

## INVESTMENT !!

The Scottish Government has at last made a truly significant shift on active travel, doubling annual investment from £39m to £80m, or £15 per person, and introducing a range of other useful initiatives.

The cash enables Sustrans to provide £22m match-funding support for *all five shortlisted Community Links Plus bids*: Meadows to George Street, West Edinburgh Network and major schemes in Glasgow, Inverness and Stirling. Edinburgh's schemes are at a conceptual stage with options still to be devised and consulted on.



Heading from George St to Meadows - artist's impression

The new cash is not yet up to the level of leading cities and countries in Europe, some of which invest £20 per head for cycling alone, but is a huge step forward and puts Scotland far ahead of the UK government.

Councils now face big challenges to gear up capacity and skills, despite tough pressures - Edinburgh recently cut 2000 staff, and projects such as Meadows-Canal and onstreet secure bike storage are overdue. Councils may need help to use the cash effectively and timeously.

### WHY / HOW DID IT HAPPEN??

The new funding happened thanks to a combination of factors, probably including all the following...

- ◆ Persistent **long-term campaigning** by Spokes, PoP and many others [e.g. click topic *CycleFunding* at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk)]
- ◆ The **many people (you?)** who contact their MSPs about cycling - this really helps build support/understanding. **Please keep it up** - and it helps to say something positive before your (constructive!) suggestions.
- ◆ The **climate** and **public health** pressures, emphasised by bodies like Sustrans and Stop Climate Chaos, which make road-dominated budgets look ever more outdated.
- ◆ A pro-active Minister, **Humza Yousaf** - not just warm words but ready to take on party colleagues [Spokes 127].
- ◆ A hung Holyrood Parliament, so the SNP government **seeks to win Green support** to win budget votes.

*More on the government's decision* - see page 5.

### Inside

- ◆ [p2] **Cycle Policy in the New Councils**  
... Spokes public meeting, Nov 9
- ◆ [p6-7] **E-mobility, e-bikes & cargo bikes**
- ◆ [p3] **Spokes is 40: what's happening?**
- ◆ [supplement] **SEStran & cycling**

## E-MOBILITY

Spokes is urging Edinburgh City Council and the Scottish Government to adopt an *e-mobility policy* rather than thinking only about e-cars/e-vans.

Councils and the Scottish and UK governments are putting growing effort and cash into encouraging a shift from fossil vehicles (FVs) to EVs, by which they mean transfer from F-car to E-car and F-van to E-van.

Spokes urges instead an *e-mobility* policy, so people and companies are shown the opportunities, and incentivised, to shift from FVs to e-bikes/ cargo bikes where this makes sense, especially in towns and cities.



Glasgow cargo-bike deliveries by [outspokendelivery.co.uk](http://outspokendelivery.co.uk)

### THE DANGER OF SILO THINKING

A phase-out of FVs is vital to cut the emissions which are literally bringing premature death to thousands of people. But there's a severe danger of the **silos thinking** which has plagued transport policy for so long, with cycling and walking forgotten, rather than grasp the huge opportunity to encourage modal shift. The UK *Office for Low Emission Vehicles* [OLEV], for example, gives grants for shifting to EVs, but not to ebike or cargobike.

Spokes has raised these issues with Edinburgh City Council and Transport Scotland, who both sound interested [p6,7]. **Please ask your MSPs for support!**

### WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT SPOKES

"We really appreciate the enthusiastic input that Spokes members have given" ..... "We loved your social media; it helped us to reach many people who are interested in reading more." [Scottish Canals - see p8]

"I really like the 'Bike Alert leaflet' you have supplied us. It covers all I generally want to cover with drivers in addition to the offence committed/detected. The leaflets have also been used at open days and company visits. [PC Dominic Doyle, organiser of #OpClosePass - see p8]

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**Other events ...** See [www.spokes.org.uk](http://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](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuart@snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073.

**Other Edinburgh rides -** [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk) includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides.

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

## SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING Thurs Nov 9 Cycling Plans in the new Councils

New councils were elected in May 2017. Now they have settled in, what are their policies and plans for cycling as a form of transport? Can they learn from each other?

Will they work together on cross-boundary issues?

