

*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 Bulletin 113 and at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk). Also...

June 2-30 **Sustrans big cycle/walk challenge** [www.getmeactive.org.uk](http://www.getmeactive.org.uk)

June 2 & June 30 **Spokes stall** at Farmers' market, Castle Terr.

Volunteers to help at these or other Spokes stalls (e.g. June 20), please contact [Judy.CantleyATbtopenworld.com](mailto:Judy.CantleyATbtopenworld.com). 447 7108.

June 9 **2<sup>nd</sup> hand bike sale** Sciennes Primary PTA 1-3.30pm 6671243

June 17 **NCN76 Celebratory Ride** Start Dunbar, Musselburgh or many other points, coming together 1pm at Haddington. Hopefully a link soon on Spokes website. Or contact: [Musselburgh] [donaldo34AThotmail.com](mailto:donaldo34AThotmail.com) [Dunbar] [mrmajames@gmail.com](mailto:mrmajames@gmail.com) 07914 602123

June 20, 8-10 **SPOKES Bike Breakfast** – see Spokes 113

NB: There may be rides to the Bike Breakfast from various parts of Edinburgh, with Councillors/MSPs invited. Bikes borrowable for new cyclists! Find local rides at [www.breakfastbikeride.org.uk](http://www.breakfastbikeride.org.uk). For more info, or to help organise a ride, contact Mike Smith: [lionfishyATgmail.com](mailto:lionfishyATgmail.com). 07779527004.

June 20, 11-2 **Large vehicle/cyclist awareness event** – Spokes 113

July 1, 11-4 **Treasure Hunt on Wheels: North Edinburgh Innertube/ Postcode Challenge** Collect stamps from various postcode points around the North Edinburgh network, with big prizes. A shorter route for walkers is also planned. More info later at any of [www.thebikestation.org.uk](http://www.thebikestation.org.uk), [innertubemap.com](http://innertubemap.com), [www.elgt.org.uk](http://www.elgt.org.uk).

The organisers need volunteers to help on the day – for more info or to get involved, contact Liz Stewart, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, 445 4025, email [lizATelgt.org.uk](mailto:lizATelgt.org.uk).

July 6 - Sep 19 [or part] **Ecotopia annual environmental bike tour** - this year south France/ north Italy [www.ecotopiabiketour.net](http://www.ecotopiabiketour.net).

## BIKES UP AGAIN!!

The Spokes May 2012 Edinburgh traffic count found yet another rise in bikes, both in total numbers and as a % of all vehicles...

On May 15, we repeated the rush-hour traffic count we have done for the last 6 years on Tuesday in mid-May and mid-Nov, northbound and southbound on Lothian Rd and Forrest Rd.

◆ Between 8-9am we counted 455 bikes, compared to 407 in May 2011 and 445 in November 2011

◆ At these 4 locations, bikes were 15.0% of all vehicles, the most ever – a remarkable 21.1% of citybound vehicles and 7.0% of southbound.

◆ At Forrest Rd, bikes were more than 1 in 4 of all citybound vehicles.

◆ At Lothian Road, one of Edinburgh's most cycle-unfriendly streets, but an almost unavoidable access to the city centre, bikes formed a remarkable 17.7% of all citybound vehicles.

◆ Total cars fell to 1791, the second-lowest level we have ever counted, continuing a gradual decline, whilst buses, taxis and other commercial vehicles rose [we count them as a combined category].

◆ With the Mound now reopened to taxis, buses (and bikes) only, Forrest Road saw a rise in such vehicles compared to November 2011 when the Mound was entirely closed, whilst cars declined further.

◆ Some 75% of private cars again contained only a driver – occupying far more of the precious roadscape than a person commuting by bike.

Note that the above highlights all cover exactly one hour, 8-9am; our full count data also includes totals for 7.45-9.15am.

**Many thanks to the Spokes volunteers who organised and participated in the count.** For more info, and links to the full data see the May 20 news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

## ELECTION OUTCOMES

*For a fuller report on the outcome and implications for cycling policy of the council elections see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) May 18 news item. Please send us corrections/updates - some info is not yet known.*

### Edinburgh

Lab 20, SNP 18, Con 11, Green 6, LD 3; **Lab/SNP control**

**Transport Convener: Cllr Lesley Hinds.** At the Spokes hustings she said she was too scared to cycle on the roads – that may or may not be helpful in terms of getting conditions improved!

**Council Leader: Cllr Andrew Burns.** He was Transport Convener 2001-2006, and very supportive of cycling as everyday transport.

