

*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 [spokesATspokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk).*

## SUMMER STALLS

If you can volunteer to help at a Spokes stall, contact the organiser below – and if not, please go along to say hello anyway!

### 31 July Fauldhouse environment/community fair

Fauldhouse Village Green <http://fauldhouse.org.uk/whats-on/events/>  
*Spokes contact:* Mies, email [mknottenbelt1ATgooglemail.com](mailto:mknottenbelt1ATgooglemail.com).

### Aug 14 Kirknewton sustainable transport day

Includes Dr Bike, cycle training, cycle assault course, etc. Event details: Lisa Morton 07917 789 404, [lisakirknewtonATgmail.com](mailto:lisakirknewtonATgmail.com).

*Spokes contact:* David Liddell, email [davidATdliddell.co.uk](mailto:davidATdliddell.co.uk).

Sep 12 **Pedal for Scotland** Glasgow-Edinburgh ride, spokes stall at end (Victoria Park), 2-6pm. *Spokes contact:* below.

Sep 25 **Painting Edinburgh Green** at OutoftheBlue, Dalmeny St. *Spokes contact for Sep 12 & 25:* [judy.cantleyATbtopenworld.com](mailto:judy.cantleyATbtopenworld.com).

Oct 3 **LinlithGO bike fun day** 12-3. Linlithgow Bridge primary school. Part of [linlithGO.info](http://linlithGO.info) project for change from car to bike/walk/bus/rail. *Spokes contact:* [DaveduFeuATgmail.com](mailto:DaveduFeuATgmail.com).

## OTHER DATES

Aug 8 **Pedal Pusher fringe play, special offer.** Tour de France battles between Marco Pantani, Jan Ullrich & Lance Armstrong. "An intelligent and inspired production that doesn't let you go."

You turn up at 3pm with bike for a photocall to publicise the show, which is at 4pm. You then get 2for1 tickets on the day. **You must book in advance** via Zoo Venue boxoffice [[www.zoofestival.co.uk](http://www.zoofestival.co.uk), [emailboxATzoovenues.co.uk](mailto:emailboxATzoovenues.co.uk)] quoting 'Bike club Offer' and saying you are a member of spokes. More info about the show: [www.theatredelicatessen.co.uk/pedalpusher](http://www.theatredelicatessen.co.uk/pedalpusher).

Aug 15 & Sep 19 – **special extra-long additional Spokes Sunday rides** – info from [stuartATsnowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuartATsnowcycle.co.uk) 445 7073

Sep 28 **Working Together to Create Healthy Environments** Living Streets 1-day conference, Edinburgh. Full details at... [www.livingstreets.org.uk/our-services/conferences-and-training](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/our-services/conferences-and-training).

## TIME TO ENTER!!

Our annual competition always produces a whole range of really interesting ideas, which help in our campaigning and promotion of cycling. We'd like a good lot of entries again this year – and we'd like **you** to enter. Just think up a brilliant idea for an artwork for any offroad path in Edinburgh or the Lothians – in words or as a sketch. There's a great range of bike-related and art-related prizes; top winner has first choice, and so on. For the full competition info sheet see 12 June news item at [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress).

## YOUR HELP NEEDED!

### TRAIN BIKE SPACE TO NORTH BERWICK

New trains due next year will greatly reduce dedicated bike space compared to the present trains. *If you use these trains and have not yet written, please do so.* For more info see the briefing document on our website in downloads – public transport – rail.

Probably the most important letters are to your MSPs [you have one constituency MSP and several 'regional list' MSPs]. Ask them to raise your concerns with the Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson MSP. Find your MSPs at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

### EDINBURGH COUNCIL BUDGET 2011-12 AND BEYOND

In her June 'Council Leader's Report' Cllr Jenny Dawe asks all concerned citizens to email her 'personally' with their views on

what should be in future council budgets. She wants "to hear the views of as many (people) as possible." Send her your thoughts by emailing [leaderATedinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:leaderATedinburgh.gov.uk). For more info see item 2 of the June 2010 Leader's Report at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/council/council\\_business/CEC\\_leader\\_report](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/council/council_business/CEC_leader_report).

### COLOURED SURFACING

A Napier University MSC mature student, with council support, is conducting a project, "**Driver compliance with advanced stop lines with and without coloured surfacing in Edinburgh.**" The main research will be observing driver behaviour at a range of ASL locations, but there's also an online survey of opinions by each type of road user. The survey is on our website – see 16 July news item. If you have anything else to contribute to the project, it is being done by [Lynn.RussellATedinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Lynn.RussellATedinburgh.gov.uk).

