

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 spokes.org.uk spokes@spokes.org.uk twitter @SpokesLothian
St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG - this is a postal address, Spokes is a voluntary body with no staff

BIKES UP, CARS DOWN ... YET AGAIN !!

Our summer traffic count found the highest ever number of bikes and the lowest ever of cars.

During the 8-9am peak a remarkable 22.7% of all vehicles heading down bike-unfriendly Lothian Road for the city centre were bikes, as was 26.1% of city-bound Forrest Road traffic. Total bikes on these two roads topped 500 for the first time, whilst cars fell to 1617, down by nearly 400 from our first survey, in 2007.

This is a great success for the Council's bold *Local Transport Strategy* targets - not just to raise cycle-use from 2% of trips in 2010 to 10% by 2020, but also to cut car use from 43% to just 31% in that period. It adds to the 2011 census data showing rising cycle, walk and bus commuting in Edinburgh and, unique in Scotland, a growing proportion of car-free households.

Unlike buses, bikes are usually single-occupant - but so are most cars! Nearly 8 out of 10 cars [77%] had only a driver, a huge waste of precious city centre roadspace, emphasising the need to cut car use.

The massive success of the new London Superhighways [p6] shows the pent-up demand for cycling when road conditions feel safer. With car use dropping in central Edinburgh, the Council's planned **east-west route** [p6] needs rapid progress. Scary **Lothian Road**, with its already high cycle use, is also a huge need and a huge opportunity. **If you agree with us – tell your councillors!!**

Full details of our count are at spokes.org.uk [11.5.16].

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

"I bought a 'Follow Me' tandem after seeing it in the Spokes 'Cycling with Kids' factsheet. It's excellent, thanks!"

"We've a Spokes map pinned up at our canteen entry. I often see colleagues looking at it - I recommend it for any office!"



Terminator Arnie visits Edinburgh and tries Lothian Road - the wrong way!!

INSIDE

- ♦ [centre supplement] *Cycling & Health* + public meeting
- ♦ [p2] *Spokes Bike Breakfast & Edinburgh Festival of Cycling*
- ♦ [p2] *Spokes summer competition* - Shopping by bike
- ♦ [p3] *Favourite Cycle Rides* – new Spokes publication
- ♦ [p6] *Edinburgh East-West cycle-route* – why it matters
- ♦ [p5] *Bike/Rail* - progress and problems
- ♦ [p4] *Holyrood Election* – what happens next?
- ♦ [p4] *2020 cycle use* – 'vision' or mirage?

WHAT AGE ARE YOU ?

A middle-aged person who cycles regularly is as fit as the average person 10 years younger, and can expect two extra years of life, according to evidence quoted by Spokes member **Prof Chris Oliver**, Edinburgh University's Professor of Physical Activity for Health. And, even with current traffic conditions, cycling's health benefits outweigh injury risks by 20:1.



photo: Stewart Bryden

Toxic air pollution is an invisible risk for all road users, not least *those in cars* and *young children* at exhaust-pipe level. New research, however, finds that for most people the benefits of cycling far exceed even this health threat.

High quality cycle facilities which give confidence for more people to get about by bike will therefore increase the health of the population, reduce toxic pollution and cut pressures on the NHS. Physically segregated lanes also keep motor traffic away from footways, lowering the pollution, noise and worry inflicted on walkers.

Spokes is highlighting *Cycling and Health* with a supplement in this Bulletin and a Public Meeting on Monday 13 June – see centre pages and website.



Pedal on Parliament 2016 ... 5000 people call for proper investment in cycling as a means of daily transport. Attended by Labour, Green, LibDem party leaders & the SNP Transport Minister. *Full story:* spokes.org.uk 23.4.16 *Photo:* beqi at flickr.com

Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press periodically. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your point with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

[Spokes members get the EdFoC program in their mailing]
June 9-19 ... edfoc.org.uk ... A superb collection of talks, rides, films, events ... including the following by Spokes ...

Sat 11 June – Castle Terrace, morning only

Spokes Stall at Farmers' Market

EdFoC Special!! - everyone arriving by bike can request a free copy of our new *Favourite Cycle Rides* booklet [see opposite].