**Spokes members – The following councillors are Spokes members**

Ward 9 **Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart Gavin Corbett**, Green

Ward 10 **Meadows/Morningside Melanie Main**, Green

Ward 13 **Leith Chas Booth**, Green; **Gordon Munro**, Labour

Ward 15 **Southside/New'ton Jim Orr**, SNP; **Cameron Rose**, Con

Ward 17 **Portobello/Craigmillar – Maureen Child**, Labour

### East Lothian

Lab 10; SNP 9; Con 3; Ind 1; **Lab/Con control**

**Transport Convener: Michael Veitch [Con]**

### Midlothian

SNP 8, Lab 8. Ind 1, Green 1; **SNP/Ind coalition**

**Spokes members: – The following councillor is a Spokes member**  
Bonnyrigg ward - **Ian Baxter** [Green]

### West Lothian

Result – Lab 16, SNP 15, Con 1, Ind 1; **Lab/Con control.**

## ELECTION MANIFESTO PROMISES

[See *Spokesworker* 16.4.12 and website March 30 news item for fuller manifesto extracts and links]

### Edinburgh

*The Labour/SNP Coalition Agreement includes...*

6.2 Spend 5% of the transport budget on provision for cyclists

6.3 Consult with a view to extending the current 20mph zones

6.4 Set up a city-wide transport forum of experts and citizens to consider our modern transport needs

However all parties (including Labour & SNP) will also if possible want to fulfill any additional promises from their own manifestos.

Labour had an excellent manifesto commitment on **20mph areas** “*extending 20mph limits to all residential and shopping areas.*” The coalition 20mph promise (above) is much weaker. Labour councillors could therefore be lobbied for a city-wide 20mph limit, though probably with 30mph on non-shopping-area arterial roads.

Potentially controversial is **the existing council policy to raise the cycling 5% by a further 1% each year.** Will the coalition retain that? It is not in the coalition agreement, but the Labour manifesto promised “*increasing (the 5%) year by year*” and SNP to “*increase .. whenever we can.*” Undoubtedly Spokes, and opposition parties like the Greens and LDs, will look out for any attedrompt to p the **1% annual increase** policy in the next budget.

### All-Scotland [councils in SNP control or shared control]

Some SNP council groups did not issue a manifesto, but the SNP issued a national manifesto applicable to all councils. This can be used to lobby SNP councillors everywhere: if the SNP is in power in your area they should implement this. *On cycling, it promises...*

[p31] All SNP councils will have a green transport plan to cut carbon and encourage walking, cycling or other forms of transport.

[p22] work with relevant stakeholders on improving cyclist safety to help encourage a shift to more active travel alternatives, helping to make Scotland greener and healthier.

PTO

[p34] SNP councils will work with the Scottish Government and cycling charities to ensure all our school pupils are offered on-road cycle training to keep them safe.

### ELECTION OUTCOMES: WHAT YOU CAN DO

*It's not too early to lobby your new councillors now.* Find your councillors at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) or your local council website.

- ◆ Remind them of their promises [see above & website May 18 news item] and ask what they are intending to do towards meeting them.
- ◆ Tell them what you'd like to see in your local area, i.e. their ward!
- ◆ Don't send a too long letter – one or two main concerns under each of the two above bullet points is ideal, and may get more attention.

## PEDAL ON PARLIAMENT

PoP was a massive success, with around 3000 participants. For a detailed report, with pictures and links to some of the best picture and video sites see the April 21 news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

We hope to send an exciting **PoP picture postcard** free to all members in the summer mailing (if printed in time). The card will also be on sale at Spokes stalls over the summer, and by mail order. We'll put an article on our website once they are on sale.

**Consider using your postcard to write to a local councillor or MSP with ideas you'd like them to follow up. If writing to your MSP remember the big issue is cycling investment – under 1p in every £1 spent on transport is invested in cycling. To reach the government's own 2020 10% cycle-use target that needs to be 5% rather than 1% [see PoP manifesto and table in Spokes 112 p7]. The picture postcard should help remind MSPs of the 3000 people who felt strongly enough to come to PoP.**

If ordering postcards, take the chance to order your Spokes Buff [featuring part of the Spokes Edinburgh map] at the same time – for pictures and more details see Dec 7 news item at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk). Price £12 by post or £10 if collected from the South Edinburgh contact shown. [Note – postcards cannot be collected – please use mail order or come along to a Spokes stall – see diary].

## June 28: RAIL CONSULTN.

The UK government is consulting on the future of all aspects of rail fares - the outcome is likely to affect Scotland, as well as your rail trips elsewhere in the UK. Ewan Jeffrey, our bike/rail person, has pointed out that the consultation is very relevant to bike/rail issues, so **please make your own response if this concerns you.**

**To send in a quick response, the easiest way is to use this site...**

[bettertransport.org.uk/fairfares/fares-review](http://bettertransport.org.uk/fairfares/fares-review)

**If you have time to send in a full and detailed response**, see the long list of questions on the official consultation site...

[www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-09](http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-09)

Ewan suggests you consider making some/all of the following points. Use your own words - DON'T copy this word for word.