### CYCLENATION CONFERENCE 7 NOVEMBER

We need accommodation and volunteer help for the UK campaign groups conference which we host on 7 November. For more info see Cyclenation article on p2 of Spokesworker 08.6.10 or contact [rosie.telfordATgmail.com](mailto:rosie.telfordATgmail.com) or leave message at 313 2114.

### EAST LOTHIAN ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY- by 27 Aug

The East Lothian 2010-15 Environment Strategy outlines how the county might progress to a more sustainable future. The draft Strategy and a questionnaire are at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=1179](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1179). **Please send your comments to the consultation** - no later than 27 August.

There are some good statements on sustainable transport, and cycling in particular, for example... "By 2015, more resources will be diverted from supporting private mechanised transport, towards more sustainable forms of transport, and walking and cycling will be prioritised within towns. There will be wider and more varied opportunities for local employment so that the need to travel will be reduced. It will be easier, safer and more pleasant to walk and cycle on short journeys."

However the document's 'Action Plan' has nothing about onroad cycling conditions. Whilst offroad path networks are very important, most bike journeys will be by road for the foreseeable future, so it is essential this gets some very definite commitments. Indeed, without that the general policy statement above about prioritising cycling (and walking) in towns just won't happen.

### PATH VOLUNTEER WORK

E.Lothian Sustrans group is planning a work party on the Tyne path east of Haddington. To help, email [Donald.MitchellATsac.ac.uk](mailto:Donald.MitchellATsac.ac.uk)

### NEW FORTH BRIDGE - THREAT TO MINOR ROADS

Local residents are seeking a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the new motorway planned south of the bridge (if it goes ahead). They give Oral Evidence at the Scottish Parliament in September, and would like someone from Spokes in their group. Are you familiar with the area and able to help? [j.c.summersATstir.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.summersATstir.ac.uk).

Background... "Although we oppose the new Forth bridge, Kate and I are also trying to persuade Parliament and Transport Scotland that the well used walking/cycling route from Echline Corner to Westmuir Stables, Dundas and Winchburgh should be preserved in the Forth Crossing Bill. Unfortunately the present plans obliterate this route with the new motorway. Our persistence has resulted in Parliament asking us for additional evidence."

### SESPLAN [SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND] CONSULTATION

The Strategic Development Plan for South East Scotland stage 1 consultation is out, with 30 questions on overall strategy, locations for future development, climate change, etc. Consultation material is in public libraries and at [www.sesplan.gov.uk](http://www.sesplan.gov.uk). Please consider sending in your views on any of the questions that concern you – **by Aug 27** – and copy to Spokes. We are particularly concerned about the £2bn additional Forth Road bridge, under question 5 - costing £400 for every man, woman and child in Scotland.

## YOUR SUCCESSES!!

### WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL CWSS GRANT 2010/11

For the last 2-3 years West Lothian has put almost none of their government CWSS £303k allocation into cycling, even though it is for "cycling, walking and safer streets." Members of Spokes and Linlithgow Cycle Action Grp wrote and spoke to councillors - and the lobbying seems to have paid off!! Initial replies said nothing could be done - despite the government's request for all councils to put 36%+ into cycling [Spokes 107]. But after further lobbying there has been a rethink, and now £110k of the 2010/11 money will go to cycling projects. If at first you don't succeed ...

### ZOO PARKING AND ACCESS

After emails from Spokes and a Spokes member the Zoo is to reconsider this page: [www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/visiting/getting-here](http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/visiting/getting-here) and is also looking into onsite bike parking.

### MOTOR VEHICLES IN ASL BOXES

A Spokes member, who reported to his councillors the reg. no. of a council vehicle which stopped with no excuse fully in a red ASL box, had this excellent reply from the council's area manager "As well as looking into this incident, we will remind and instruct all drivers here at North to abide fully by the Highway Code, show full consideration to all road users including pedestrians and cyclists and in particular be mindful of cycle lanes & boxes."

## RECENT REPORTS

### CAPS - CYCLING ACTION PLAN FOR SCOTLAND

The government has issued the much-delayed Cycling Action Plan for Scotland. [www.cyclingactionplanforscotland.org](http://www.cyclingactionplanforscotland.org).

There is a lot of good stuff in it, but as always a great deal will depend on **consistent new funding over coming years**. Some funding has been allocated for 2010-11, though the total is still far below the annual £10-£20 per head which has proved necessary and successful in European countries and in English Cycle Demonstration Towns. As pointed out in our survey in Spokes Bulletin 107, council officers say **long-term consistent funding** is essential. So, much depends on the Scottish Spending Review later this year, which sets the framework for all government spending over the next 3 years, as explained in the Bulletin.

Section 5.3 of CAPS covers **public transport/bike integration**. The very welcome increase in bike spaces north of Inverness is mentioned - unfortunately the planned slashing of dedicated bike space on the North Berwick trains (overleaf) is not mentioned!!

