

*Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact [spokesATspokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk).*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

See Spokes 106 for more dates

**Election Question Times** by Morningside Justice & Peace group, 10.30-11.30am, Open Door, 420 Morningside Road  
*Mar 24* Sheila Gilmore, Lab (former Spokes member)  
*Mar 31* Fred Mackintosh, LibDem.  
[Con, SNP and Green meetings are now over]

*Mar 25* **Transition Projects** FOE Edinburgh meeting: moving to resilient local communities, given expected energy and climate futures. Speakers from *Transition Sth Edinburgh* and *Transition Edinburgh Uni*. Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terr, 7.30pm.

*Mar 27* **Borders Railway** talk on progress with the rail project, 2pm, Jury's Inn, Jeffrey Street. A chance to discuss cycle links to stations, and bike carriage capacity. Organised by Railfuture – their AGM follows the meeting. [www.railfuturescotland.org.uk](http://www.railfuturescotland.org.uk).

*Mar 28* **North Edinburgh Path Cleanup** See link on Spokes website [left column] or phone 07786 632114 or email [edinburghcyclepathcleanup@hotmail.com](mailto:edinburghcyclepathcleanup@hotmail.com). Also Water of Leith and towpath cleanups – see Spokes website for links.

*Apr 6* **Green Transport** Patrick Harvie, Green MSP, convenor of Parl't Transport Cttee. CRAG open meeting, 7.30pm, Friends Mtg House, 7 Victoria Terr. *A chance to ask about cycle funding: did Green MSPs make this a priority in budget negotiations? And what should be in the Greens 2011 Holyrood election manifesto?*

**WWF Election Question Times on Climate Change** Website: [scotland.wwf.org.uk](http://scotland.wwf.org.uk) – how you can help – campaign – election.

**Note** – questions on transport are very relevant to the topic.

*Apr 14* **Glasgow Central candidates** Renfield St Stephens, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JP *Info:* Sarah Watson 0141 285 8875.

*Apr 22* **Edinburgh East candidates** Augustine United Church, 41 Geo IV Bridge, 7-8.30. *Info:* Julie Stoneman 01350 728223.

*Apr 28* **Edinburgh North & Leith candidates**. St Paul's and St George's, York Place. *Info:* Diane Green tel 0141 221 7475.

*May 6* **Meet the Funders** Drop-in event, 1-4pm for projects seeking funding - meet officers from Big Lottery, Awards for All, WREN (Environmental), CEC Waste Aware, Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants, private trusts, etc. *At:* Faith Mission, 548 Gilmerton Road. *More info:* Maureen 469 3595 or [www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/External\\_Funding\\_Updates.aspx](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/External_Funding_Updates.aspx)

*Jun 13* **Sustran Two Capitals Ride** Dunfermline to Edinburgh (25 miles) [www.twocapitals.org](http://www.twocapitals.org). Money raised goes to school cycling equipment. [lisa.black@sustran.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.black@sustran.gov.uk), 524 5159.

*June 19-27* **BIKE WEEK** [www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk). There's also a local site [www.bikeweekedinburgh.info](http://www.bikeweekedinburgh.info) to encourage anyone to set up local events – e.g. Workplace or school challenges or fun events. Events in Bike Week can get free insurance cover.

*June 23* **Spokes Bike Breakfast** [jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com](mailto:jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com)

*June 22-25* **Velo-City 2010** Copenhagen global conference for campaigners, experts, decision makers across the world to discuss the potential and challenges of cycling. [www.velo-city2010.com](http://www.velo-city2010.com).

*Nov 5/6* **CYCLENATION EDINBURGH CONFERENCE** Spokes is hosting the autumn Cyclenation conference: the twice-yearly meeting of UK cycle campaign groups, and the first in Scotland for 10 years. There will be a conference day for the 60-100 expected delegates, and a high-profile introductory speaker. We need loads of help, including accommodation for delegates. If you want to know more, have interesting ideas, or can offer help, please contact [rosie.telfordATgmail.com](mailto:rosie.telfordATgmail.com) 622 0143.

## ONLINE THINGS

**Road Safety online poll** by Institute of Advanced Motorists. [www.iam.org.uk/iam\\_polls](http://www.iam.org.uk/iam_polls). You can also sign up for future polls.

**Cycling and Risk survey** An interesting survey from London South Bank University on attitudes to risk when cycling... [www.survey.bris.ac.uk/lbsu/cycling\\_other](http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/lbsu/cycling_other).

**Scottish Climate Change roadmap** The Scottish Government is about to propose to the Scottish Parliament a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020, as in the Climate Change Act - but there are concerns this may get watered down. WWF's website is hosting a Stop Climate Chaos Scotland email campaign asking MSPs to stick to the target. To take part, go to [scotland.wwf.org.uk](http://scotland.wwf.org.uk) – how you can help – campaign – “Ask your MSP to keep Scotland ambitious.”

