## 2013 tours:

The Borders; Galloway;  
Hadrian's Wall

Regular Edinburgh tours run  
throughout the year. Contact  
Storybikes: 07762 000 039 /  
andy@storybikes.co.uk  
www.storybikes.co.uk



## Cycling accident?

Call Scotland's specialist legal service  
for cyclists.

Call **0800 089 3389** Text **CLS** to **60155**  
Cyclelawscotland.co.uk



Photo courtesy of  
Bike Co-op Customer: Aarseth Gudmund

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**AUGUST  
4<sup>TH</sup> / 2013**



# CONSULTATIONS

## NPF3 & SPP *Comment by 23 July*

The government is consulting on the next stages of two major documents intended to guide future transport, planning, energy and other decisions across Scotland. *The material is extensive but if you want a sustainable future for Scotland, please make time to comment.*

### How to Respond

All relevant documents are at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/NPF3-SPP-Review](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/NPF3-SPP-Review).

The easiest way to respond is to download and fill in the two questionnaires. It's fine just to answer the questions that concern you, even if it's only a few.

### NPF3: National Planning Framework

NPF3 is about developments 'of national significance.'

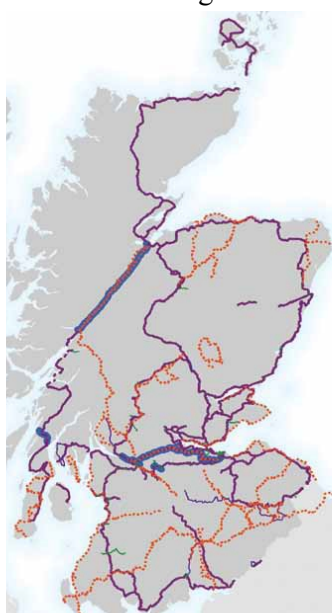
We are delighted that the government has, at least in part, taken on a proposal by Spokes\* and others at the previous consultation stage, for a **National Cycling and Walking Network** [see map].

Scottish Natural Heritage, Sustrans and Scottish Canals are asked to draw up a full proposal as a probable NPF3 National Development.

A big concern however is if the government mainly sees this as for tourism / leisure, whereas we had argued\* for a pilot sustainable town or city in every council, linked by a national network, so that development of local active travel and accessibility is the top priority.

\*Our previous submission is at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 23.11.12 news.

Similarly, we are concerned that the government may see cycling as largely for 'offroad' and leisure. The bulk of



everyday cycle use will always be on the roads, as they go from every A to every B. Conditions on the roads must feel and be safe and welcoming, with segregated routes on main roads into cities being an urgent priority.

*Please reply welcoming the national network proposal but consider making the above points in your response. Use Q14 in the NPF3 questionnaire.*

The main problem however, is the usual government contradiction. It claims repeatedly [e.g 5.3] to wish to 'reduce the need to travel.' Yet it plans to upgrade every major Scottish airport, spend large sums on road building [p7] and build a hugely costly Edinburgh-Glasgow High Speed rail link (whilst slowing the ordinary-rail upgrade). *To comment, use Q15 and Q16 in the questionnaire.*

### SPP: Scottish Planning Policy

The SPP explains the criteria which councils and others must use to decide the location, layout and design of new development. The SPP could thus lead to better cycle provision across Scotland, as areas large and small are redeveloped. Its questionnaire is not ideal for us but Qns2-5 are useful and Q29 allows comment on any issue.

## EDINBURGH LDP *ends 14 June*

Edinburgh City has published a *Local Development Plan* and *Action Programme* to guide future development. This is a vital document, which includes much transport detail and relevance. Spokes has not yet looked in detail, but whilst there is much that we like, not all our comments from an earlier consultation have been included. We hope to have more to say soon in Spokesworker [to members].

**Please look at the Plan and submit comments about any aspects that concern you.** The Plan itself, and a 'representation form' to submit your comments, are at [edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan).

