

SPOKES

LEAFLET 36

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WEST END/HAYMARKET/TOLLCROSS

The whole of West Central Edinburgh is on the point of massive redevelopment. Several huge projects will completely change the area, bringing major traffic implications. Late last year Edinburgh District Council brought out its *West Central Edinburgh Redevelopment Strategy*, and we congratulated them (leaflet 32) on including cyclists from the start. However, the real test comes now that developers are coming forward with actual plans. **We urge members to contact District councillors to ensure that cyclist safety is fully considered.**

The area has a disastrous record for bike accidents, particularly in *Lothian Road*, as shown by the Regional Council's accident map. Since the opening of the West Approach Road, Lothian Road has become even more unpleasant.

Photo: Judy Gilbert

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INSIDE: East Lothian Special

1988: Danger and dirt

A cyclist braves Lothian Road rush-hour traffic (p10)



NEW BIKE PARKING POLICY

Lothian Regional Council has decided that all future office and retail developments must include cycle parking. The Council's 1988 TPP document lays down minimum requirements, and states that bike parking should also be considered in other developments.

This new policy is another clear example of the value of the Region's Cycle Project Team. For years SPOKES has been pestering the District councils, particularly Edinburgh, to come up with a standard policy on cycle parking at new developments. Whilst Councils have insisted on cycle parking in certain cases, they have been unwilling to think about standard policies. Now, quite unanticipated by SPOKES, the Regional Council has stepped in and decided on parking standards. Only with the setting up of the Cycle Team have there been staff willing and able to consider the subject properly. It is now up to the 4 District Councils to insist on these standards when developers apply for planning permission.

Not only must future developments include bike parking, but the Cycle Team has written to existing major retail stores, etc., offering advice on design and location of racks. Hopefully stores such as B&Q—who

in the past did not even have the courtesy to reply to SPOKES—will now think about customers who arrive by bike. The Team has also written to the 4 District Councils advising them of the new standards, and asking them to look at their own buildings, such as pools and libraries.

LOTHIAN'S BIKE PARKING STANDARDS

1. Retail developments: 2 Sheffield racks + 1 rack/100 car spaces.
2. Office developments: 2 Sheffield racks + 1 rack/2000 sq.m. floor area.
3. Other developments: cycle parking must be considered, particularly for public buildings, etc. (Lothian Regional Council "Transport Policies and Programme, 1988/93").

The Council's standards could go further, however. First, there is no mention of location of racks, although this is crucial to their success. For users, racks must be easy to see and convenient to the entrance of the building. To deter theft and vandalism, they must be in the public eye, or clearly visible from obvious windows or by security guards.

Second, the Council does not mention access for cyclists—even though this is never considered by developers. Often, a much safer access can be provided along with improved pedestrian facilities, rather than forcing bikes to use the main road entry—which at new retail stores increasingly is a roundabout.

As to the standards themselves, we support the use of Sheffield racks. Too many architects, when asked to include bike parking, just look up the nearest supplier's catalogue, and order 'wheel twisters'.

Whilst Lothian is the first Region in Scotland to require bike parking at new developments, this is becoming increasingly common in England. Leicester and Milton Keynes have recently gone further than Lothian: parking is demanded at residential flats, location of racks is discussed, and Milton Keynes has produced a guide for developers.

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WHO TO WRITE TO

We often suggest you contact your MP or Regional or District councillor. Most effective is to visit their surgery, though a letter is also very useful. If you don't know the name, address, phone or surgery times of your MP or councillor, phone the Citizens Advice Bureau, and give your address: they can then look up the details for you. Central Edinburgh CAB is 031-557-1500, and others are in the phone directory. Alternatively phone the Council:

Lothian Region: 031-229-9292

East Lothian District: Haddington 4161

Edinburgh District: 031-225-2424

Midlothian District: 031-663-2881

West Lothian District: Bathgate 53631

"When I see an adult on a bicycle I have hope for the human race" ... H.G.Wells.

THE LOTHIAN CYCLE CAMPAIGN, 13 Lochrin Place, Edinburgh EH3 9QX. 031-447 7554