

Spokes Action Update 14.04.17

... 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.

... **Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up.**

Apologies for another circular soon after the previous one, but there are a couple of urgent items...

1. Council elections, May 4 – latest developments

- Anyone registered for a postal vote (an increasingly large number of people) should receive their ballot paper today, or very soon, so we wish to keep you up-to-date with developments...
- **All parties on Edinburgh Council have now issued their manifestos**, and we have analysed how they treat cycling. It's on our website [here](#) and there's a tweet [here](#) - please retweet. Obviously we don't presume to suggest how you should vote, and you will doubtless also be taking into account issues other than cycling and transport, but this may be one important factor.
- **It is vital to understand the voting system** – so as to maximise the power of your vote...
 - In most wards your ballot paper will have between 5 and 10 candidates (including maybe more than one from the same party) from which either 3 or 4 councillors will be elected. You have to number the candidates 1,2,3,...
 - **To make your vote have the maximum possible effect, do number *all* the candidates, not just those that you like.** So, for example, the person you *least* want to be elected gets the last number. If you want more background to why this matters, there are some references in our [website article](#).
 - If you'd like to pass on this advice, you can retweet [this](#).
- **Election Hustings** – the Spokes hustings went very well, with around 70 people - there's a report [here](#) and a tweet [here](#). There are a lot of **local hustings** coming up, including for Gyle/DrumBrae, Forth (i.e. much of North Edinburgh), Morningside, Leith, Inverleith, Murrayfield Musselburgh; and **topic-based hustings** including Heritage, Sustainable Futures and "Everybody's Edinburgh". Details [here](#). Please go along and ask cycling/transport questions.
- **Are you registered to vote??** If not, it's quick, easy and still open until 17 April. Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

2. New HST trains to Inverness and Aberdeen – in Parliament!!

- **Our information about cutbacks in bike space in the HST inter-city 125 trains planned for the Edinburgh/Glasgow to Inverness/Aberdeen services in 2018/19 has roused great concern.** Under current plans there will be *only 2 spaces* for anyone wanting to get on or off at any station between the terminal stations (compared to 4 spaces at present!) plus another 6 spaces for end-to-end journeys only – whereas the original expectation was 20 spaces per train.
- Our [original tweet](#) rapidly became our 2nd most popular ever, with nearly 90 retweets so far – please retweet if you can and if you've not done so! The story also hit [the Scotsman](#).
- **As a result of the great concern a private member's motion has been lodged in the Scottish Parliament by Liam Kerr MSP** (North East Scotland) seeking action by the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and ScotRail. Full details [here](#) (and our tweet [here](#)).
- **Please help!!** In order for the motion to be called for debate, it must be signed by as many MSPs as possible, from as many parties as possible. ***If you are concerned, please email your MSPs*** (Constituency and Regional), ask them if they will sign motion S5M-05106, and say briefly why this matters to you. Even if you have already contacted your MSPs, send a brief follow-up to ask if they will sign this motion. Find your MSPs at www.writetothem.com.

3. Pedal on Parliament

- Please come along, and tell all friends & colleagues. There will be politicians a-plenty, and they need to be impressed by the numbers! Full details [here](#).
- This year there are 4 PoPs, April 22 in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness & April 23 in Glasgow. All the PoPs have 'feeder rides' so you can join with other people from your area to cycle to PoP if you wish - the Edinburgh ones are [here](#).
- There will be a Spokes stall at the Meadows at the start - please come and say hello. If you are there very early (11ish) you can help us leaflet participants with the current Spokes Bulletin as they arrive.
- Also – don't be shy! - take the chance to go up and chat to politicians. Good topics for council candidates or for MSPs would be the [national and local transport budgets](#). Another good topic for MSPs would be the **HST trains** (see 2 above) - have they signed the Parliamentary motion on this yet??

4. Edinburgh cycleroute consultations

- Last year, as you will probably remember, there were a large number of consultations on schemes to link up various existing sections of cycleroute. Consultation reports have now been published for 8 of the schemes, as below, and can be seen at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk. These are for information rather than comment, but there is nothing to stop you commenting (and/or telling us) if you feel they have got something seriously wrong. The next stage will be detailed design and public consultation on that. It feels a long process before anything happens on the ground!
 - Lower Granton Road;
 - Roseburn Park;
 - Bankhead Drive, Bankhead Avenue and South Gyle Access;
 - Balgreen Road;
 - Carrington Road;
 - Grange Road, Lauder Road, Tantallon Place and Lover's Loan;
 - McDonald Road; and
 - Niddrie, Moredun and Gilmerton.

5. Edinburgh Design Guidance

- The Council is revamping its guidance document about new developments, and it is now [out for consultation](#). It is a massive document, which we have not yet looked at in any detail. If you have the time, please have a look, send in your comments and let us have a copy.
- One of the important sections is on what parking is allowed and is required at new developments of all types – see section 2.4 of the document. Note that the table on page 57 is confusing at first – many of the figures in the main columns refer (we think) not to the number of bike spaces but to the value of the 'X' in the left-hand columns. For example, at a retail warehouse there should be one bike parking space per employee for each 500m² of space, and one per customer for each 1000m² and for a hotel one bike space per 10 rooms.

6. Finally

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). Follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent tweets also appear on our website.
- If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook.
- The **Spokes Bulletin** is one of our main means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling development, and how people can help. Can you use a supply (large or small) to leaflet bikes at your workplace or on bikes parked around any areas of the city [not Haymarket or Waverley which we already cover] – or would your local cafe, barber, etc like 5 or 10 copies? If you'd like a supply of the current bulletin, and/or if you'd like a regular supply of future copies, email updates@spokes.org.uk.