Mon 13 June - Spokes Summer public meeting

Cycling and Health

Full details: see Cycling & Health supplement and/or website
Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge
Time: 7.30. Open 6.45 for coffee, stall, exhibition and chat

Weds 15 June - City Chambers, 7.45-9.45

Spokes Bike Breakfast

Stalls, rolls, tea/coffee, councillors to lobby, chain clean, Bike Co-op £50 voucher draw, police security marking, etc.

Speakers [8.30ish] **Cllr Lesley Hinds** [Transport Convener] and **Alison Johnstone MSP** [Cross-Party Cycling Group]

More info: See poster or email [bikebreakfast\[AT\]spokes.org.uk](mailto:bikebreakfast[AT]spokes.org.uk)

Wed 15 June – Haymarket Station, 18.15-20.30

Planning-related City ride

Free tour of cycle facilities existing and planned. Numbers may be limited if too many people turn up. More info from Martin, email mcdbristol116 AT gmail.com 077884 265071.

Other Spokes stalls include ...

Meadows Festival June 4/5 www.meadowsfestival.org

Canal Festival June 18 edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk

Farmers Market July 9, Aug 13, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10. Castle Terr, morning. edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk

Other events ... See www.spokes.org.uk [events column]

Regular rides ...

Spokes Sunday Rides - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!' First Sunday each month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike *must* be in good order. If under 14 you *must* come with an adult. www.snowcycle.co.uk stuart@snowcycle.co.uk 445.7073.

Other Edinburgh rides - www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides.

On all rides - Please ride considerably and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your own safety.

MEMORY

LANE or path!

In 1986 our efforts included fighting for Edinburgh's disused railways to become cycle/walk paths. As part of this, a huge Spokes project built a 1km path in just a week, supervised by John Grimshaw, founder of Sustrans.

We aimed to show the demand for cycle infrastructure and that 'Road Safety Year 1986' should not be just about 'education' – a message now at long last getting through!!

John recently revisited the site for his forthcoming book on volunteer path projects. Here he meets Dave du Feu and Ewan Jeffrey, proudly wearing their 'Pilton Path' T-shirts!



SHOPPING BY BIKE

Our great Summer Competition tradition continues...

This year we'd like to hear your ideas, experiences, handy hints, etc for *Shopping by Bike*. Maybe a great idea for others to try, a challenge you overcame, an experience you'd rather forget, or something you'd *not* advise if it's about shopping by bike, we want to know! Pictures welcome but see entry form for full rules.

Top entries will win one of the brilliant prizes below – first prize-winner chooses first and so on.

- ♦ **ScotRail:** Standard return for 2 between any 2 Scottish stns
- ♦ **Edinburgh Bicycle Coop:** Revolution waterproof panniers
- ♦ **Sustrans:** Scotland Pocket Map set **Biketrax:** £30 voucher
- ♦ **Laidback Bikes:** Recumbent tour **Filmhouse:** Tickets for 2
- ♦ **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions:** Family day ticket [2]
- ♦ **Craigie's Farm & Deli:** £30 hamper + £10 voucher
- ♦ **Ed Festival of Cycling:** Day hire of Urban Arrow cargobike
- ♦ **Kalpna:** Indian Vegetarian Restaurant, lunch for 2 people

Note: your entry may be used by Spokes in our Bulletin or website, or in other ways. By entering, you agree to this.

Closing date 5 Sept. Download an entry form/rules at...
www.spokes.org.uk : downloads : odds&ends : competitions.



See also our wonderful previous comps such as *Cycling Jokes*, *Favourite Rides*, *Path Art* and *Cycling Recipes* at the above website address.

USEFUL CONTACTS

To suggest bike parking sites: cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk

Adult cycle training: 668.1996 info@thebikestation.org.uk

Www.travelinescotland.com: bikes on rail, bus and ferry.

Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian: [Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323 www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence. Or www.fillthathole.org.uk.

Bad glass/dumping [Ed only] Rapid Response 0808 100 3366

Taxi issues: licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk [try taxi firm first]

Lothian Buses: mail@lothianbuses.com 554 4494.

Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime: see www.spokes.org.uk : links : reporting

Emotional/practical victim support: RoadPeace 0208964102

SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

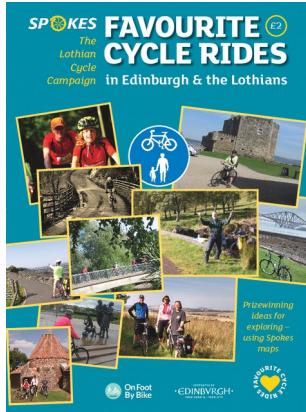
Please renew for 2016 if not yet done. If you can't remember if you've renewed, please don't ask – you'll get a final autumn reminder, and you won't miss anything.

☺ THANK YOU ☺

Spokes is funded by donations from our 1000+ members and sales of our unmissable maps. Thus we can speak out without fear or favour, not worried about losing funds. Join Spokes! Download or phone for application form.

GREAT SPOKES CYCLE MAPS

- ◆ **Midlothian; East Lothian; W Lothian/ Livingston**
Price £5.95 each in shops. **New Edinburgh map** £6.95.
- ◆ **Users say:** *a joy to use, wonderful, superb, among the finest, We have a Spokes map on our office wall – it's often used.*
- ◆ **More details at:** spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps
- ◆ **Special offer:** for orders to Spokes *by post* – Edinb map £5; other maps £4; *Plus* £1 p&p *per order*. Cheques to 'Spokes.'
- ◆ **Free with orders by post:** one copy *per order* (not per map) of *Favourite Cycle Rides* **or** *Favourite Cycling Recipes*. Please say which you would like - otherwise none will be sent.



Favourite Cycle Rides -

Our great new booklet based on prizewinning entries from our summer 2015 competition and designed for use in conjunction with Spokes maps.

Special feature – the booklet includes a picture of each entrant, a brief bike-related biography, and why this is their favourite ride.

More info & how to get a copy – see spokes.org.uk/rides.

The long awaited 10th edition SPOKES EDINBURGH BIKE MAP expected July 2016

10th EDITION – 120,000 copies sold since 1987

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MAIN MAP 4.1":1 mile (1:15,400)

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- ✓ Quiet roads, links, crossings
- ✓ Steep hills, cobbles, hazards
- ✓ NCN Routes
- ✓ City of Edinburgh 'QuietRoutes'
- ✓ Bike shops
- ✓ Leisure facilities
- ✓ City Car Club

In response to popular demand, the 10th edition will be on water-resistant, tear-resistant paper. It will not be available electronically, but that is planned for the 11th edition.

Bikes, tandems + trikes @LaidBackBikes



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NEW PARLIAMENT : what happens next?

CYCLING INVESTMENT

The surprise Holyrood 'no overall majority' election result brings hope for increased cycling investment. The SNP manifesto only promised to keep investment at its current level whereas Greens, Labour, LibDems and Conservatives all offered increases of one sort or another.

With no overall majority, the SNP must now work with one or more other parties to get its budgets through. This does not guarantee more cycling investment, as it is only one of many issues for the parties, but consistent lobbying by individuals and groups throughout the year can push active travel up the agenda.

Currently only 1.9% of the transport budget, £40m a year, goes to active travel. Hope for European levels, and for 10% of transport spending to go to active travel, may still be some way off, but we can move in that direction if enough MSPs and parties can be persuaded.

The 2007 minority SNP government shows the value of a more representative Parliament, not under one-party rule. The SNP's draft 2008/9 budget scrapped the crucial **CWSS fund** [Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets] – the most basic form of cycle/walk investment, introduced in 2002 by Labour Transport Minister **Sarah Boyack**. With no overall SNP majority, the Greens were able to force a budget rethink - and CWSS remains to this day!

FINDING MORE CASH – £125m a year

The SNP's environmentally regressive plan to halve Air Passenger Duty is rejected by all other main parties - so there is now a real prospect of stopping this, bringing an unexpected £125m a year bonus in future budgets.

FINDING MORE CASH - £100m a year

Despite Scotland's tough climate change targets, most parties want to continue trunk road expansion. However, we showed in Spokes 124 how 're-profiling' just the two £3bn A9 and A96 projects over 15 years instead of 12 would release £100m annually, equivalent to £20 a year for every person in Scotland! If the Scottish government can 're-profile' CWSS funding, resulting in a 26% CWSS cut in the 16/17 budget [Spokes 124], why not here too!!

