

# Spokes Action Update 10.07.15

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... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address it may not yet be in our database, so this message may go to your old address or possibly to both.  
... When using email addresses below, replace [AT] by @.  
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## 1. BIKE SPACE ON THE NEW EGIP ELECTRIC EDINBURGH-GLASGOW TRAINS

ScotRail are now planning the internal design of the new electric trains which will run on the Edinburgh-Falkirk-Glasgow main line and on various local lines in Central Scotland. They are consulting Spokes and other organisations.

Their current proposals for the new trains will be no better than the present layout, and in some respects less satisfactory. We are arguing for a flexible space in every carriage of every train – we believe this would benefit not just people with bikes, but many others too, and would also assist ScotRail in several senses. The major hold-up seems to be with Transport Scotland, the government's Transport delivery body, who want to maximise the number of fixed seats – hence the need for emails to MSPs rather than to ScotRail.

See the full details, the proposed layout of the new trains, and our reasoning in this story...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/07/new-glasgow-edinburgh-trains/>

Then, if you agree, and if this matters to you, contact your MSPs.

## 2. SPOKES SUMMER COMPETITION

Our great summer competition tradition continues, with the usual range of excellent prizes including 1<sup>st</sup> class return travel for 2 on ScotRail, a £50 Bike Coop voucher, Camera Obscura tickets, and many more. **We are also now offering 15 runner-up prizes of a Spokes map.**

The competition this year is 'My Favourite Bike Ride.' We hope that winning entries will be made into a booklet, like we did in 2005 when we last ran this topic for the competition, and which has proved very popular over the years. So by entering you'll be helping Spokes as well as yourself!

Please also ask friends and colleagues to enter. Full rules, details of prizes, and entry form here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/07/comp-my-favourite-bike-ride/>

## 3. FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ **Spokes stalls** – Sat July 25 and Sat 22 August – Farmers Market, Castle Terrace  
<https://twitter.com/EdFarmersMarket/> Come along to buy a map or just to say hello. We always need more volunteers to help at stalls. If you can help, please email [martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk](mailto:martyn.edelsten@ed.ac.uk) or volunteer at a stall.
- ◆ **Edinburgh CycleFest** – Sept 19&20. Not to be confused with the **Festival of Cycling!!!** Cyclefest is basically a big exhibition by bike suppliers of all types – together with entertainment, bike events, kids cycling, etc. **There will be a Spokes stall.** There is an entry fee, with 25% off if you book by 31 July using code CF25. <http://www.cyclefestedinburgh.com/buy-tickets> Accompanied children under 15 are free.
- ◆ **Shakespeare by Bike** - Aug 18-30 [The Handlebards](http://www.handlebards.com) are Shakespearean players who tour the UK taking all their costumes and props by bike – and even charging their electrical equipment batteries by hub dynamos as they cycle! Their Fringe shows are part of a 1500-mile tour, London to Coupar Angus. They will perform open-air shows at the Botanicus plus shows on Aug 18,19,25,26 where the audience cycles to a mystery destination: 50 hire-bikes will be available. [www.handlebards.com](http://www.handlebards.com)

## 4. BIKES ON TRAMS

The trial succeeded! - and Edinburgh is now the first UK city to allow bikes (offpeak) on regular tram services. Thank you everyone who helped, including the many individuals who emailed councillors some years ago when the initial decision was taken, and subsequently during the many ups and downs in the long saga!

For the full story, see <http://www.spokes.org.uk/2015/07/we-are-happy-to-welcome-bikes/>

Unfortunately, there are exceptions to the rule, including a complete ban during the Edinburgh Festival, 7–31 August. If you are unhappy with the total ban during big events such as the festival, ask your councillors to take this up – it will help if your email has a positive tone to it, given that overall this is a big success.

## 5. SUPERMARKET SURVEY

A report is now available on the survey we conducted earlier this year on cycle parking and access at supermarkets in Edinburgh and Lothian. Find it here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/papers-documents/supermarkets-project/>

Next stage of the project is to produce a guidance document on how things could be improved. This can then be used by anyone to lobby their local supermarket manager for improvements. We would also like to contact all regional HQs and find a chain which would undertake an 'exemplary' project to improve cycling conditions at all their local stores.

We would welcome any members with the enthusiasm and time to get involved with these next steps.

## 6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS *to comment* & PAN EXHIBITIONS *to attend*

Check out our page of cycling-relevant planning proposals every week or two to see if any affect areas where you live, work or otherwise cycle, and for information on how to look them up on the council website.

Find the page at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : local : current-pas-and-pans

or click this link to go straight there...

[www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans/](http://www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/current-pas-and-pans/)

**There are several significant proposals on the go at present, where cycle connections could be usefully incorporated, and this is more likely to happen if members of the public comment and/or object.**

One important one [Ref 15/02788/FUL] is for the **'Registers' area** between St Andrews Square and James Craig Walk area – which is itself to be redeveloped at part of the St James project. The St James project will include a north-south cycleroute along James Craig Walk, from Leith Street to York Place, but without a connection to St Andrews Square. The Registers development might be able to provide this.

## 7. SPOKES SNIPPETS

- ◆ [Report of Spokes Bike/Rail public meeting](#) - Also worth a read, the [Abellio ScotRail Cycle Innovation Plan](#)
- ◆ [Report of 2015 Spokes Bike Breakfast](#)
- ◆ **Spokes Summer Bulletin** – we have plenty spare copies available. *Please contact us if you could use a supply* – for example to leaflet bikes parked at shops and other destinations in your local area (or any area you are visiting). This would be especially valuable in the outer areas of Edinburgh and in the Lothians, as central and south-central Edinburgh already have fairly good coverage
- ◆ **Spokes summer mailout Non-Deliveries??** The post office has returned to us quite a number of items enclosed in the summer mailing with a note saying the envelopes were damaged and lost, so we don't know who missed out on their mailing. Since they were sent by post rather than bike-delivery, it will be members who live outside the Edinburgh and Lothians urban areas and who normally get mailings by post. If you didn't get a mailing, you can find the summer bulletin (no.122) and its Transform supplement online at <http://www.spokes.org.uk/bulletin/>

## 8. FESTIVAL OF CYCLING – FEEDBACK WANTED

If you went to any events in [EdFoC](#), please give your feedback, on the overall festival and/or on individual events, to help the organisers with their planning for next year. And - all responses go into a prize draw. The survey forms are here...

The festival as a whole <http://www.edfoc.org.uk/survey/index.php/943589/lang-en>

Individual events <http://www.edfoc.org.uk/survey/index.php/656155/lang-en>

## 9. FINALLY ...

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk).
- ◆ We have an active **twitter** presence, [@SpokesLothian](#). Please look every so often, and RT any tweets you support. The latest Spokes tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ◆ The [Spokes Facebook page](#) is now back in operation. If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc! Initially it will mainly be repeating stories from the website, and we hope also to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook soon.