## BULK MAPS OFFER

**The 2010 Spokes Edinburgh map edition is due in mid/late April** - the price will be £5.95 [the current edition sells at £4.95].

We will have several 100 copies of the existing 2007 edition left, and obviously nearly all the info on it is still valid. Rather than pulping these we'd like to get them out to people or organisations which would use them. For example: colleges, schools, etc could use them as part of travel plan initiatives.

*The old maps will be available at the following first-come first-served sell-off prices...*

**25 copies £25** [minimum order]. **60 or more 50p each**. If there is still a surplus we might supply them cheaper or even free – please send us your request [minimum 25 copies] and the reasons, and we will put you on a waiting list in case we do have leftovers.

**Orders will only be delivered once the new edition is published.** Please order a.s.a.p. - we will reserve the number you order unless supplies are exhausted.

## SPOKES BULLETIN

Spokes 106 has 12 pages instead of the usual 8, thanks to a 4-page supplement funded and prepared by the Bike Station. We are considering other expanded editions in future. The *extra cost* of a 12-page issue, both printing and postage, is around £700. If you have ideas for organisations who might be interested in a supplement, please get in touch. Supplements must be from organisations sharing our aims, and the content must be relevant. For commercial bike-related organisations we might consider one or two full-page adverts in order to fund a 12-page issue.

**There are a minimum 11,500 copies of each issue.** Of these around 1000 go to *named decision-makers* in Edinburgh, the Lothians, and across Scotland. Including, all MSPs, all Edinburgh and Lothians councillors, all Scottish transport departments, all directors of Public Health, transport consultancies, etc, etc. Some 3500 go to *Spokes members*, many of whom take extra copies to leaflet bikes at work, shops, etc. Most others are distributed through *bike shops, libraries, community centres, etc*, widely throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians, and some further afield.

## TRANSPORT STATS

[geeks only?] The UK Statistics Authority is to consult in April on transport statistics (UK, Scottish and Welsh). Do they measure what is useful, how reliable are they, etc. Find out more here...

[www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/programme-of-assessment](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/programme-of-assessment)

# OPEN SPACE CONSULT

Last autumn Edinburgh Council consulted on early proposals for their **Open Space Strategy**. *If you wrote in at that time, thank you!* The Council has now published for consultation a final draft of the Strategy - and it includes some exciting ideas, very possibly influenced by your comments. *We hope interested members will again respond to this consultation on the final draft* - and you can now include some congratulations as well as your ideas for further improvement - *it's always a good idea to support what is particularly good as well as suggesting improvements*.

The draft strategy/ consultation info are at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) - click environment - Other Planning Guidance - Open Space Strategy [near end of page]. Or use this direct link...

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

**The consultation runs March 26 to May 21 - consultation events will be listed on the above page shortly. Comments should be sent to: [openspacestrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:openspacestrategy@edinburgh.gov.uk).**

The Strategy is setting the scene for what the council intends to achieve over 10-15 years, with many of the costly proposals having to wait to be funded by outside sources such as adjacent developments, or by funding applications - the council's own funding is likely to be quite limited in the next few years. The Strategy will be accompanied by 12 **Area Action Plans**, giving more detail and hopefully some idea of expected timescales.

One excellent point is that the draft Strategy has the idea not just of individual parks, etc, but of a **Green Network** "connecting green spaces as part of a network for people to walk or cycle through..." Even better, the Strategy has a long list of proposed actions to improve network connections, including...

- ◆ **New pedestrian/cycle route connecting Roseburn to Union Canal**, using disused railway embankments and new bridges [including a new pedestrian/cycle canal connection at Yeaman Pl.] *This connection between the North Edinburgh Network and South Edinburgh is a long-held Spokes ambition, but one we doubted would appear in council proposals due the likely costs. It was also a prizewinner in our 2009 competition on how to spend £1m to get more people cycling - see spokes website - downloads - odds and ends - competition.*

- ◆ **Green corridors along Powderhall and/or Abbeyhill Loop rail lines** if they close in future - *this is an existing commitment.*

- ◆ **Off-road pedestrian/cycle green corridor from Union Canal to Morningside**, running beside the South Suburban Railway from Colinton Road to Maxwell Street - *existing old proposal.*

**When responding please suggest further links you'd like to see connecting up the green network. And copy your ideas to us too, so we can consider them for the Spokes submission.**

*Here are some possible suggestions...*

- ◆ **Pedestrian/cycle bridge over Leith Walk** - Greener Leith's proposal for Stead's Place/ Jane St area, on the line of the old railway over Leith Walk, linking North Edinburgh Network to Leith Links, to East Edinburgh Network, and on to Portobello. See [www.greenerleith.org](http://www.greenerleith.org) [search for Leith Walk bridge].