MANIFESTOS

With no overall majority, all party manifestos matter. See *What You Can Do* for a link to manifesto extracts; but below is our overall one-word assessment and a **very brief** summary of the **best bits**, as we saw it.

- ◆ **Conservative** [mixed good/bad] A segregated cross-city route in every city and £5m extra for the CWSS fund.
- ◆ **Green** [excellent] 10% of transport budget to cycle/walk; move cash from new roads to maintenance. + Lots more.
- ◆ **Labour** [good] No figures but implied a major transport budget restructure, to prioritise rail, bus, cycle and walk.
- ◆ **LibDem** [good] Cycle/walk cash up from £40m to £60m; transfer some cash from roads. + Lots more.
- ◆ **SNP** [disappointing] Maintain cycle cash at current level; 'determined' for 10% of 2020 trips by bike [but see col 2].

Stop Press: Scot Parliament Info Service SPICe confirms SNP cannot meet manifesto 2020 vision. Briefing SB16-33, www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/98250.aspx.

VISION OR MIRAGE??

The SNP manifesto says: *We are determined to meet our vision of 10% of everyday journeys by bike by 2020.* It's a great ambition, first announced in 2009, but our repeated urging for an *evidence-based, costed and funded* strategy to achieve it has been disregarded, and the 'determination' is based on wishful thinking, not reality.

Seville in Spain is a top example of fast cycling growth - up from 1%/3% of all trips to 6%/9% [reports vary] over 6 years. This great success, still under 10%, was due to a new 120km segregated network and big bike-hire project.

In contrast the SNP 'vision' is for a bigger rise than Seville, across a whole country, and with little change in investment. Their manifesto implication that the solution is measures like more school training shows its unreality. Such measures have value, but have seen cycle use rise from 1% of all journeys in 2009 to just 1.4% in 2014.

Evidence from former Cycling England suggests £10 per head per year might double cycle use every 3-4 years, so even £50m a year might only reach 10% in 2030! And much more is needed, given the 'determined' manifesto.

Spokes is 'determined' too – we do all we can to boost cycle use by campaigning and our voluntary work with maps, bulletin, social media, stalls, competitions, etc... **However, we say yet again - a truly determined government would produce not just a vision, but an evidence-based and funded strategy to meet it.**

THANK YOU, JIM & SARAH

There were two major losses for cycling in the election – Spokes member **Sarah Boyack** Lab and **Jim Eadie** SNP. Both did much to push the case for cycling as transport – e.g. search for *Boyack* or *Eadie* on our website.



In particular, Sarah as Transport Minister in 2002 created the crucial CWSS fund, whilst Jim repeatedly challenged his own Ministers in the last Parliament. Both worked hard **in their own party** to persuade sceptical colleagues.

We congratulate Spokes member **Alison Johnstone** MSP Green and **Claudia Beamish** MSP Labour, South of Scotland, two great supporters of cycling investment, who were re-elected. A cycle-friendly Parliament and Cross-Party Cycling Group badly need equally clued-up and pro-active advocates from the SNP and Conservatives.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **Keep in touch with your new MSPs.** Email them; Better, speak to them; Best, take them on a bike ride!
- ◆ **Remind them of their party manifesto.** There's a link to relevant manifesto extracts at spokes.org.uk [6.5.16].
- ◆ **Remind your MSPs of individual promises** they gave before the election – see walkcyclevote.scot.



BIKE / RAIL

STATION BIKE FACILITIES

Abellio ScotRail are fulfilling their promises, with much improved bike parking at many stations, and bike hire at ten, including Haymarket, Glasgow Central, Linlithgow and Stirling. More is planned, including a Bike Hub at Waverley. See www.bikeandgo.co.uk – locations - for an up-to-date UK-wide bike hire stations list.



Hire bikes and one of 3 new bike shelters at Linlithgow DdF

Abellio wants user opinions about where bike parking is inadequate or where better facilities could be expected to attract new users. Send suggestions to Spokes [email below] for us to collate and pass on. Abellio also hopes to work with councils in towns which need improved walk/cycle routes linking stations and town centres.

The Spokes email contact for bike/rail issues is: BikeRail@spokes.org.uk

ON-TRAIN BIKE STORAGE

The story here is less happy. There was a huge public outcry at the news that planned rolling stock changes would cut bookable West Highland Line bike spaces from 6 to 2, and possibly worsen Glasgow-Edinburgh conditions despite there being more carriages.