**Hear and debate the issues with top councillors!**

*A particular opportunity for Lothians residents*

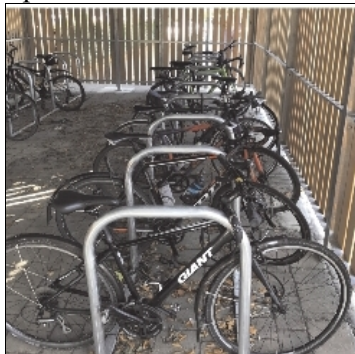
Edinburgh	<b>Cllr Lesley Macinnes</b>	Transport & Environment Committee Convener
E Lothian	<b>Cllr Norman Hampshire</b>	Cabinet Spokesperson for the Environment
Midlothian	<b>Cllr Russell Imrie</b>	Cabinet member, former SEStran chair
W Lothian	<b>Jim Stewart</b>	Development and Transportation Manager
Discussion/QA chair	<b>Daisy Narayanan</b>	Deputy Director, Sustrans Scotland

Starts 7.30, ends 9.30. Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls, chat *and to see our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition!*

Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge EH1 1EL.

## MAKE YOUR WORK BIKE-FRIENDLY

This new Spokes factsheet tells how to be your workplace bike champion and get things improved for everyone. Spokes members will be sent a copy – contact us for more.



### Think your workplace could be more bike-friendly?

This factsheet is for you if you cycle to work (or would like to). It explains how to work with colleagues and your employer to improve facilities for cyclists at your workplace.

The ideas here mostly come from a large site, but will also be very useful in a smaller workplace.

## SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members not yet renewed for 2017 receive a reminder in this mailing. If you are up to date you'll get a 2018 renewal form in Feb/March – please don't try to renew in advance!

## ☺ 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.**

## 2017 IDEAS COMPETITION

Our *Low Cost Ideas to Boost Bike Use* competition had 57 entries, compared to the usual 35-40. There is much that could be done at low cost to improve everyday bike trips!

Two issues dominated the winning entries: poor cycle route **entry points**, and **1-way streets** which ban cycling.

**First prize** went to Goff Cantley who highlighted the kerb, steps and bollard which make entry to Holyrood Park from Dumbiedykes a struggle for people with bikes, pushchairs or, even more so, wheelchairs.



Other **entry points** were obstructed by car spaces, tight chicanes and one even by a Council communal bin space.

On **one-ways**, Scottish Government technical guidance has a "*presumption*" that cyclists are to be exempt from "*all one-way restrictions*," yet seriously detrimental one-ways were identified by three of our prize-winners.

There were many **innovative ideas**, including tackling 'dead' bikes on public racks, the fall in bike use when kids leave primary school, the boring section of Seafeld Prom, speeding motorists – and speeding cyclists!

Interestingly, just over half of entrants and just over half of prize-winners/runners-up were women. Ten entries were from the Lothians, including 6 from East Lothian.

Spokes will pass the prize-winning entries (below) to relevant bodies – and Transport Convener **Cllr Lesley Macinnes** has promised to check out Edinburgh Council ones. We aren't passing on all entries as we are concerned that cycle staff are already behind on major projects!

1 Goff Cantley, Morningside	St.Leonards-Queens Park entry
2 Judith Stark, Bruntsfield	Rutland Sq - Exchange entry
3 Shane Voss, Marchmont	Spottiswoode St- Links entry
4 Lara Cohen, Falkirk	Rejig Waverley bike parking
5 Shane Voss, Marchmont	Prestonpans coast path chicane
6 Morag Haddow, Dunbar	Lammermuir Cres bike 2-way
7 Kate Sugden, Southside	Rodney St build-out blockage
8 Charlie Wood, Portobello	Seafeld Prom – kiddy features
9 Morag Haddow, Dunbar	Pelican retiming
10 Jane Herbstritt, Newcraighall	Primary 7 cycling booklet
11 Guy Johnson, Grange	Salisbury Rd bike 2-way
12 David French, Gilmerton	Identifying quick fixes
13 Stewart Campbell, Caiystane	Canning St bike 2-way

**Prizes** - our thanks to ScotRail, Edinburgh Bicycle Coop, Sustrans, Biketrax, Laidback Bikes, Filmhouse, Camera Obscura & World of Illusions, Craigie's Farm & Deli, Edinburgh Festival of Cycling, Kalpna.

**More info** – See our website [11.9.17] for all the entries, how to submit more ideas to the Council, and a link to earlier comps such as *Cycling Jokes/ Recipes/ Problems*.

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

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## SPOKES IS 40 !!



