

We ask as many members as possible to lodge objections to the proposed Dalkeith bypasses. Our recent press release, below, explains the reasons why. We absolutely must force a public enquiry on this, since the current plans are quite scandalous, and absolutely hypocritical from a government which has advised local councils to take account of cyclists in their own road and traffic schemes. If you like to cycle into the countryside on quiet routes, then PLEASE OBJECT. LETTERS OF OBJECTION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 2 JULY, but write NOW so that you don't forget!! Write to "The Secretary, Scottish Development Department, New St. Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3SZ". At the start of your letter say you are objecting to the Dalkeith Northern Bypass A68 (ref. R/TO/5/L/31) and the Dalkeith Western Bypass A7 (ref. R/TO/5/L/32)". Then say why you are objecting. You can object without looking at the plans but the press release tells you where to see them if you wish. PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR OBJECTION TO SPOKES. DO NOT WITHDRAW WITHOUT CONSULTING SPOKES. Please also write to your new MP to ask how the Scottish Office can be so disdainful of cyclists needs & safety.

PRESS RELEASE ... FOR IMMEDIATE USECYCLISTS TOTALLY NEGLECTED IN GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR DALKEITH BYPASSESSCOTTISH OFFICE PROPOSALS CUT PLANNED PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE OFF-HIGHWAY PATHS

SPOKES today launched a fierce attack on Scottish Office plans for the A68 and A7 Dalkeith bypasses, currently on public display. The plans totally neglect cyclists, and will destroy planned walking/cycling routes. SPOKES accused the minister, MICHAEL ANCRAM, of either having lost all interest in cyclist safety or of failing to exercise control over a department obsessed by the needs of the car.

At 4 separate points the bypasses will cut disused railway lines recommended for walking/cycling routes in the report of the Scottish Cycle Route Project. Yet this report was commissioned and published by the very same Scottish Office, and commended by the very same Minister, who now seem intent on wrecking its recommendations.

The A68 will cut the Smeaton line twice, whilst the A7 cuts both the Waverley line and the Eskbank/Penicuik route. These routes form part of a lengthy proposed walking/cycling route Musselburgh-Dalkeith-Penicuik, currently under active discussion by Midlothian and East Lothian District Councils and Lothian Regional Council.

OTHER FAILURES

Government advice to local councils only last year stated that large roundabouts are "a particular hazard for pedal cyclists", and described a range of measures to avoid or ameliorate the problems. Yet the government's own road plans for Dalkeith include 5 major roundabouts, with not a single thought given to cyclist safety: a clear case of hypocrisy.

SPOKES is also extremely concerned that the plans more than double traffic on part of Salters Road, which at present is the only, though far from ideal, link between Musselburgh and Dalkeith. This further confirms the need for off-road alternatives.

SPOKES SPEAKS OUT

Mr. Sandy Scotland, SPOKES's Planning Convener, said, "In SPOKES's 10-year life we have never seen road proposals which so blatantly disregard clear and accepted walking and cycling requirements".

Mr. Tony Galloway, representing SPOKES members in Midlothian said, "These bypasses may be manna for motorists, but are more of a nightmare for Midlothian cyclists, who want and need improved local cycling routes just as much".

SPOKES urges all cyclists and walkers to object formally by the end of June, and will advise on how objections can be lodged. The plans can be inspected at the Scottish Office, New St Andrews House, St. James Centre; and at Midlothian District Council, 1 Eskdaill Court, Dalkeith, till the end of June.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Sandy Scotland, 031-551-2663 (ansaphone if out)
Tony Galloway, 031-663-6000 (home phone number)

Election Special

JUNE '87

LEAFLET

No. 32



As soon as the election was announced SPOKES wrote to all candidates for constituencies in Lothian Region, asking for replies to 7 questions concerning cycling and other transport matters affecting cyclists. The candidates were told their replies would be used in an "election special" leaflet. Only one-third of the candidates replied by the closing date, even though they had around 10 days to do so. Numbers of replies were:

Labour 6; Scottish Green 4; Alliance 3; SNP 3; Conservative 2.

The results are inside this leaflet. Since more SPOKES members live in Edinburgh Central than in any other constituency, we also asked the Central candidates for a statement of no more than 150 words on their views and their party's views on cycling and any other transport matters they felt relevant to cyclists. These are printed below.

WE URGE MEMBERS TO ATTEND ELECTION MEETINGS, OR CONTACT THEIR CANDIDATES, ABOUT CYCLING AND TRANSPORT ISSUES. You should get dates on party leaflets through your door. Or phone party HQ's to ask for the number of the local constituency campaign office. Party HQ numbers are: CON 226-4426; LAB 556-5158; LIB 337-2314; SDP 229-0757; SNP 226-3661; Scottish Green 667-6488.

CONSERVATIVE - SIR ALEX FLETCHER

No statement was supplied, but Sir Alex did reply to our questionnaire - see inside.

