

# SPOKES

LEAFLET 37  
EARLY  
1989



## TRAMS FOR EDINBURGH?

Lothian's Public Transport Unit is consulting the public on future public transport for the city, until 17 February; and SPOKES is calling a public meeting on the implications for cyclists. *Cllr Ron Muir*, chair of Lothian's Transport Committee, will speak and introduce a presentation and slideshow by the Public Transport Unit. We urge all cyclists to attend and ALSO to write in by 17 February.

### PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Weds 8 February

Time: 7pm

Place: Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terrace (above Victoria St.)

SPOKES very much supports improved public transport, but implications for cyclists must be fully dealt with. Some railway paths may be used for Light Rapid Transit (LRT) - if so, alternative provision for cyclists must be made at the same time, possibly side-by-side. Carriage of bikes, prams, wheelchairs, on LRT must be considered - especially on steep routes such as Canonmills to the Mound - as in several



## SPOKES CEILIDH

This year's ceilidh will on **Saturday 4 March, 8-12**, at the Walpole Hall, Chester Street. Tickets in advance from City Cycles, Edinburgh Bike Coop, Robin Williamson, Central Cycle Hire/Bains's Bikes, or at the door UNTIL sold out. Music again by *Dancing Feet*. If you've come before, you'll not miss this one! If you can help, phone Shane, 229-1962.

continental systems (see leaflet 36). A hazard of on-road LRT would be tramlines in the road. We also need assurance that restrictions on motor traffic will be introduced as public transport develops. Finally, it appears that re-opening the suburban line has been rejected, though this would add little to the costs of LRT.

After the meeting, or if you cannot attend, send your written views (by 17 February) to: Public Transport Study Team, 12 St. Giles St, Edinburgh EH1 1PT.

## PORT HAMILTON SHENNANIGANS

We have several times reported Edinburgh District Council's exciting *West Central Edinburgh Redevelopment Strategy*, also fully supported by Lothian Region. It includes east-west and north-south pedestrian-cycle routes, Festival Sq-Haymarket and Canal Basin-West End (an alternative to Lothian Rd!). In our last leaflet we said the intentions were excellent, but "the real test comes now that developers are coming forward with actual plans".

Our leaflet was hardly out when the first plans - **Port Hamilton** - were submitted for planning permission. *The cyclist route was not included!!!* This meant no cyclist alternative to Lothian Road, and a weakening of the case for routes at other Strategy sites. SPOKES immediately mounted an all-out campaign: a special mailing to all members, a demonstration on the site, and letters from SPOKES and many individual members asking councillors to investigate why the developer had disregarded the Council strategy.

We have been supported by Tollcross Community Council and several councillors: Mark Lazarowicz, Labour Group Leader; Bob Cairns, Planning Committee Chair; and local councillors Anne Aylett (LRC) and Sheila Kennedy (EDC). We understand

## Port Hamilton - SPOKES protest!!

Photo: Tollcross Times.



there have several meetings between the developers and officials of both Councils, and 'revised plans' are to be submitted - a hopeful sign. The District normally notifies objectors when plans change substantially, so if you objected formally you should have a chance for further comment.

Meanwhile we have been assured that cycle routes are included in 'site briefs' for prospective developers of other Strategy sites, and we will keep a close eye on plans as they come in.

## ROSEBURN-HAYMARKET OPPORTUNITY??

There are rumours that

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## WHO TO WRITE TO

We often suggest you contact your MP or 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 offices:

Lothian Regional Council (LRC): ..... 031-229-9292  
East Lothian District (ELDC): ..... Haddington 4161  
Edinburgh District (EDC): ..... 031-225-3424  
Midlothian District (MDC): ..... 031-663-2881  
West Lothian District (WLD): ..... Bathgate 53631

## SPOKES PHONE NUMBERS

SPOKES may be moving again this year. Meantime, our phone numbers are as follows:

Roads, planning & parks: Sandy, 551-2663.  
Rides & events: Shane, 229-1962.  
Membership & leaflet: Dave, 0506-847947.  
Other & general: 557-2175 (ansaphone).