

*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 DIARY IN SPOKES 109 Other dates are given here...

**Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Edinburgh-Glasgow Rail Improvement Project** talk by Transport Scotland's Programme Director, Rodger Querns, with special emphasis on **Gogar Station** [a cause of much complaint on cycling access - Spokes 108, p7] and the re-vamp at **Haymarket**. CRAG open meeting (Capital Rail Action Group) Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria Ter, 7.30 (7.15 for coffee etc).

More info: [www.capitalrail.org.uk](http://www.capitalrail.org.uk) Patrick Hutton 0131 558 8042.

**Mar 5 Going Green** drop-in at Steiner School, 60 Spylaw Rd, 9.30-12.30. SPOKES STALL <http://tinyurl.com/goinggreenforeveryone>.

**Mar 5 Farmers Market** Castle Ter SPOKES STALL. For more info or to help: [judy.cantleyATbtopenworld.com](mailto:judy.cantleyATbtopenworld.com) 447 7108.

**Mar 5 Mardi Gras Ceilidh** at St Martins church where we rent our office, in aid of building refurbishment. 537 7532 or email [sophia.marriageATstmartinsedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:sophia.marriageATstmartinsedinburgh.org.uk).

**Mar 7 Creating a Sustainable Scotland** Conference, Edinburgh. [expensive] How to hold the Scottish Government to account, now that the Sustainable Development Commission is being scrapped. <http://sustainableScotland.holyrood.com>.

**Mar 8 Walking/Cycling conference** <http://walkcycleconnect.org>

**Mar 9 Muirhouse Youth Bike Club - Launch event**, 3pm, at The Klub, Muirhouse shopping centre. Aim to help employability and increase physical activity. Young people will be trained to deliver bike maintenance, cycle training and GoMountain skills. Once qualified, they will deliver courses to school pupils, and Dr Bike surgeries in the local community. *More info:* article overleaf.

**Mar 23 SPOKES HOLYROOD HUSTINGS** - see Bulletin 109.

**Mar 26 Sustainable Transport/ Local food event** Kirknewton, 12-4. SPOKES/Sustrans stall to be organised by David Liddell - contact him if you can help or for info: [davidATdliddell.co.uk](mailto:davidATdliddell.co.uk).

**Apr 5 CRAG Holyrood Election Transport Hustings**. Time and place as March 1<sup>st</sup> [joint public meeting with Transform & others].

**May 5 Scottish Parliament elections** - remember to vote!!

## DONATIONS

This Spring mailout is our main annual membership renewal time. **If there is a computer-printed renewal form in your mailing, you are due to renew for 2011, according to our records.** You must return the form to us, even if there are no changes to the information on it, in order to be renewed for 2011. **If there is no renewal form in your envelope**, you are already up to date for 2011, either new or renewed recently, and you need do nothing.

**When you renew we greatly appreciate a donation - Spokes has no fixed membership fee, and we depend very largely on donations and map sales.** However, if you are very hard up we still welcome your membership - if you support us by lobbying your councillors or MSPs occasionally, that's worth a great deal!

At present we can't accept **Gift Aid** as we are not a charity. We are looking into this, but there are minuses as well as benefits.

**Members increasingly ask to donate to Spokes by standing order or BACS - see below.** We hope also to set up PayPal soon.

We hope eventually to set up **online membership**, but this is complex owing to our large membership (not all of whom are online) and the many uses we make of our existing database (e.g. to enable emails to members in specific areas about local matters).

**You can make a renewal donation in 3 ways, as follows.** Your renewal form now has a section on donations - please tick the relevant box to show which way you are donating.

♦ **Enclose a cheque payable to Spokes** when you post in your renewal form. This is the traditional method, still used by the vast majority of members. We are quite happy with it.

♦ **Set up a standing order to Spokes.** To do this, please on your renewal form tick the box requesting a standing order form. We will send it to you with your renewal. If you already have a standing order to Spokes, tick the box saying that.

♦ **Make a BACS online transfer to Spokes.** On your renewal form please tick the relevant box. We'll then send you a standing order form as above: this has the details needed for BACS.

