

Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact spokes@spokes.org.uk.

ELECTIONS 2007 – HOW TO USE YOUR VOTE!!

Don't worry – we aren't going to tell you which persons or parties to vote for in the May 3 elections for the Holyrood Parliament and for local councils!! Your votes will doubtless depend on many factors. But the following may help you...

- ✓ What the main parties promise for cycling policy at Scotland level (in Holyrood Parliament) and at Edinburgh Council level.
- ✓ How to use the voting system without wasting your vote. How to use each of your votes to help achieve what you want.
- ✓ Which candidates are Spokes members or have gone 'beyond the call of duty' in supporting Spokes/cycling in the past

WHAT THE PARTIES PROMISE - EDINBURGH

GREEN www.edinburghgreens.org.uk

Aim for highest share of (transport?) spending going to walk/cycle in any Scottish local authority

- Expand and link up the cycle network
- More dedicated and mandatory cycle lanes
- More secure bike parking
- Schools – more safe routes and cycle education.
- 20mph zones at all schools and residential areas.

LABOUR www.edinburgh.labour.co.uk

Current policies have put cycle lanes, ASLs, and 80km of off-road routes across the city, leading to bike commuting quadrupling.

All main roads in the city will now get 'well-defined cycle lanes'

[*Spokes comment: 'well-defined' is not explained – presumably colour normally?*]

- Developers required to provide bike parking and path access.
- Employers – encourage bike-purchase loans, council giving a lead.
- Schools – enable cycle training for older classes at every primary.
- Complete the provision of 20mph zones at schools and residential.

LIBDEM www.edinburghlibdems.org.uk

Make Edinburgh a model cycle-friendly walker-friendly city.

- Well-lit high-quality cycleways and ASLs at all traffic lights.
- 'Segregated routes' rather than bike lanes allowing car parking.
- Well-maintained coloured surfaces for junctions and 'selected routes'.
- Work with other councils for long-distance routes and to share skills.
- Work closely with Spokes.
- More onstreet bike parking.

All children to be offered onroad cycle training.

Seek a pilot Cycle Resource Centre [as in LD national manifesto].

Work with police to "try to ensure cyclists use lights at night, use cycle helmets" and don't behave illegally or inconsiderately."

Employers – encourage cycling to work and green travel plans.

Spokes comment there are several good promises here [♥] though some were a little hard to understand/precis - for exact wording see their website above. However [♣] also note the highly controversial proposal to 'try to ensure' cycle helmet use, with police involvement

SNP www.edinburghsnp.org

Review of all aspects of transport in Edinburgh 'including cycling'. No other mention of cycling – but would scrap tram and boost buses.

PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTOS SUMMARY

Party	Holyrood: transport policy	Holyrood: cycle policy	Edinburgh Council: cycle policy
Conservative	♣	♣	No Ed manifesto
Green	♥	♥	♥
Labour	♦	♦	♥
LibDem	♦	♥	♥ + ♣ [see text above]
SNP	♦	♣	♦ or ♣? [see text above]
SSP	♥	♦	No Ed manifesto

Key: ♥ = good; ♦ = medium; ♣ = poor.

AFTER THE ELECTIONS

Continued lobbying will be vital after the elections, immediately and in the future. Keep a note of what the victorious parties and candidates promised, and use this to remind and pester them! Immediately after the elections, Holyrood and most councils are likely to fix up coalitions and devise cross-party programmes, so a short immediate email/letter to leading councillors/MSPs on your priorities could be really useful at that stage.

BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

WHAT THE PARTIES PROMISE - HOLYROOD

Spokes comment: Most, though not all, manifestos have warm words on cycling. But two of the **real tests** are *what they will spend*, and whether they will *transfer roadspace from car to bike*. Major promises that we particularly like are shown in **bold italic**. Please note that everything below is summarised/abbreviated - see the full manifestos at the web links if you want exact wording.

Websites: Holyrood manifesto links are at election.theherald.co.uk.

CONSERVATIVE

Walking/cycling are not mentioned once in the entire manifesto! Also, the party would scrap ring-fenced council funds, which would mean ending the Cycling Walking Safer Streets fund – an important source of cycle project funding [Spokes 96, page 4].

GREEN

Raise cycle funds from 1% of the transport budget to 4%+ by 2014.

All schools/public centres linked by cycleroute networks by 2017.

Secure cycle storage for public transport.

Environments and strategies to promote safety and the feeling of safety for walkers and cyclists.

Schools – safe routes, training, travel plans incorporating cycling.

LABOUR

Make cycling a more convenient, attractive and realistic choice for many more short journeys.

Successful government funding for council cycle schemes such as cycle lanes and ASLs is highlighted – presumably to be continued?