## EDIN PARKING SURVEY *ends 28 June*

Everyone living in the city centre (car owner or not) can respond at [edinburgh.gov.uk/parkingsurvey](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/parkingsurvey). It's important the council gets responses from non-car-users!! There are several open-ended questions [Q6,10,18,20,21] where you could comment on bike lane rules [p1], parking abuse, enforcement, onstreet bike parking, or other issues.

## LOTHIANS & NEARBY

Several projects are coming up for people outside the city. All those below except Stirling Bike Hub include match-funding from successful bids to Sustrans by Lothians councils, Scottish Canals or Edinburgh Council.

Sustrans has slightly more cash than usual this year and next thanks to the 2012 budget lobbying and PoP pressure [Spokes 112-114]. This means more individual projects, but nothing on the scale for government to meet its 10% bike-use 2020 target. **If these projects will help you, thank your local councillors and MSPs** [[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)] - and point out the need for much more widespread action.

- ◆ **Stirling station Bike Hub** – see p8 [Hub is open now].
- ◆ **Edinburgh to Forth Bridge** for Fife & north – see p1
- ◆ **Edinburgh to Midlothian** via Straiton – see p4
- ◆ **East Lothian, West Barns** – Belhaven coastal route [route open now] part of [www.northsea-cycle.com](http://www.northsea-cycle.com)
- ◆ **East Lothian, Pencilaitland & Haddington paths** – feasibility for possible future upgrade and surfacing.
- ◆ **Falkirk, Bo'ness to Blackness**, John Muir path upgrade

- ◆ **Midlothian, Beeslack School paths**
- ◆ **Scottish Borders, links to Borders Rail** phase 1 [see also [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 3.1.13 news]. NB: For Borders Rail pathworks updates see [sustransscotland.wordpress.com](http://sustransscotland.wordpress.com).
- ◆ **Broxburn canal, Greendykes to A899** path upgrade
- ◆ **Linlithgow canal, Preston Road to Leisure Centre** path upgrade. Also possible new ramp accesses.
- ◆ **West Lothian, NCN75 Boghall rbt to Wester Inch.**



*The summit of satisfaction...*

## SPOKES Cycle Maps Mid, East, West Lothian, Edinburgh, Glasgow

Edinburgh, ML, WL £6 each, incl post; others £5. **Offers:** £1 off each map after the first; Ask for *Favourite Ride* or *Favourite Cycling Recipe* free.

Spokes maps may not be copied without permission. If you see this done please email [timATvizualz.co.uk](mailto:timATvizualz.co.uk)



# NATIONAL

## THE MAGIC MONEY POT!!

Little has happened on Scottish cycle policy or funding since Spokes 115. Government cycling investment is just **£20m** p.a., or 1p in every £1 of transport spending [table]. The government has, however, found **£3000m** to upgrade the A96 by 2030 – on top of its **£3000m** A9 upgrade (by 2025), the **£1500m** extra Forth Bridge and the **£750m** Aberdeen bypass (to name just the more costly projects).

Meanwhile we await Transport Minister Keith Brown's announcement on a 'refresh' of the **CAPS Cycling Action Plan for Scotland**. Our submission [Spokes 115] showed there is now little hope for the government's 2020 target\* without a massive investment jump to £100m-£200m p.a. [5-10% of total transport]. Sadly, however, the magic money pot only seems to work for road building. Will CAPS maintain the pretence that cycle use can more than quintuple in just 7 years with 1% of the transport budget? Our submission also points out other essential steps.

\*10% of all trips was recently confirmed as a firm government target by **Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon** [Spokes 115].

## GET BRITAIN CYCLING

The Welsh Government has published an *Active Travel Bill*, described by Sustrans as a "world first," obligating councils to develop cycle/walk networks [road.cc 18.2.13 news]. It should also lead to more cash going to active travel.

Probably even more significant is *Get Britain Cycling\** the report of the UK Parliament All-Party Cycling Group Inquiry, APPCG. The report, whose panel included Spokes member **Mark Lazarowicz MP**, makes tough recommendations, including investment of £10 per head per year, rising to £20 – almost exactly what we state in our own CAPS submission.\*

\*See the APPCG report, and the Spokes submissions to APPCG and to CAPS at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : submissions : national.

