

Spokes Action Update 04.04.17

... 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.**

1. This circular is mainly to remind you of our Council Election Hustings this Thursday (6April). Full details [here](#).

- Also – if you have not yet renewed for 2017, there will be a stall to renew (or join). If possible, bring along the renewal form from your March mailing.
- If tweeting about the meeting (before, during or after) use hashtag [#SpokesMtg](#) and possibly also [#EdElect17](#).
- As usual our hustings will split into groups, after initial speeches, with the politicians spending 10mins in each group. We still need a couple of capable volunteers for chairing groups or for note-taking. If you can help, please come early (by 7pm) and ask for Martin.

2. Council Elections

- **There is now a comprehensive article** about the elections on our website, [here](#). It includes a list of all candidates who we know to be Spokes members, all manifesto details so far published (to be updated as more appear), all local hustings we know of (please inform us of others), and more.
- **How to vote** Please remember in the Council elections you vote 1,2,3... in your order of preference. It is *not* the X voting system. *To make your vote have maximum power* use *all* the numbers, including any candidates you *dislike*. For example, if there are 6 candidates, use all your numbers, from 1 to 6, with '1' for who you want most and '6' for who you want least.
- **Are you registered to vote??** If not, it's quick and easy online. Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

3. New HST trains to Inverness and Aberdeen

- We've had a big disappointment with the planned arrangements for the inter-city 125 trains which are to be refurbished for Edinburgh/Glasgow to Inverness/Aberdeen. Initially we were told they would have 20 bike spaces, but the latest story is that there will be 8, of which 6 will only be available for end-to-end journeys. So there will be *only 2 spaces* for anyone wanting to get on or off at any station between those terminal stations. And that is actually a halving of the 4 spaces on the current class 170 turbostar trains!
- For full details and how you can help, see our website story [here](#). Refurbishment of the trains is about to begin, so it is important to act soon.
- Please also retweet [our tweet](#).

4. 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 and April 23 in Glasgow.
- 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](#). And another good topic for MSPs would be the HST trains (see 3 above).
- We're looking for a few volunteers to leaflet the crowds with our current Bulletin at Edinburgh Pedal on Parliament on Sat April 22. If you can definitely volunteer, please see Mies at our public meeting stall.

5. Finally

- Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- We are active on **Twitter**, [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian). Please follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent Spokes 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.

Dave du Feu, Spokes 04 April 2017