## STORAGE ONSTREET

Following our Climate-Challenge Fund project on tackling the often inadequate bike storage faced by tenement and flat-dwellers, Spokes hopes to work with the Council towards actual practical improvements. The CEC Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP) has specific commitments around improving residential bike storage and, in particular, it promises on-street storage pilots. Our project has increased momentum on this by identifying possible locations, interested residents, and equipment options. Some cyclist-residents have also started data-gathering to build a convincing case for the investment in storage.

**CAN YOU HELP??** ... Spokes needs volunteers for a small working group to encourage and support the Council to deliver its ATAP on-street storage pilots promise. If you would like to be involved [especially if you live in a tenement / flat and would use on-street storage yourself] email [spokesbikestorage@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesbikestorage@spokes.org.uk).



Our on-street parking survey gives useful evidence on cycling residents' perspectives: how far they would walk to bike stores, what security would be needed etc. See [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) - Jan 18 news item; includes link to full survey results and commentary.

## PAPER & ELECTRONIC

Spokes has over 1000 members (in nearly 800 households) and we have email addresses for 90%+ of households. But some members don't have email, a few wish not to supply an email address, and there are always some where the address is outdated or otherwise incorrect [though we make strenuous and remarkably successful efforts to keep the database as 'clean' as possible, including follow-up on email failures by phone or elsehow].

**A few members would prefer not to receive any paper, so it may be useful to outline our current communication methods, the reasons for them, and how they have developed.** Spokes has in recent years moved substantially in the electronic direction, and this process gradually continues. *Continued PTO*

◆ **Our website** is now a huge repository of information and reference, as you can see by looking at the downloads and links tabs at the top of the page, as well as the news items [which you can search by category, topic or month, using the right-column tags; or by using the free-text search box at the top of the page]. Significant website updates are notified on twitter [which also feeds to facebook]. Follow us at <http://twitter.com/SpokesLothian>.

◆ **Spokesworker** [our roughly-monthly action-update] is now primarily made available via our website [Spokesworker tab at top of page], though still available in printed form. As from 2011 we notify all emailable members of new issues [a printed copy may be enclosed if we are writing to you anyway for some other reason such as our 3 times a year main mailing]. However, any member wishing still to receive spokesworker regularly on paper [e.g. if no email] can send us a supply of 10 stamped addressed envelopes.

◆ **Email circulars** are now sent periodically to all emailable members and, where appropriate, to those in certain categories – e.g. to notify you of developments in your local area, where you might wish to comment to the council. *Regrettably, members for whom we have no email address do not normally receive these communications:* it would be too much work for our volunteers, who already give a lot of time to Spokes. Email circulars are not sent at fixed intervals, but only when there is important news to pass on, or an accumulation of small items. On average, emailable members receive around 10-12 emails a year from Spokes: in the past this would have been on paper or not possible at all.

**However, we are at present sticking to a printed Bulletin and to 3 annual paper-based mailouts, for the following reasons...**

- ◆ the Bulletin can be passed on to friends, left for customers at your dentist, leafleted on a parked bike, etc\*
- ◆ approx one-third of members specifically request extra printed Bulletins or posters, to leaflet bikes or to put up posters at work, shops, etc\* [\*we get new members this way]
- ◆ having different systems for different members would be an added complication to our already complex admin.
- ◆ our 3 mailouts a year allow us to include inserts for other organisations about forthcoming relevant events/developments [e.g. the UK bike/rail leaflet this time]
- ◆ until we have online membership renewal, we have to send out a renewal form annually (and sometimes reminders in subsequent mailings!) The present database system doesn't allow online renewal, but gives us many powerful features, e.g. email lists of members in different areas or categories, for email circulars.

## MYDG BIKE CLUB

**Muirhouse young people to learn work skills via Bike Club**

*[extract from Bike Club press release]*

Muirhouse is showing Edinburgh the way forward by becoming the first area in the capital to join a new UK initiative, Bike Club. A brand new project to get young people on their bikes launches at Muirhouse Shopping Centre on 9 March [see Diary for details].

The Bike Club launch provides an opportunity for MY Bike Club to demonstrate some of the cycling activities they will offer. Everyone is welcome to attend with a chance to meet the workers, have your bike fixed in the workshop and perhaps a ride on one of their mountain bikes around the Obstacle Course!

After the launch, Bike Club will become a permanent part of people's lives in Muirhouse, providing local children and young adults with skills and qualifications for the workplace, and switching them on to learning. People who don't regularly use their bikes are particularly welcome.