1970s Princes Street protest



1980s demo to save rail path

Spokes 128 included our fascinating 40-year bikeography. We're now developing autumn celebrations including..

- ◆ An **exhibition** to circulate round libraries and other public venues – we welcome offers of suitable venues. Design is by Transform Creative, so should be good!
- ◆ **Videos** on Spokes activity & history, by Edinburgh College of Art media students Vincent Förster and Shiva Wali. They will be on our website and used at events.
- ◆ Invitation-only events: a **council reception** and a thank-you event for our **most active volunteers**
- ◆ Spokes member **Alison Johnstone MSP** has promised a **Scottish Parliament motion** and may seek a debate.

## SUPERB SPOKES CYCLE MAPS

- ◆ **Midlothian; West Lothian/Livingston** - £5.95 each in shops
- ◆ **Edinburgh; East Lothian** - £6.95 each in shops. Now on water-resistant, tear-resistant paper!
- ◆ **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](http://spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps)
- ◆ **Bulk orders** for shops or groups of friends – see website for bulk prices. We've had several bulk orders from company Bicycle User Groups for re-sale to their members
- ◆ **Special offer:** for orders to Spokes *by post* – Edinb or EL £5. WL or ML £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 - or none will be sent.

### EDINBURGH MAP SELLS OUT !!

Our 2016 new edition sold out far sooner than expected, so we had to order a reprint. We took the opportunity to make a number of minor corrections. Everyone ordering a map from Spokes from now on will receive this slightly updated version. Invite your friends round for a 'spot the changes' evening!!

## BIKE SHARE

With Glasgow's NextBike fleet just doubled, Edinburgh is at last looking to catch up and held an open day for suppliers. Apparently e-bikes and cargo-bikes may be included too! To achieve its full potential the scheme must be on a wide scale.

Given how excited these councillors look trying out the various bikes, we surely don't have too long to wait now!



Cllr Adam McVey  
Council Leader



Cllr Chas Booth  
Green Transport Speaker



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# EDINBURGH CYCLING DEVELOPMENT

*If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors!! See p8 or use [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).*

There's a hopeful atmosphere around cycling policy in the new Council. Transport Convener **Cllr Lesley Macinnes** is enthusiastic and proactive and has the great 10% cycle budget legacy from the previous council - still unique in Britain. The Council has also appointed a Cycling Champion – regular bike commuter and Spokes member **Cllr David Key**.



Like her predecessor Cllr Lesley Hinds, Cllr Macinnes promises to get on her bike: living in Liberton, it will be an electric one. [Helpful e-bike info for her on pages 6-7!]

## CITY CENTRE

The very first Council meeting agreed a lengthy motion on cycling [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 29.6.17] following the death of medical student Zhi Min Soh. In particular, it promised...

*"a medium-term action plan, to be implemented before the end of this Council term, to improve the public realm in the city centre with the aim of improving conditions for, and prioritising access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and people with disabilities."*

**Officers have told us they have to 'think big' but we wait to see what that means!** A Council report in 2011 by famed urbanist **Jan Gehl** recommended major city centre traffic reduction and much higher walking/cycling priority but this wasn't acted on. **George Street** he called "a car park" and **Princes Street** "a bus station."

For example, Princes St north-side lane could become cycleway and wider footway. Buses would interchange near West & East ends, with a shuttle bus and maybe single-deckers sharing the tram lane. Princes St south side could be treated at the same time or in a later phase.

## TRAMLINE EXTENSION TO NEWHAVEN

The Council has approved a detailed feasibility study into extending the line, with a final decision in Autumn 2018.

We trust all Leith Walk would then get segregated lanes. The above 29.6.17 Council motion said...

*"ensure design of any future tram line extension reflects council's policies to prioritise pedestrian & cyclist safety.. including consideration of segregated cycle lanes"*

## AND BRIEFLY...

**Council cycle info** .. see [edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/cyclewalk)

**West-East route** .. to get on the list for regular updates, email [Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Rurigdh.McMeddes@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Leith Street** .. despite some problems with the temporary cycle route it's worth remembering that cars are banned totally – a few years ago bikes would have been too. But there should be earlier consultation on the details.

**Picardy Place** .. a 1970s-style gyratory is planned by developers for this potentially lovely space. **Cllr Chas Booth** has fought for proper public consultation but there seems little hope of influencing more than the fine detail.