LABOUR - ALISTAIR DARLING

Efficient, inexpensive public transport is essential in any society. Tory policies have caused chaos and inefficiency, cutting some services, duplicating others, and pushing up fares. Labour will invest in and co-ordinate bus and rail services, to improve travel and reduce congestion. There will be Local Transport Plans for every area.

Most cyclists' journeys are inevitably on the roads. Attractive public transport, with restrictions on traffic volumes and speeds where appropriate, will provide better cycling and walking conditions.

Special cycle facilities, both on- and off-road, are also important, and relatively cheap. It is essential that road and traffic management plans should also take proper account of cyclists' needs - unlike present Scottish Office attitudes.

Under Labour, Lothian has encouraged rail travel, stepped up development of cycle facilities, and recently appointed a 3-person Cycle Unit - Scotland's first! We need a government that shares our outlook - a Labour government.

SDP/LIBERAL ALLIANCE - ANDY MYLES

In "The Time Has Come", the major pre-manifesto statement of Alliance policy (and from which the manifesto is drawn) we state:

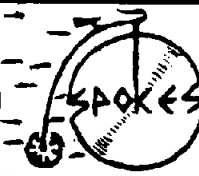
"The incidence of road traffic accidents is far too high, particularly amongst pedestrians and people who ride bicycles and motorcycles. We will ensure that highway authorities, in co-operation with the police, analyse the causes of accidents and take steps to prevent them, and that the design of road and town planning improvements takes into account the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. We will also increase enforcement of traffic law".

I am in complete agreement with this policy and support pedestrianisation within inner cities and the provision of additional cycle lanes or alternative cycle routes, which can be built adjacent to railways (or on disused lines) or by canal towpaths. I do not drive a car and think it's time we started planning properly for those who don't do so.

PARTY STATEMENTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 2.

SPOKES

THE LOTHIAN CYCLE CAMPAIGN 53 Geo. IV Bridge EH1 1EJ



SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY - BRIAN SHAW

No statement was supplied, but Brian Shaw did reply to our questionnaire - see below.

SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY - LINDA HENDRY

The Green Party is committed to ending support for the private motorist (unless disabled) and providing better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

In Edinburgh I want to see passenger trains on the goods loop and more freight going by rail, rather than less as seems the present plan.

More secure bicycle parking racks/places are needed and there is scope for continental style direct cycle lanes through major junctions such as Tollcross and Haymarket. I would like to see a big increase in beat police on bicycles, partly so they notice traffic infringements against cyclists but also to put them closer to street life than when they are in cars.

As a non car driver with an 11 year old bicycle I'd be happy to ban petrol driven private transport from the city and have a park and ride system.

Thanks to SPOKES agitation over the years Edinburgh is a better place for cyclists.

DALKEITH BYPASSES: PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DISGRACEFUL PLANS. PLEASE OBJECT NOW. A LARGE NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS IS ESSENTIAL TO FORCE A COMPLETE RE-THINK AND PUBLIC ENQUIRY ON THE CYCLING ASPECTS.

Bike Auction A second-hand bike auction WILL be held at the SPOKES stall at the Meadows festival, at 3pm on Sunday June 7. Bikes for sale should be brought from 1-2pm, DEFINITELY NO LATER THAN 2.30. 10% of the sale price goes to SPOKES. You can set a reserve price if you are unwilling to let your bike go below a certain price. UNSOLD BIKES MUST BE COLLECTED BY 4.30. As a precaution against fraud, sellers will be paid by cheque posted to their home a week after the sale, and the police know about the auction taking place.

LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL CYCLE PROJECT TEAM NOW APPOINTED

The new Cycle Project Team has been appointed, and the names are as follows ...

- Project Engineer, Richard Williams
- Supervising Technician, Kenny McLeod
- Technician, Murray Ralph.

Volunteers needed for TV filming June 22nd, around 2.30pm. Phone Sandy, 551-2663.

Slightly to our surprise, all are internal appointments, but we certainly wish them well, and trust that before long we will be seeing a considerable speeding up of cycle schemes and of cyclists being taken account of in other road and traffic schemes. Councillor Alistair Darling has offered us an early meeting with the team and relevant councillors from the Transportation Committee, as the second in the series of Cycle Consultation meetings.

Meantime, here are 3 items where YOU might like to write to your local Regional councillor, and suggest something for the new team to get their teeth into!! To find the name of your Regional councillor, phone the council at 031-229-9292.

a. **RAILWAY PATHS:** There is still no sign of work starting on the granton-Leith path, the Roseburn-Russell Road extension, the Trinity-Newhaven path, or the eastwards of westwards extensions of the Innocent path. Most of these have been due to start for up to 2 to 3 years but have been delayed by "land negotiations": surely it is time for action!