#BikeRail space to be cut. Pls help!--> spokes.org.uk/2016/03

RETWEETS
173



Spokes CycleCampaign
@SpokesLothian

Our tweet had 173 retweets – twice as many people, businesses and others as ever before on any topic – with concern from Highlands tourism & leisure interests like @isleofeigg, @ramblersscot and @CameronMcNeish.

Responsibility lies with Scottish Government transport agency Transport Scotland as much or more than Abellio. In the Franchise agreement, TS did not even specify keeping existing bike capacity; merely a 2 bikes per train minimum. TS's priority is maximum fixed seats, making rail difficult for off-peak, tourist and leisure use. Indeed, some travellers with bikes or similar cannot board despite many empty seats! Our repeated calls for a flexible-use space in every coach of every train fell on deaf ears.

Thanks to the public furore, bike provision is to be looked at again, and the TS Rail Director is to meet Spokes. **Thanks if you contacted your MSPs!!** We will also raise other issues such as spaces on Borders Rail.

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EDINBURGH CYCLING DEVELOPMENT

CITY CENTRE E-W ROUTE

The consultation report on Edinburgh's flagship cycling project, Roseburn-Leith via the City Centre, is imminent; and near-final proposals should go to the August Council Transport Committee. Traffic Regulation Orders are then needed, and construction begins in 2017 if all goes well.

The route will link with other existing and planned routes, including North Edinburgh Network, Leith Walk, Princes Street to Meadows, Roseburn to Canal, etc.

The scheme is a vital next stage in the Council's plan "to make Edinburgh's transport system one of the most environmentally friendly, healthiest and most accessible in Northern Europe" and to meet its Local Transport Strategy targets for 2020 including, compared to 2010, ...

- ◆ Cycle % of all journeys 2% → 10%
- ◆ Cycle % of work journeys 7% → 15%
- ◆ Car % of all journeys 43% → 31%
- ◆ Cyclists & walkers injured per km travel - cut by 50%

Replying to a question about the route at the March 10 Council meeting, Council leader **Cllr Andrew Burns** said, "We are the only council in all Scotland with decreasing car use and increasing walking, cycling and public transport ... and I am proud of that. It hasn't happened by accident, but by investment, and we must see investment such as this cycleway delivered."

Like other on-road cycling plans in London, Glasgow and elsewhere, which take space from parked or moving traffic, there is local opposition to the Roseburn section – despite it being a "noisy and congested" area in which locals don't "linger or walk for pleasure" according to a Murrayfield Community Council report. Yet the Council plan will widen the south footway, separate the north footway from traffic, improve pedestrian crossings, block a local rat-run and improve the streetscape.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Opposition, however, is far from universal, and has prompted other locals to set up a support group which believes that the Council proposal will make the area a more attractive and safer place to visit and to shop. They also aim to answer some of the more exaggerated 'anti' claims. Full details can be found at the support group's website, www.roseburncyclerroute.org.uk.

£m's OUTSIDE INVESTMENT AT RISK

The £9m project is only feasible with 50/50 investment by Sustrans, who like the plan. However, Sustrans is getting high quality funding bids from other councils too, notably Glasgow, and has been told by the government that major new cycling schemes must be "exemplary."

The Council's consultation received many responses, and doubtless there will be significant changes and improvements to the original plan in the August report. **However, if Edinburgh loses its nerve and sends the route into back streets, the chances of Sustrans cash diminish – possibly killing the entire project, and so losing several £m outside investment in the city.**

LONDON SUPERHIGHWAYS

From this rush hour scene, for the brave hearted only ...



to this, for almost any commuter ...



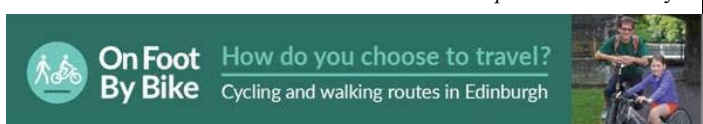
and, at quiet times, for almost any age...