**Silverknowes Roundabout** .. inadequate cycle facilities were planned in a resurfacing scheme. Thanks to rapid action by Graeme of Harts Cyclery, Spokes and Cllrs Lang, Key and Macinnes the plans are being revised.

## TRAMLINE SAFETY

Following Zhi Min Soh's death, and many tramline injury crashes, October's Transport Committee should approve a phased program of ameliorative measures. We welcome this, though noting that the tramline layout itself is a basic problem. We brought over a Dutch expert ten years ago but the designers rejected his ideas [website, 17.10.13].



Memorial event for Zhi Min Soh pic: Chris Hill

*The new safety measures come in 3 phases...*

1. **Rapidly implementable** without legal orders etc. Signs, surface colouring, bus-back adverts etc. The Council rightly recognises that a major cause of crashes is traffic pressures forcing the cyclist to take the tramlines at a poor angle - the campaign will reflect this.
2. **Needing traffic orders and/or agreements with tram/bus operators, police, etc.** For example, advance traffic lights, advance stop areas and limited physical measures.
3. **Needing traffic orders, public consultation, major physical measures, etc** - e.g. revising West End junction.



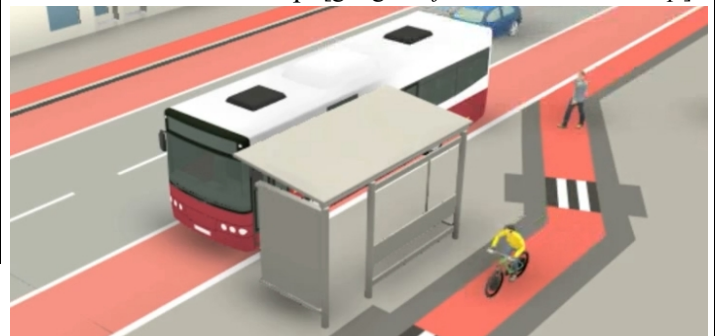
## LEITH WALK

*Two 'firsts' in Scotland open soon...*

A **2-stage right-turn** at McDonald Road junction allows less confident cyclists to turn right without crossing busy traffic streams. Such turns have now operated successfully in London for over 2 years. Sustrans and the Council have produced an animation showing how to use the turn – see [youtube.com/EdinburghCouncil](http://youtube.com/EdinburghCouncil).



A **bus stop bypass** avoids the need to move into the traffic stream when a bus stops. There are now many UK examples and a Manchester survey of over 1000 bus users, pedestrians and cyclists found ~90% satisfied with the route behind the stop [google [oxford road trial bus stop](http://oxford road trial bus stop)].



# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

## CYCLING - SERIOUSLY ??

Spokes has long pointed out a silo mentality in central (and local) government, with cycling seen as someone else's responsibility (e.g. failure to path-connect new railway stations to nearby towns in the **Bathgate/Airdrie** scheme) or cycling left to be fitted in after main decisions have been taken (e.g. **Sheriffhall roundabout** – or, for a disastrous Council case, Edinburgh **tramline layout**).

We featured this in Spokes 128 and in evidence to the Transport Minister's *Active Travel Task Force*. We were genuinely astonished then to be invited to a meeting with the head of Transport Scotland, **Roy Brannen**, and other senior officials, to put our case. [see our background papers at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : submissions : national]

**The meeting felt positive and, added to the PFG news [p1 and below], helps us hope for real change.**

*Other ideas we suggested in the discussion included..*

- ♦ A **truly major cycling project**, to achieve Ministerial and public attention on a par with road projects. For example a cycle-friendly town in every Scottish council.
- ♦ Replacing EV policy with **e-mobility policy** covering all EV publicity and incentives. See our p6,7 article.
- ♦ Instead of extending **Tweedbank Station** car park, build and heavily promote high quality cycleroute links, with bike/e-bike hire, to the many traffic generators (such as Borders General Hospital) within 5-10 miles.
- ♦ A **Haymarket** bike hub with repairs, spares, storage, hires, etc; and in the future a pedestrian/cycle link over the railway to a new bike-friendly Dalry Rd entrance.
- ♦ A major effort to expand bike capacity on the new Aberdeen & Inverness **HST trains** [see Spokes 128 p5].

**Ask your MSPs to push your favourites of these ideas!**

## PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT

The table below shows the impact of the doubling of cash for active travel [p1]. At nearly £15 per head for *active travel* this is less than the £15-£20 for *cycling* in leading European countries, and London Mayor Sadiq Khan's cycling £17. Nonetheless it is a massive step forward, far ahead of the UK government, and maybe all that councils can handle for the next year or two whilst they gear up.