Continue work on safe routes to schools.

Encourage workplace bike parking.

Include cycle networks in land regeneration schemes.

LIBDEM

Make Scotland a cycling nation.

Target to double cycle use in Scotland by 2012.

Regional Transport Partnerships required to promote cycling, with ambitious targets to increase proportion of journeys by bike.

Cycle resource centre pilot schemes in town and city centres – for storage, advice, showers, maps, maintenance and repair, etc.

Cycling demonstration towns fund.

Major towns and cities required to develop a core network of routes from residential areas to town centres.

Schools – safe routes to school, bike parking, training, school travel plans, restrictions on cars outside schools.

Bike storage and carriage on the railways.

SNP

Walking/cycling are not mentioned at all in the 5-page transport section, although under Health the SNP says it will "promote simple everyday activities such as walking, cycling and playing."

SSP

National Cycle Strategy to be developed with cycling organisations.

Extensive network of safe, well-maintained & lit cycle tracks.

Cycle training for all primary 6/7 pupils.

SPOKES-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES

Below we list candidates who are known Spokes members, or who went 'beyond the call of duty' to support Spokes/promote cycle use in the last Parliament/council term. Obviously we do not say you should vote for them, but this may be a factor in your decision. **Important:** Please note there are 100s of candidates in total – if we have missed any Spokes members please email ddf@staffmail.ed.ac.uk and we will put you on our website asap.

HOW TO USE YOUR VOTES

For Parliament you have a coloured voting paper with 2 votes [A and B below]. For councils you have a white voting paper [C below].

A. HOLYROOD PARLIAMENT – REGIONAL VOTE

This vote will be on brown paper (the left side of the Parliament voting paper) and is also known as the 'List' or 'Top-up' vote. You have one 'X' vote - for a party, not a person. This elects 'top-up' MSPs for parties who get a fair number of votes but few or no MSPs in the Constituency vote below. [As a further complication, non-party individuals can also stand here].

- ◆ If you support Con/Green/LD/SNP/SSP - vote for them, they could win a top-up seat.
- ◆ If you support Lab and live in E.Loathian or Borders [i.e. South Scotland Region] – vote for them, they could win a top-up seat.
- ◆ If you support Labour and live in Edinburgh or Mid or West Lothian [i.e. Lothians Region] – you have a dilemma! Labour will probably win enough constituency seats that they can't get a top-up seat, so consider voting for your second choice. But if Labour does extremely badly they might be near a top-up seat and need your Regional vote – check the opinion polls!

SPOKES-FRIENDLY REGIONAL CANDIDATES

[but as explained above, you vote here for party, not person]

Mark Ballard – Green – Spokes member

Katharine Taylor – Green – Spokes member, Sustrans employee.

Daniel Wight – Green – Spokes member

B. HOLYROOD PARLIAMENT – CONSTITUENCY VOTE

This vote will be on lilac paper (the right side of the voting paper). It is traditional first-past-the-post, so you vote 'X' for one person. Normally, vote for your favourite candidate. **But** if you know that a party you dislike might win the seat, then consider voting for whoever is most likely to defeat them. In the last elections (2003) the parties coming 1st and 2nd (and 3rd and 4th if close to 2nd) in each seat were as below. * means 1st and 2nd were fairly close.

Ed Central*	Lab/LD/SNP	Ed East/Muss	Lab/SNP
Ed North/Leith	Lab/SNP/Con/LD	Ed Pentlands*	Con/Lab
Ed South*	LD/Lab	Ed West	LD/Con
Linlithgow*	Lab/SNP	Livingston*	Lab/SNP
Midlothian	Lab/SNP	East Lothian	Lab/LD/Con/SNP

SPOKES-FRIENDLY CONSTITUENCY CANDIDATES

Edinburgh Central - Sarah Boyack – Lab – A great supporter - often raised cycle issues in Parliament. Also, when transport minister she changed the rules to hugely increase cycle and integrated cycle/public transport funds – though part of this new funding structure was dismantled by later ministers Wendy Alexander and Iain Gray.

Edinburgh Pentlands – Sheila Gilmore – Lab – Spokes member

Edinburgh South – Donald Anderson – Lab – When Council leader he helped initiate the successful bid to SESTRAN for £4m+ funding for routes between Edinburgh and surrounding areas.

C. COUNCIL VOTE

This vote is on a separate, white, sheet, and uses STV (single transferable vote), with several councillors elected for each ward. Instead of writing a cross, you number candidates in order of preference, by writing 1, 2, 3 etc beside them. You can stop at any time but **we suggest you number everyone**. If you dislike certain parties/candidates, putting them last lowers their chances.

SPOKES-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES – EDINBURGH

Inverleith – Kristina Woolnough – Independent – Spokes member. Has done a lot on school travel, though we oppose her tram views.

Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart – Andrews Burns – Lab. When council transport convener Andrew did a huge amount and spent a great deal of time to promote cycling and sustainable transport. We cannot speak highly enough of him! [see also Spokes 95 p8].

Leith – Chas Booth – Green – Spokes member, worked for Sustrans.

Southside/Newington – Cameron Rose – Con – Spokes member.

SPOKES-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES – EAST LOTHIAN

Haddington/La'muir – Eurig Scandrett – Green – Spokes member

Dunbar/E.Linton – Norman Hampshire – Lab - Set up East Lothian Cycle Forum, developing cycle policy, budget, etc.

FOR YOUR DIARY

For more events see Spokes 96, p2 and Spokesworker 21.3.07

Apr28-May7 Outdoor Access Festival With walks/cycles locally and in many parts of Scotland www.outdoor-access.scotland.com.

e.g. Holyrood Park [see 'Stalls'] and from Croy Stn [01236.780636].

Late May / early June - Spokes Bulletin 97 – mailout, provisional

June 16-24 National Bike Week www.bikeweek.org.uk.

Local info at bikeweekedinburgh.info. Includes...

June 16 Edinburgh to St.Andrews Annual Ride for Lepra. Registration required. www.lepra.org.uk. 01968.682369 Ros Kerry.

June 20 Spokes Bike Breakfast 8-10am, City Chambers Help / ideas for stalls needed! jackieh@waitrose.com 664.0526.

All week – Spokes is sponsoring the **RoadPeace Helpline** – RP supports victims and fights road danger www.roadpeace.org.

STALL VOLUNTEERS

TryCycling in Edinburgh, supported by Spokes, and set up to encourage more people to cycle more of the time, has been hugely successful. It works with Spokes and other cycling organisations to run stalls/events at outdoor festivals and family and corporate events around the city; and organises social rides for new and less confident cyclists. Many volunteers help, passing on enthusiasm and knowledge, giving others the confidence to cycle – and it's great fun!!

Summer is coming; lots of stalls and rides are planned, and help is needed. This is the 30th Anniversary of both Spokes and Sustrans: let's work together to get even more people cycling!

Please offer your time to help with stalls or rides - contact Maggie Wynn, maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk, 332 3442.

Ride details: www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk/rides.html.

Stalls/events details [more will probably be added]:

Tue 24 Apr 11.30 - 2.30 RBS, Gogarburn - Info stall

Wed 25 Apr 11.00 – 2.30 QMUC, Clerwood Campus – Info stall

Sun 29 Apr 11.00 – 5.00 Outdoor Access Festival, Holyrood Pk – stall

Sat 5 May 11.00 - 3.00 Ed Parks / Gardens Open Day -Hailes Quarry Pk Parents Like Us Festival, Leith Links...

Fri 11 May 3.00 - 4.30 - Puncture Repair Fun

Sat 12 May 10 -12 Try a Bike

Sun 27 May 10 - 4 Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park Fun Day

Sat/Sun 9/10 June 11 - 5 TreeFest, Inverleith Park

Sat 16 June 11 – 4 Davidson's Mains Gala Day

Jun 16 Bicycle Film Festival for Bike Week [Jun 16-24]

Sun 5 Aug Edinburgh Festivals' Cavalcade

Sun 12 Aug 11 – 5 Fringe Sunday, Meadows

European Mobility Week: 16 - 22 Sept

OUT ON A BIKE!!

➔ **Your chance to win a full suspension mountain bike!!** Each £1 donation to Drum Riding for the Disabled will be entered in a prize draw on Sun 20 May at Drum horse show. To enter, contact JackieH@waitrose.com 664.0526.

➔ **My Favourite Bike Ride** – our booklet of prizewinning rides should be out by the Spokes mailout in late May/ early June. All members will get this *indefinably superlative publication* - laid out by Tim Smith of Spokes maps fame - free of charge. And if you were a prizewinner – now you'll be famous too!!

➔ **Tips for Summer Holiday Local Cycle Adventures** Try-Cycling hopes to build up a set of great local summer days out from Edinburgh, combining bike and public transport, on its website www.trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk. Send ideas and experiences to maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk, or post to: TryCycling in Edinburgh, PO Box 28538, EDIN EH4 2WT.

RAIL CAMPAIGNS

• **Campaign to expand UK rail network** - Transport 2000 seeks donations. www.transport2000.org.uk 02076130743.

• **Campaign for bike/rail integration** www.ctc.org.uk/cyclerrail.

• **Edinburgh Suburban** – www.reopenthesouthsub.org.uk.

• **Rail Reopenings Conference** 23 Jun, Glasgow 0131.554.7773