The initiative, led by Muirhouse Youth Development Group, will teach local young people how to repair bikes and how to cycle safely on- and off-road. Once trained and qualified, the young people will themselves deliver bike safety and GoMountain Bike Courses to primary and secondary school pupils.

The project will also provide 'Dr Bike' surgeries each week where local people can have their bikes repaired by the trainees.

Jonny Kinross, MYDG Development worker, said: "Delivering a maintenance project will increase employment opportunities and employability skills in the local area whilst addressing health needs by promoting cycling."

More info: [amy.hickman@bikeclub.org.uk](mailto:amy.hickman@bikeclub.org.uk), Bike Club Officer

## EDINBURGH ACTIONS

### COUNCIL MASTERPLANS ...

The Council now has a map and list of all(?) area masterplans, development briefs, and so on, for different parts of the city.

*Map of masterplans:* <http://tiny.cc/zv1lx>

*Plans listing:* [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/41/planning\\_policies](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/41/planning_policies).

In a tweet the council said it welcomes feedback on any of these, even though most of them are finalised. They ask for comments via the 'comment on this page' link on the right of each web page.

### WATERFRONT & LEITH ADF CONSULTATION

[ADF = Area Development Framework] \*\* **ENDS 28 MARCH** \*\*

See [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/areadevelopmentframeworks](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/areadevelopmentframeworks) for the draft framework and other related documents.

For more info or questions about the consultation arrangements contact [andrew.sikes@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.sikes@edinburgh.gov.uk) 469 3412.

**Please copy your submission to Spokes so we can consider using your points too. The document has not yet been discussed by our Planning Group, but here are some initial thoughts to ponder if making your own submission.**

- ◆ Not always clear what some of the flowery language means in practical terms: if anything is unclear, ask the council, or say so.
- ◆ Cycling should be in several points which only mention walking
- ◆ A big part of the plan is the *Great Street* concept for the A901 through the area. It's not too clear what this means, apart from becoming a great street to walk. No mention of cycling, though obviously it's really important as the main direct artery through the area. It's also (from memory) quite wide in parts, so there could be scope for something imaginative.
- ◆ It's not made clear that the coastal path [*Almond to Esk*] is for cycling as well as walking [probably they just forgot to say that].
- ◆ Cycling conditions on-street are mentioned a little, but there seems a danger that the offroad paths such as Water of Leith could be seen as sufficient to cater for most cycling needs.
- ◆ As always - the vital question of how far the aspirations in this 'Framework' will be made real in planning applications and in ensuring consistency and links between adjacent developments.

### TRAIN YOUNG PEOPLE IN CYCLING

Edinburgh Council seeks confident cyclists to provide training for young people [P7 to S2] in south and west Edinburgh. The Council will give you training, leading to qualification under the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme. You have to commit to then give 12 young people's training sessions. An induction meeting is planned for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 3-4pm, at the City Chambers. More info, and booking: [mel.coutts@Edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:mel.coutts@Edinburgh.gov.uk) 07788 566879.

## CAPS DEVELOPMENTS

*Cycling Scotland has submitted this item about developments in implementing the government's Cycling Action Plan for Scotland.*

[info from Andrew Pankhurst 0141 229 5354 [www.cyclingscotland.org](http://www.cyclingscotland.org)]

[For more on CAPS see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) – links - legislation – CAPS]

The first meeting of **CAPS Delivery Forum** was on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting brought together representatives of key national organisations responsible for delivering the actions within CAPS and representatives from 22 local authorities and national parks.

The Delivery Forum allows organisations tasked with carrying out the 17 actions within the plan the opportunity to co-ordinate their work and report back on progress so far. A *National Cycling Interests Group* will also meet, so that organisations with an interest in promoting cycling, but no CAPS actions directly assigned to them, can feed into cycling development progress.

The first big development from CAPS is around cycle training. A *Cycle Training Standards and Delivery Group* has been set up to increase on-road child cycle training across Scotland. A *Cycle Training Action Plan* has been agreed by the group, and is now on the website [www.cyclingscotland.org](http://www.cyclingscotland.org). Funding from Bike Hub has allowed Cycling Scotland to recruit two new Cycle Training Officers, who will work full time on developing and supporting the delivery of cycle training nationwide.