### Cycle + walk as % of transport budget & per head

Scotland	£m	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Transport total		1893	2019	2019	2108	2210	2376	2376^
AT total*		20.1	21.3	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	80^^
AT as %		1.1%	1.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	3.4%
AT per head #		£3.80	£4.00	£7.30	£7.30	£7.30	£7.20	£14.70

\* Active travel figures from CAPS3 # Rounded to nearest 10p

^ Assumes transport same as 17/18 ^^ As announced in PFG

There are other 'green' positives in the PFG, including an 'Active Travel Commissioner' to ensure 'world class infrastructure,' a possible major bike/rail initiative [p8], e-bike 'promotion' [but see p6,7] and Low Emission Zones for Edinburgh and three other cities by 2020.

**Perhaps most remarkable** there is no mention of the £3bn A96 dualling project. We very much doubt it has been dropped (and planning for one section is well underway) but perhaps its timeline has been 're-profiled'? – as we suggested [Spokes 124]. After all, the £40m p.a. cycle/walk boost has to come from somewhere!

[For more on the PFG see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 6.9.17 article].

## SHERIFFHALL ROUNDABOUT

We thank the very many concerned people who contacted MSPs over the government's Sheriffhall option choice, which seemed to make good bike facilities physically impossible. Sustrans even publicly refused to comment on the details as it seemed so poor for active travel.



*David French, Michaela Jackson and Dave du Feu put the Sheriffhall case at the Scottish Parliament, supported by a 300+ petition and many individual emails to MSPs*

Perhaps reflecting a new government attitude, and the Minister's concern at the level of disquiet, the designers were told to have a major re-think. To our great surprise, they managed to find a new approach which provides direct, fully segregated, cycle/walk links between every arm of the roundabout, albeit with some gradients. Detailed plans are still awaited but we are hopeful.

We also urge that the project, with City Deal funding, includes high quality segregated links *south to Dalkeith* and *north to Edinburgh* rather than being a 'silo' project.

[More on the Sheriffhall saga at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) 29.6.17/2.5.17]

## USEFUL RESOURCES

**The End of the Road** – study of 86 UK road schemes suggesting they have failed to cut congestion or to boost local economies. [Google *CPRE End of the Road*]

**Glasgow car-free office** – A 700-person central Glasgow office building will have no car space but extensive employee cycling provision. It aims to attract 'forward-thinking' businesses. [Google *Guardian move over drivers*]

**Sticks beat carrots for modal shift** – by transport expert Dr Steve Melia. [stevemelia.co.uk/smarterchoices.html](http://stevemelia.co.uk/smarterchoices.html)

### Sustrans Active Travel Toolbox

– a great set of resources with evidence of how active travel works for the economy, for public health and for growth in housing and other development.



*Making the economic case for active travel*

[www.sustrans.org.uk/active-travel-toolbox](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/active-travel-toolbox).

**Cycling Advocacy Resource** – Similar idea to Sustrans toolbox. [Search advocacy research at [cyclingindustry.news](http://cyclingindustry.news)]



# E-MOBILITY

With big efforts starting by governments and councils in Britain - and worldwide - to move from fossil vehicles, there is huge opportunity to build in a shift to e-bikes and cargo-bikes for local deliveries and personal travel.

Such modal shift would further cut emissions, with far less power used in manufacture and operation. It would have massive benefits for active lifestyles, road safety, reduced congestion and improved travel-time certainty

With Edinburgh and the Scottish Government working on EV policies, Spokes submitted a paper urging a wider e-mobility approach, so that people and businesses moving from fossil vehicles get to know of the options. Edinburgh Council, and maybe the government, sound interested - but we must all keep pressing the case.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ See our paper: [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : submissions : local
- ◆ Tell your councillors/MSPs what you'd like to see
- ◆ EV dealers can get grants (OLEV) but there's no e-bike/cargobike scheme. **Support the fair-funding campaign** [bettertransport.org.uk/e-bikes](http://bettertransport.org.uk/e-bikes) – email your MP and MSP.
- ◆ Check out the local businesses here – give it a try!!