It is rumoured [e.g. LTT 3.5.13] that the UK government will respond to *Get Britain Cycling* in June by appointing a cross-

department cycling supremo with new funding. Welcome, if so, but ironic given that the same government scrapped the very successful **Cycling England!** [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) 30.3.11]

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sign the Times *Get Britain Cycling* online petition – it needs 100,000 signatures to trigger a Parliamentary Debate. <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>.

## SCOTTISH CYCLING INVESTMENT

Our table estimates *Scottish government cycling investment*. It covers cycling only, but including joint walk/cycle projects. It excludes non-government funds: in particular, councils and Regional Transport Partnerships raise £8-9m from their own funds and from outside sources like Europe [Spokes 114].

Government active travel budget lines are complex - despite Parliament's ICI Cttee repeatedly requesting transparency. We therefore mainly show funding *destinations*, not *sources*.

[£million]	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Cycling from CWSS [a]	4.0	4.0	3.2	~3.0	~4.3
Sustrans [b]	7.7	5.8	9.7	10.8c	9.4c
Cycling Scotland	1.3	2.3	2.0	2.3	~2.3
Trunk road bike schemes	~2.0	~2.0	~2.0	~3.6c	~3.0c
Other [d]	1.4	0.9	~0.9	~0.9	~0.9
<b>Total cycling</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>19.9 est</b>
Total transport spend [e]	1864	1812	1893	2027	2039
<b>Cycling % of total</b>	<b>0.88%</b>	<b>0.83%</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>1.02%</b>	<b>0.98%?</b>

~ Not known: estimated, or assumed same as previous year.

a. **Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets** fund for councils. We show how much goes to cycling, using Spokes 114 survey + assumptions.

b. **Sustrans** funding is largely from SAT and FTF (below). Used mainly for match-funded projects with councils & other partners.

c. Includes some '**Consequential**' money from the UK budget.

d. **Other** includes cycling element of Smarter Choices [Spokes 114] and cycling element of Climate Challenge Fund [estimate].

e. Budget transport lines + FTF + CWSS.

**SAT Sustainable and Active Travel** budget line. A hotch-potch of walk, cycle, low carbon vehicles and some bus and park & ride!

**FTF Future Transport Fund** Similar aims to SAT – confusing!!

## GLASGOW PEDALS UP

Glasgow has approved a public bike hire scheme, starting in 2014, rising to 400 bikes at 30 locations [H 20.4.13].



Bike Hire Heaven!! pic: [www.cyclehelmetts.org/1192.html](http://www.cyclehelmetts.org/1192.html)

Public hire schemes are often costly, but Glasgow will use simple technology with standard racks and mobile phones at relatively low cost, £1.3m over 3 years. Cost was a big issue when Edinburgh investigated bike hire, but a bike-friendly city centre is also vital. **Bike hire, especially for visitors, would be doomed if Princes St is banned** [p1].

## ROAD JUSTICE

There is huge anger and dismay that a driver convicted of two separate Edinburgh cyclist deaths will be allowed back on the roads after a 5-year ban, not banned for life. Ian Fyfe, husband of victim Audrey Fyfe, had specifically urged a life ban to protect others [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 6.5.13 news].

Remarks by the sheriff about helmets added to the anger with Council leader **Andrew Burns** dubbing his words as "*completely astounding*." Spokes, CTC and an amazing 4000+ individuals have complained to the Crown Office.

Sadly the saga is not untypical of what happens when walkers or cyclists are injured or killed. The situation has brought to a head wide concern about **enforcement, prosecution and sentencing** in such cases. **MSP Alison Johnstone** has asked the Scottish Government to confront the concerns highlighted by the case. Spokes, CTC and other groups are also discussing whether to set up a joint '**Road Justice**' campaign to pressure for treatment which is more equitable and which better protects the public.

The separate **Strict Liability** campaign [centre pages] is another vital angle in the campaign for safer roads for all.