PEDAL FROM ROSEBURN



Corstorphine/Roseburn residents Pedal on Parliament to call for investment in schemes like Roseburn-Leith pic: Marc Crowley



Keep your councillors aware of cycling! Email them about what concerns you. See p8 or use www.writetothem.com

STORAGE & PARKING

ON-STREET SECURE STORAGE

Because of tenement bike storage problems the Council has experimented since 2014 with secure on-street units and renting out the keys. The initial 51 spaces were greatly oversubscribed, with 90 people on a waiting list, and interest from people in 53 streets. *To get on the list or suggest new streets* email cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk.



On-street secure storage unit, Lonsdale Terrace

A report is due at June's Transport Committee - we hope it will recommend a wide rollout of the scheme.

Such on-street units are now routine in several London Boroughs. Lambeth has over 100, each storing 6 bikes and there is a user-friendly scheme, run in conjunction with several Boroughs, where you can apply for a space and suggest new locations. See www.cyclehoop.rentals.

FRONT GARDEN BIKE SHEDS/CONTAINERS

If you need front garden storage, there can be planning permission problems. **Be sure to read our factsheet**, which the Council deems "appropriate" and is referenced in their planning website. For more background, and the factsheet, search for *Need to Know* at spokes.org.uk.

BUDGET DOUBLE BLOW

[For more details, search for *Budget Blow* at spokes.org.uk]

Despite extensive campaigns by Spokes, FOE and others the **Scottish Government 2016/17 budget** left active travel funding static – and, as we revealed, the way it is structured means most Councils are now likely to invest less. Moreover the critical CWSS fund is cut by 25% - or 're-profiled' as the government calls it. Even our modest proposal to solve these problems with just 1% of the trunk roads budget was refused.

But a perhaps worse problem is appearing - the 7% revenue cuts to councils mean huge **staff reductions** Scotland-wide. Edinburgh has to cut 2000, and already 2 experienced cycle officers have left, losing their skills and local knowledge of projects and other future opportunities.

Chris Brace, with 9 years in the Council, is a special loss. Our first meeting with Chris discussed how to get government cash to upgrade the appalling A90 path – now a source of great pride!



Chris Brace helps Cllr Hinds open the Meadows-Innocent route

ON-STREET SHORT-TERM PARKING

Edinburgh has so far installed around 3000 public bike parking places [a standard Sheffield rack counts as 2 spaces] and many hundreds more are planned, with a first phase this May, and 3 further phases over the next 12 months.

Phase 1 brings 444 new spaces, at 81 locations across the city. Areas getting multiple sets of racks include Bruntsfield Pl, Fountainbridge, Market St, Nicolson St and Portobello Prom. Phase 2, expected in July/August includes long-awaited **Princes Street**, with 10 locations.

Find Out More

There's an online map of existing council onstreet bike parking at edinburgh.gov.uk. Search for *bike parking* then follow the links to the map. Then, in the legend, click the '+' beside *Transport*, then *Cycle Facilities*, then tick the *Cycle Parking* box. Now move the map around as you wish, and use the slider at the top left to zoom in.

The map also includes masses more information on cycle facilities and many other useful topics.

Suggest Locations

The Council is keen to get suggestions for other useful locations, onstreet and offstreet. Send your ideas to cycling@edinburgh.gov.uk, saying why it's a good place for yourself or others. Also - suggest whether Sheffield racks, pole hoops, or other types of parking.

GLASGOW STAFFED STORAGE

Congrats to Glasgow City Council, whose car-park subsidiary now provides all-day supervised bike storage in Cadogan Square car park – and it's free. **A great example to other cities!** So far there are only 34 spaces, so get there early.

www.cityparkingglasgow.co.uk



SNIPPETS

See more info on these and other topics in emails to Spokes members, and in our website, twitter and facebook outlets.

#GetActiveMOOC - www.coursera.org/learn/get-active

Join 17,000 others (!) in an online Get Active course.

CAR-FREE SUNDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

At last Edinburgh is rejoining **European Car-free Day!** Cars will be banned from a street in 4 parts of the city, to be replaced by community events, local markets and play spaces. We'll inform members when details are announced.