- ◆ **Pedestrian/cycle bridge over suburban railway** - Grange/Prestonfield Community Council idea in Relugas Road area, avoiding main roads to link Meadows area to Kings Buildings area. A long-term, expensive project, but no more costly or ambitious than the Plan's proposal for Roseburn to Canal.

- ◆ **South East Wedge Parkland** - paths are proposed for this area, but not in detail - *they need to link Midlothian to the Infirmary and the City by high quality convenient routes.*

- ◆ **International Business Gateway, West Edinburgh** - a new green network is shown within the IBG development area - *but a connection is vital from there to Gogar Rail/Tram Interchange, then under the bypass and so to the Gyle Centre and the city.* This is the underpass which Transport Scotland is currently proposing to be "get off and push" - see Spokes 106 p7. The route is shown in the draft Strategy as 'Other Access Potential' - that is not good enough, it needs to be a definite proposal.

- ◆ **'Other Access Potential'** - the map on p10-11 shows various connections marked with brown dots with this meaning. Check

them carefully, and if any are important enough to be made definite proposals, say that in your response.

- ◆ **A90 Path to Forth Bridge** - a direct path exists, but its quality as the main commuting and tourist holiday route from Edinburgh to the Forth Bridge, Queensferry and the North is disgraceful. Spokes has long campaigned on this. The conversion of the path into a high quality route, as European visitors would expect (let alone local commuters) is vital. Had the new Scottish Government not removed capital funding from our local Regional Transport Partnership, SEStran, this route would probably now be built.

## PATHS NEWS

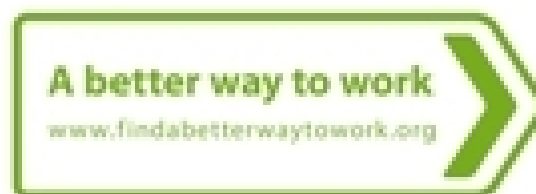
A Spokes member who regularly walks the towpath did a count after a few scary experiences: she found only 4 of 100 cyclists coming up behind used a bell. Overtaking without warning can be frightening: please remember [www.politecycling.info/edinburgh](http://www.politecycling.info/edinburgh) "On shared paths: slow down, ring a bell, say thanks when passing."

Sustrans is to upgrade **Christian Path** in Portobello. Site clearance is soon and upgrade work hopefully in 2010/11. Please send ideas, comments, queries to [philip.kearney@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:philip.kearney@sustrans.org.uk).

## BIKE CHALLENGE

As part of the *Better Way to Work* project [Spokes 106] the Bike Station is running **The Edinburgh Cycle Challenge**, May 10-30. **Sign up your organisation now** ... it's a fun and free workplace based challenge to encourage people to give cycling a go!

[www.edinburghcyclechallenge.org.uk](http://www.edinburghcyclechallenge.org.uk)



Registration has just begun for the May challenge - already about 15 organisations are signed up. The more people from your company or organisation who sign up, the more chances of winning a prize - and there are rewards for signing people up.

The aim is to get more people cycling - to work, but also for shopping, leisure or whatever. Log your bike journeys and be eligible for prizes. There are prizes every day, from cinema tickets to cakes, haircuts to new bikes - prizes for individuals cycling the most, team prizes for companies, prizes for new cyclists... And of course the glory and pride of being a winning organisation!!

If you or your colleagues don't have a bike, fear not - check the **Find a Better Way to Work** project for details of loan bikes.

Organisations across Edinburgh will compete from Monday 10 May to Sunday 30 May 2010 to see who can get the most staff to ride a bike for just 10 minutes or more - but you can register and start logging bike journeys now. Hop on a bike, have some fun and win prizes! It's quick and easy to register. Register now!!

## GENERAL ELECTION

Most powers on cycling matters in Scotland lie with the Scottish Parliament and local councils, so Spokes will not be doing much for the UK general election. The CTC has a UK-wide 'vote bike' campaign at [www.ctc.org.uk/votebike](http://www.ctc.org.uk/votebike) which you might like to take part in, though again their manifesto relates mainly to England.

**Local Election Question Time public meetings:** being put on by various groups [see Diary] - let us know of any more.

**To contact your own local candidates:** a site listing all known candidates so far is [www.yournextmp.com](http://www.yournextmp.com) - of course more will be putting their names forward as the election gets closer.

**Spokes members who we know to be standing in the election:**

**Edinburgh North & Leith - Mark Lazarowicz** - longstanding spokes member and the current Labour MP.

**Edinburgh South West - Tim McKay**, LibDem - spokes member for about 3 years and currently an Edinburgh councillor.

**Edinburgh East - Sheila Gilmore**, Lab - former member for many years, but not renewed recently.