## PoP2 stop press [pedalonparliament.org](http://pedalonparliament.org)

**Gov't bike target:** 10% of trips. **Bike funding:** 1% of transport. £20m p.a. for cycling; £3000m for A96, £3000m A9, £1500m Forth Bridge, etc, etc. **4000 people call for sense & honesty.**



At the Scottish Parliament

pic: Anthony Robson

## CLIMATE NOTES

- ♦ Atmospheric CO2 levels pass 400ppm, with "huge and potentially catastrophic risks" [G 11.5.13, or search for 400ppm milestone at [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)].
- ♦ UKCCC 'sceptical' Scotland will meet cycling target. See [www.theccc.org.uk/publications](http://www.theccc.org.uk/publications) then filter 2013 & Scotland
- ♦ Yet another £3000m found for road building [p7]
- ♦ New SCCS 'Frequently Asked Questions' on climate. See [www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland).

## BIKE HUBS

Scotland's first Bike Hub has opened at **Stirling Station**, as a 3-year pilot funded by Transport Scotland. A *Bike Hub* provides facilities useful to people using the rail/bike combination - for a fuller definition see the excellent ATOC Bike-Rail toolkit [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 31.8.12 news].

Stirling Hub is untypical, being a community-based promotion body, giving free route advice, running events, and working with local employers. Station bike parking/storage will be improved, but not managed by the Hub.



Transport Minister Keith Brown opens Stirling Bike Hub Pic: Chris Hill

Due to its government funding the Hub cannot compete with local shops, so will direct cyclists to them for spares and maintenance. We aren't sure if this is wise - the Hub's promotional activities should generate business for local shops by raising local bike use, yet the absence of basic services could affect its own custom and viability.

If you visit Stirling Station, call in to say hello and for advice on local routes. [www.stirlingcyclehub.org](http://www.stirlingcyclehub.org).

## How to...

## CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS

*Simplest is to find them all at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...*

**Write to your local MSP or Lothians Regional List 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).

### SNP

Ed Central, Marco Biagi  
Ed Southern, Jim Eadie  
Ed Western, Colin Keir  
Linlithgow, Fiona Hyslop

### LABOUR

Ed North/Leith, Malcolm Chisholm  
List, Sarah Boyack  
List, Kezia Dugdale  
List, Neil Findlay

Ed Pentlands, Gordon MacDonald

### CONSERVATIVE

Almond Valley, Angela Constance  
Midloth N & Muss, Colin Beattie

List, David McLetchie  
List, Gavin Brown

**GREEN** List, Alison Johnstone

**INDEPENDENT** List, Margo MacDonald

**Local councils: Find councillors + Who runs the council**

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

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

[midlothian.gov.uk](http://midlothian.gov.uk) 0131.270.7500 SNP/Ind [majority zero]

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

**More info including Westminster MPs & European MEPs:**

[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com) [mysociety.org](http://mysociety.org)

## WAVERLEY BIKE HUB??

At the April Edinburgh Council Cycle Forum there were exciting hints of a possible Waverley Bike Hub (with spares/repairs etc). Spokes has long argued for this, and it would greatly boost Edinburgh's bike-friendly credentials.

## EDINBURGH TRAM

Years of lobbying [e.g. Spokes 107,110,111] have made some gains [e.g. reduced Mound traffic lanes, tramstop seats removal, promised bike carriage trials] but the basic problem remains - **the tram was designed 'standalone,' leaving buses, walking and cycling to be fitted in later.** Tram needs and visual 'streetscape' seem to have been the top criteria, with everyday street function left for later.

A European design would integrate all aspects from the start. Spokes even initiated a report by a Dutch expert [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : public transport : tram : 2] but his ideas were rejected. **Some improvements may still be possible** but the council will make no changes until contract completion, because of penalty clauses.

Traffic pressures make **tramline bike problems** far more serious - another reason for a traffic-free Princes Street [p1].

There was a useful **bike carriage** discussion at a recent Council Cycle Forum. Tram rep Trevor MacDonald had looked at 5 European trams which carry bikes. None use special fittings, usually just asking the cyclist to stay with the bike. The tram team will now consider whether the Edinburgh trial could use a similar informal approach.

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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