## Edinburgh e-bike & cargo-bike services

<a href="http://edfoc.org.uk/cargo-bike-hire">edfoc.org.uk/cargo-bike-hire</a>	CH
<a href="http://laid-back-bikes.scot/page16/page16.html">laid-back-bikes.scot/page16/page16.html</a>	CS
<a href="http://www.harts-cyclery.co.uk">www.harts-cyclery.co.uk</a>	ES,CS,CH
<a href="http://edinburghbicycle.com">edinburghbicycle.com</a>	ES
<a href="http://sustrans.org.uk/thebikelibrary">sustrans.org.uk/thebikelibrary</a>	CL
<a href="http://electriccyclecompany.com">electriccyclecompany.com</a>	ES,CS
<a href="http://electronwheels.co.uk">electronwheels.co.uk</a>	ES
<a href="http://edinburghe-bikeexperience.com">edinburghe-bikeexperience.com</a>	EH,ET
<a href="http://www.edinburghelectricbicycletours.com">www.edinburghelectricbicycletours.com</a>	ET
<a href="http://www.thebikespark.eu">www.thebikespark.eu</a>	CD,ER
<a href="http://www.edinburghcouriernetwork.co.uk">www.edinburghcouriernetwork.co.uk</a>	CD
[Glasgow] <a href="http://outspokendelivery.co.uk/glasgow">outspokendelivery.co.uk/glasgow</a>	CD

- ES** E-bike sales      **EH** E-bike hire  
**ET** Guided Edinburgh tours by e-bike  
**ER** E-bike home repair; also bike->e-bike conversions  
**CS** Cargo-bike sales      **CH** Cargo-bike hire  
**CD** Deliveries by cargo-bike  
**CL** Cargo-bike 'library' - tryouts for businesses

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## E-Bikes : what people say



Spokes members Jackie Grant & Graeme Thom

**Jackie says:** “I love my e-bike because I know I can get up that next hill and I know I will get home without feeling exhausted. It looks, rides and feels much like any other bike and I can still get out in the fresh air.”

**Motoring journalist Ed Wiseman says:** “My electric bicycle will never replace my humble bike but it does, with surprising frequency, replace the car” - he now cycles to meetings 10 miles away instead of 5 [telegraph.co.uk 17.8.17].

**We say:** E-bikes greatly extend the distance you can ride, and help you up hills. They are great for people of any age who have a long commute or get tired when cycling.

## Cargo-Bikes : what people say

**Bruce Mason of the Soup Cafe says:** “Most of our deliveries are within 2 miles of the city centre and a cargo bike can handle the deliveries more quickly and efficiently than a van as well as being a lot cheaper to operate. It is also important as a business to minimise our environmental impact and using an e-cargo bike for deliveries has helped us to achieve that.”



Union of Genius Cafe, Forrest Rd - original cargo bike!

## Cargo-Bike Resources

- ♦ European Cycle Logistics Federation [www.eclf.bike](http://www.eclf.bike)
- ♦ Local suppliers and advice – see ads on p6 opposite
- ♦ 20 UK cities now have cargo-bike delivery services, e.g.
  - ♦ [lastmileleeds.co.uk](http://lastmileleeds.co.uk)
  - ♦ [outspokendelivery.co.uk/glasgow](http://outspokendelivery.co.uk/glasgow)

## CLIMATE

Governments, councils and manufacturers are moving away from fossil vehicles because of the ever-growing dangers of climate change, and the international and local agreements/laws to tackle emissions. Records for winds, floods, heatwaves, etc are continually being broken.

- ♦ In Florida 6m people evacuate due to Hurricane Irma
- ♦ Portugal wildfires kill more than 60 people
- ♦ Atmospheric CO2 is the highest for 4m years, 400ppm
- ♦ 2015, 2016 & 2017 are the hottest years on record.

No longer is it just scientists warning. Investment giant **Schroders** says climate change is “well underway” and will become “a defining driver of the global economy and society” [google [schroders climate dashboard](http://schroders.com/climate)].

## AIR DEPARTURE TAX [ADT]

Transport is now Scotland's top climate emissions source, and one of the most intractable. Within that, air travel accounts for 15% and rising. [For an excellent briefing note, search for *ADT* at Transform Scotland's website, below].

Despite this, and rapid growth in air traffic, Scotland's government plans to cut ADT by 50% - a £150m gift from the taxpayer to air travellers, with frequent flyers gaining the most – and eventually to scrap it entirely. Aviation already pays no fuel duty, or VAT on passenger tickets, making it one of Britain's least taxed industries.