EDINBURGH CYCLING & TRANSPORT POLICIES

Active Travel Action Plan 2016 – the download is at...

edinburgh.gov.uk/activetravel

Current cycling projects, routes, etc – details at...

edinburgh.gov.uk/cycling

Local Transport Strategy - Edinburgh's over-arching plan & targets. Search for *transport strategy* at edinburgh.gov.uk

COUNCIL ELECTION MANIFESTOS 2017

Next year the Council is expected to raise active travel funding in the transport capital and revenue budgets from 9% to 10%. Council elections come soon after - it will be critical to get all main party manifestos to promise to maintain the 10%. **Please start mentioning this to your councillors when you are in touch with them. And, if you are involved in politics, raise it in your local party.**

CLIMATE, HEALTH, TRANSPORT

Major health institutions in the UK and US are issuing powerful warnings about the risks to public health of climate change and the necessity to tackle it urgently.

The American College of Physicians¹ warns of “devastating health effects across the world” whilst the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention² expects more heat waves, drought, storms and flooding, and is working with states US-wide to try and adapt to the growing threats.

In the UK all the major health institutions, from the Royal Colleges to the BMJ and Lancet journals, have jointly created the **UK Health Alliance on Climate Change**³ to highlight the growing health risks, inform and support health professionals and “advocate at national and international levels for a strong policy response.”

Climate change impacts are still low in countries like the UK and US (though those affected by flood, storms and wildfires might disagree) but the situation already in many other parts of the world is worse. A recent well-referenced article can be found by googling *Climate Change Drives Half a Billion People to Suffer Hunger*.

1 www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/climate-change-threat

2 www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth 3 www.ukhealthalliance.org

SCOTLAND'S TRANSPORT POLICY RESPONSE

Whilst Scotland has a good record on renewables, it has missed its emissions-reduction targets for 4 years, and **the worst performing area is transport**. Furthermore, the Scottish Government shows little appetite for change...

- ♦ The **trunk road programme** continues apace, with rising budgets. The entire A9 is to be dualled by 2025 - yet average speed cameras have made it one of Scotland's safest roads; and the 70-mile Moy-Pitlochry section has only 7-10,000 vehicles a day, far below the 13-21,000 which such a road can handle [UK Roads Design Manual]. And the case for dualling the entire A96 is weaker.
- ♦ **Cycling/walking** gets just 1.9% of the transport budget.
- ♦ The Scottish government wishes to halve, and eventually abolish, **Air Passenger Duty**, encouraging more air travel.
- ♦ The **SNP manifesto** for the next 5 years suggests an intention to continue this approach to transport [p4].

If you are concerned, contact your MSPs - of all parties!

Remember [p4] that all main party manifestos, except the SNP, promised more active travel cash in one way or another, and all opposed cutting Air Passenger Duty. So there is hope that transport policy can be made less climate-unfriendly in the new no-majority Parliament.

NETHERLANDS STUDY TOUR

Spokes and Go-Bike member Iain Longstaff is organising a visit to one of David Hembrow's highly praised study tours of how cycling works in Dutch cities Assen and Groningen - where 60% of city-centre trips are by bike.

Course dates: Sep 13-15 plus travel time, etc

Course costs: £150-£250 plus travel, accommodation, etc

Course information: www.hembrow.eu/studytour

Trip information: www.gobike.org/study-tour-2016

More information: email iainlongstaff@jed-alumni.net.

There is also significant support for such changes. For example, in a recent public vote on 10 projects to cut carbon emissions [scotlandswayahead.org.uk] the winning idea was: **Adapting our cities for public transport and active travel.**

And the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change says that one factor behind climate change is “poorly designed cities which make us reliant on cars rather than active travel.”

AS PREDICTED BY CLIMATE SCIENTISTS, EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ARE GROWING



Storm Desmond hits Scotland & North East England [Dec 2015]



Canada wildfires – Fort McMurray, a town of 80,000 people, is evacuated and 2500 homes destroyed [May 2016]



Floods across Scotland – aftermath in Perthshire [July 2015]

How to... CONTACT YOUR POLITICIANS

1. **Simplest** - find them **all** at www.writetothem.com. Or...
 2. **MSPs** – you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at scottish.parliament.uk/msps
 3. **Councillors** web+phone below **Who runs the council?**
- | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| edinburgh.gov.uk | 0131.529.3186 | Lab/SNP |
| eastlothian.gov.uk | 01620.827827 | Lab/Con |
| midlothian.gov.uk | 0131.270.7500 | SNP/Ind [majority zero] |
| westlothian.gov.uk | 01506.775000 | Lab [minority] |

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