- ◆ Bikes continue to be carried free.
- ◆ Require all train operating companies to permit online booking of bike spaces (where required). The consultation states that online ticket selling is more cost effective and should be encouraged, but for cyclists a booking office visit is commonly necessary to buy a ticket where a bike reservation is required.
- ◆ More flexible internal train layouts would boost leisure off-peak travel. Para 92 says "*Despite the busy peaks, once overall usage across the day is considered Britain has the lowest average volume of passengers per train of any major European railway.*" That's partly because fixed seating is so user unfriendly if you have a shopping trolley, a wheeled walking aid, a buggy or a bike, unlike in other European countries!
- ◆ It is unfair that, when using an "Advance" ticket on the booked train, one can't get off at an earlier station or join at a later station, without invalidating the ticket and being liable to buy a new full price ticket. Flexibility would help touring cyclists.

More info: [ewanATnavyblue.org.uk](http://ewanATnavyblue.org.uk)

### STOP PRESS: STIRLING STATION BIKE HUB

Discussion is underway on a possible bike hub at Stirling Station.

**If you use this station with a bike** please take part in this survey...

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/StirlingCycleHub](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StirlingCycleHub) More info:

[angela.mitchell@AtksbScotland.org.uk](mailto:angela.mitchell@AtksbScotland.org.uk) 01786 468760 07720 090550

## SNIPPETS

**CYCLING COMMUNITIES FUND** Grants up to approx £6K to help local groups raise local cycle use [www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project/](http://www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project/)

### CARFREE UK – SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Carfree UK grants up to £1000 to local groups in the UK doing work in line with its mission, namely...

- ◆ Encouraging new carfree development
- ◆ Promoting road closures/pedestrianisation
- ◆ Supporting carfree people or carfree living

Apply by 15 July. More info at [www.carfree.org.uk](http://www.carfree.org.uk).

### LOTHIAN & BORDERS POLICE

Spokes Bulletin 113 [p6] talks very positively about the Edinburgh Council/ police safety campaign. Unfortunately there is a **rumour** [we stress, a rumour] of possible change, with developments such as perfectly legal cyclists stopped at random to be told about helmets, lights, pavement cycling, etc. *Please tell Spokes if you experience anything disconcerting during the summer.*

### EDINBURGH PARKS/ GREEN SPACE WEB PROJECT

The council is developing an exciting new website/app project to promote parks and green space. Comments are welcome. See...

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/webblog/post/282/Have-your-say-on-our-new-parks-and-green-spaces-web-project](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/blog/webblog/post/282/Have-your-say-on-our-new-parks-and-green-spaces-web-project)

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

### Enhancing Drivers' Awareness of Cyclists

We are looking for someone to join a small SPOKES project group to promote mutual driver / cyclist awareness, through engagement with current initiatives and relevant organisations (e.g. Police, taxi companies, driving schools, others involved in driver training) and production/distribution of relevant materials, printed and online.

This is not a paid position, but we have a small amount of funding for project materials and expenses. In order for the project to proceed, we need a volunteer to take a leading role in...

- ◆ investigating and compiling a list of relevant agencies, making contact with them to find out how they operate, and how new Spokes materials might be used by them;
- ◆ drafting materials around the theme [we already have ideas, and more might be found on the web]
- ◆ promoting/distributing the materials through the contacted agencies.

Work on this project might lead to further projects, if interested - for example, related projects such as lorry/cycle awareness [building on another current Council initiative].

You need to be motivated, happy to work with others, but with self-confidence to work by yourself, including contacting people and organisations, following up leads and contacts by phone, email or in person; and using the web. Of course, you will have regular contact with the project group. You would also if possible come to Spokes Resources Group (every few weeks) to learn more about relevant Spokes work and for further project discussion.

It is not necessary to be a driver yourself though ideally you need to be familiar with the concerns of both drivers and cyclists.

More info: Contact Mies at 0131 667 3859 (evenings) or email [mknottenbelt1ATgmail.com](mailto:mknottenbelt1ATgmail.com).

## June 30: Responsible Parking

**Please respond by June 30** to the consultation on this Scottish Parliament proposed Responsible Parking legislation. The main motivation is to improve things for pedestrians, but several measures will also help towards safer cycling – restrictions on double-parking, and parking at dropped kerbs at path exits/entries.

**To respond** go to [www.livingstreets.org.uk/living-streets-in-scotland](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/living-streets-in-scotland) and click the campaign button. The site gives very long pre-prepared template answers – **we suggest you delete most of them and give your own (shorter) answers, including whatever cyclist and pedestrian comments you have** – this is likely to have more impact than repeating the lengthy standard and technical template replies.

**Please consider responding** - this raises the chances of the Bill going forward, and helps highlight the cyclist issues, which have had a very low profile indeed so far in discussions on the Bill.