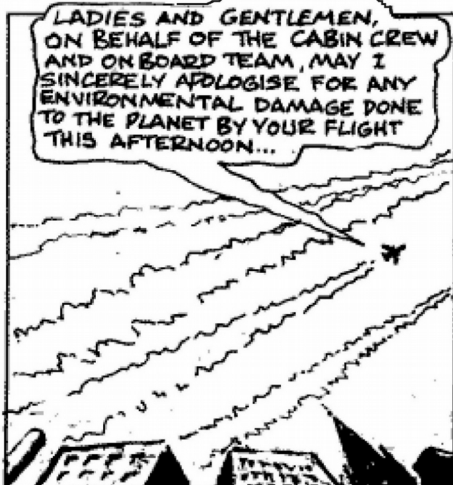
**Contact your MSPs if you want ADT to stay as it is.**

Spokes is a member of [transformscotland.org.uk](http://transformscotland.org.uk) who campaign on ADT cuts and of [stopclimatechaos.org](http://stopclimatechaos.org), a coalition of over 50 concerned Scottish organisations.

**BIFF** [www.biffonline.co.uk](http://www.biffonline.co.uk)

from Spokes 84, year 2003 - and even more valid today!

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**Chris Garratt & Mick Kidd**





## TOWPATH STUDY

Following extensive consultation, Scottish Canals has published a comprehensive report on the future of the **Union Canal towpath**, to remedy the congestion and conflict resulting from its growing popularity as a green traffic-free City corridor. They are now seeking funds to implement the proposals, with Sustrans and the Council.

### Recommendations in the report include...

- ◆ the relatively cheap and simple, like improved signage
- ◆ minor infrastructure such as widening the towpath into the canal near and at bridges, where feasible
- ◆ visionary projects such as the Slateford Snake below, forming a 'landmark attraction' like The Falkirk Wheel.



*The Slateford Snake : a high level path to avoid the narrow and cobbled aquaduct towpath*

Scottish Canals

## #OPCLOSEPASS

Police Scotland's highly-praised operation to boost safety and reduce scary vehicle close passes [see Spokes 128] is being rolled out across Scotland following its Edinburgh success - Fife and Forth Valley first.

The Spokes **Bike Alert** leaflet [spokes.org.uk/videos] is used as part of the operation. We have donated 15,000 copies to Police Scotland, who also use them at events such as Lothian Buses Open Day and workplace days.

Spokes is also again using the leaflet at 6th-year driver awareness courses in Edinburgh & Lothian [Spokes 127].



*Police officers trained for Open Day and workplace days. #OpClosePass Scotland*

## DEDICATED CARRIAGES !?

Bike space on trains is a top issue raised with Spokes. Our 2016 tweet about likely bike space cuts on Oban and Edinburgh-Glasgow services was retweeted 175 times – the most ever, with wide support from tourism interests as well as very many concerned individuals.

Whilst we had been told that Ministers and ScotRail were investigating fitting more spaces in existing coaches we were gobsmacked to see the paragraph below in the recent government policy programme...

- introducing dedicated carriages for cycles and other outdoor sports equipment on rural routes in the north and west

*From #ScotPFG, Scottish Programme for Government*

There is even a *rumour* that this wording can be taken literally. If that proves to be true then all concerned, and especially Minister **Humza Yousaf**, will be heroes!

## HOW TO CONTACT POLITICIANS

1. Simplest - find them *all* at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...
  2. MSPs – you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at [scottish.parliament.uk/msps](http://scottish.parliament.uk/msps)
  3. Councillors web+phone below
- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Who runs the council?</b>                               |                              |
| <a href="http://edinburgh.gov.uk">edinburgh.gov.uk</a>     | 0131.529.3186 SNP/Lab        |
| <a href="http://eastlothian.gov.uk">eastlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01620.827827 Lab (minority)  |
| <a href="http://midlothian.gov.uk">midlothian.gov.uk</a>   | 0131.270.7500 Lab (minority) |
| <a href="http://westlothian.gov.uk">westlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01506.775000 Lab (minority)  |

## A PERSONAL VISIT??

Many people email their MSP/councillor, but why not visit their surgery for a chat on issues that concerns you: it could make an even bigger impact! Ask them for time/place.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

- Suggest bike parking sites:** [activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- Adult cycle training:** 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).
- Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366
- Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]
- Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.
- Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : links : reporting
- Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 0208964102

**Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself by joining us!**

**Download a membership form at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)**