Section 5.5 takes the idea of **Strict Liability** seriously! - though action would have been better than yet another review - surely that was the point of CAPS. It looks as if the paper by Spokes member Bill Neilson (see downloads - technical - spokes papers at [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress)) had some influence in dropping the old argument that this is not in Scotland's powers.

### GETTING THERE

Excellent short overview of the current state of transport policy in Scotland by official government advisors the Sustainable Development Commission. See Transform Scotland review and link at [www.transformscotland.org.uk/not-getting-there-yet.aspx](http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/not-getting-there-yet.aspx).

### TRANSPORT AND LAND USE PLANNING

This Scottish Parliament Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Cttee Inquiry Report calls for much closer links between transport and planning to provide better accessibility by bike, foot, public transport and to reduce emissions. [scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-10/cticc10-s3-004.htm](http://scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-10/cticc10-s3-004.htm)

## SPOKES STRUCTURE

Further to Spokesworker 8.6.10, Spokes Resources Group has been discussing the pros and cons of charitable status and/or becoming a company limited by guarantee. We are also reviewing the constitution - this is necessary for the above but also because some aspects are no longer in line with actual practice.

We'll include more updates in future Spokesworkers, but if you have comments/ideas contact [spokesATspokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk) 313 2114.

We also hope to develop our Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs] web page to provide info on how Spokes operates.

## TENEMENT PROJECT

The Spokes CCF-funded project to produce comprehensive materials on living with a bike in a flat or tenement is underway...

We are working with consultants **TPI**, and by this autumn hope to have detailed online information on storage in-flat, in-stair, backgreen, special rooms, onstreet, etc. The materials will cover both the 'hardware' and also the complex issues of planning, management, council procedures, etc. The results should also be of great use in other towns and cities with flats and tenements.

Our project web page [Spokes website, downloads - technical - tenements] includes the main documents and contact details. Please send any useful experience, ideas or information. Other dissemination and discussion of the eventual materials could include printed factsheets, a supplement in our autumn Spokes Bulletin and/or an autumn public meeting on this topic.

The project doesn't include bike parking implementations, but already several **community groups** and **individual tenements** are keen to use the materials to identify solutions for their own situation and to help in preparing funding applications. **Edinburgh City Council** has also included in the draft Cycle Action plan an exciting commitment to "pilot on-street residential bike parking" as well as to "pilot improved bike parking for existing social housing" once our materials are available.

## EAST & MIDLOTHIAN

We have members who check the weekly lists of planning applications in Edinburgh and West Lothian. It would be great to have local volunteers do the same for EL and ML councils. There are only around 10-20 applications a week, and most weeks none need commented on - most are private householders seeking permission for conservatories, windows, etc.

**Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer for this.**

The kind of applications where comments *would* be useful are...

- blocks of flats** - secure and managed bike parking needed
- buildings open to the public** - schools, leisure, etc - need convenient bike access, links to nearby quiet roads/cycleroutes, Sheffield racks near to the main entrance (and ideally sheltered)
- buildings with staff** - secure all-day bike parking, and a monitored travel plan encouraging use of bike, walk, bus, rail.

Over time this can bring a more cycle-friendly environment, and better consciousness among council planning officers/developers.

Councils have policies and bike parking standards which can be quoted and there are useful statements in the Scottish Government *Scottish Planning Policy* guidance, which in theory should be followed by councils... [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/newSPP](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/newSPP)

To see **Midlothian** applications click 'view weekly lists' here... [www.midlothian.gov.uk/Topic.aspx?TopicId=147](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/Topic.aspx?TopicId=147)

To see **E. Lothian** applications list click 'view applications' at [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/home\\_info.php?homepageID=87](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/home_info.php?homepageID=87)

## SNIPPETS

• Linlithgow Climate Challenge LinlithGO group has purchased two **bike trailers** (a big box one and a bike hod for shopping etc) and these are on hire, usually by the day or week (local area only). More details from Dorte, email [helloATlinlithgo.info](mailto:helloATlinlithgo.info).

• **www.co2now.org** - Presents latest CO2 data in layperson-friendly terms. See also their 'climate FAQs' for responses to the more common sceptics arguments.

• **www.citybeast.com/cyclingsafetypage.html** - location of every crash resulting in death or serious injury of a cyclist in 2000-2008.

• **new items at [www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress](http://www.spokes.org.uk/wordpress), including...**

- Spokes ride for politicians and top officials - *June 27 news*
- Spokes tenement bike parking research project - *July 16 news*
- Traffic webcams - *links - local cycling links*
- European policy research - *downloads - technical - inspirational*
- Edinburgh Cycle Action Plan, Spokes response - *July 21 news*