SPICARDY PLACE ROUNDABOUT: One of the worst danger spots for cyclists - a massive redesign is planned here, with the roundabout being "shrunk" as the main proposal. We still have not been told what, if anything, is being done for cyclists. With a little imagination some safe ways through could be devised without forcing cyclists onto what will still be a very dangerous place for bikes - especially with all the new traffic to be generated by the massive developments planned for Greenside (the valley area opposite from John Lewis). Our current suspicion is that the plans have taken no account at all of cyclists.

c. **NIDDRIE MAINS ROAD / NEWCRAIGHALL ROAD:** These roads are to be narrowed considerably by the Council in the not too distant future, to try and keep traffic to a more reasonable speed. This gives ample room for a separate cycle path, but none is planned. Such a path would make a very useful approach from Craigmillar/Prestonfield to the Mucklets Road route to Musselburgh, which is now a very pleasant cycle ride with virtually no motor traffic. A connection from the Right of Way from Asda to newcraighall road, beside Newcraighall Road, and across it to Whitehill/Mucklets road is also essential (see route EBefT in SPOKESFACTS no. 16 (printed in SPOKES leaflet no. 31).

SPOKES member Winifred Hook (age 70) is going on the London-Brighton bike ride for the British Heart Foundation (56 miles). Donations to Clydesdale Bank, BHF account no.152969, code82.45.05

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE 10 SEATS WITHIN LOTHIAN REGION ...

1. Would you support significantly greater Scottish Office involvement in implementing the Grimshaw reports, particularly for long-distance routes such as through the Great Glen and from the Central Belt to Inverness (route avoiding the A9) ?
2. Would you vote for a transfer of money away from new roads and towards public transport, maintenance of existing roads, and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists ?
3. Illegally parked vehicles are a major hazard for cyclists. Current controls are inadequate. Would you vote for full legalisation of wheel-clamping ?
4. Excessive speed results in death and injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Would you support automatic disqualification after 2 convictions for exceeding speed limits in built-up areas ?
5. Tax concessions on company cars cost the government well over £1000 million. Would you vote to substantial reduce or abolish tax concessions on their purchase and use ?
6. Would you vote for legislation to allow random breath testing by the police ?
7. New investment in road and rail are assessed very differently [e.g. time savings for road users count as a benefit, whereas time savings for rail users do not, thus making road projects more likely to be approved than rail ones]. Would you support the use of equivalent criteria for comparing road and rail investment ?

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE & COMMENTS BY SPOKES

As well as giving the candidates' replies, we also add comments e.g. where the candidate has helped SPOKES in the past. Where a candidate did not reply, and we know nothing about them, they are omitted from the list. **KEY:** Y=YES; N=NO; *=no answer/"depends"/unsure/etc. Y*=YES, with a few reservations

QUESTION NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
ED. CENTRAL									
Con Alex Fletcher	Y	*	Y	Y	Y	Y	*		
Lab Alistair Darling	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	Y	Y	Set up Lothian Region's 3-person Cycle Unit, while chairman of Council's Transport Committee.	
All Andrew Myles	Y	Y	*	Y	N	Y			
SNP Brian Shaw	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Gre Linda Hendry	Y	Y	*	Y	Y	*		Long-standing cyclist	
ED. EAST									
Lab Gavin Strang	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	Y		SPOKES member, helped in Parliament several times	
SNP Mungo Bovey	Y	Y	*	N	*	Y			
ED. PENTLANDS									
Lab Mark Lazarowicz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		SPOKES member, extremely helpful whilst councillor on Edinburgh District Council	
ED. SOUTH									
Con Michael Ancram	No reply.								As government minister, instigated new Scottish Office cycling policy a few years ago. Recent actions disappointing: little practical support for Scottish Grimshaw proposals, and cyclists forgotten in road plans (e.g. see back page, Dalkeith bypass plans).
Lab Nigel Griffiths	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
All David Graham	Replied to say too busy to consider issues fully, but fully supports								
Gre Ruth Clark	Y	Y	Y	Y	*	Y		SPOKES's objectives.	
ED. WEST									
Con James Douglas-Hamilton	Sent acknowledgement, but no reply to questions. Supported SPOKES in Parliament when govt. banned young children from cycling on pavements in Edinburgh.								
All Derek King	No reply.								As councillor pressurised for lighting & surfacing of railway paths Roseburn/Davidsons Mains/Pilton.
EAST LOTHIAN									
Lab John Home-Robertson	No reply.								As MP has helped SPOKES in Parliament several times.
Gre Angus Marland	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y			
MIDLOTHIAN									
Lab Alex Eadie	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	*		Supporter of SPOKES as sitting MP	
SNP Ian Chisolm	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y		
Gre Ian Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	*		SPOKES member	
LINLITHGOW									
Lab Tam Dalyell	Y	*	Y	N	Y	Y		SPOKES member	
Com John Glassford	We apologise for not having sent a questionnaire to Mr. Glassford, the only Communist candidate in Lothian. We have only discovered his candidature as we go to press.								
LIVINGSTON									
All Robert McCreadie	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y		
Lab Robin Cook	No reply.								Whilst Edinburgh Central MP, Robin Cook was a SPOKES member and helped us greatly in Parliament.