

*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).*

## FOR YOUR DIARY

See diary in Spokes Bulletin 112 and at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk). Also...

### ELECTION LOCAL HUSTINGS

**Council elections are on May 3: see article. Several hustings are being held by local organisations – go along and ask a question!**

**Apr 19 Thu City Centre ward hustings** 7-9pm, City Chambers, High St, chaired by Lesley Riddoch [www.egfl.net/activecitizenship](http://www.egfl.net/activecitizenship) 558 3545

**Apr 19 Thu Leith Walk (ward 12) hustings** 7-9.15pm, Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Bellevue Crescent. *More info:* [www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/news/hustings-leith-walk-and-city-centre-dates](http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/news/hustings-leith-walk-and-city-centre-dates)

**Apr 19 Thu Craighleith/Blackhall hustings** 7.30pm, St Columba Church, Queensferry Road (just beyond the Blackhall dip, heading out of city).

**Apr 23 Balerno** 8.30-10pm, Balerno Parish Church

**Apr 24 Tue Drylaw/Telford hustings** 7pm, Drylaw Nbd Centre, off Groathill Road North

**Apr 25 Wed City Centre (ward 11)** Details as Leith Walk ward above.

**Apr 25 Portobello/Craigmillar** 7-9pm Portobello Town Hall, High St

**Apr 26 All-areas Hustings** by **Unison Trades Union**, 6-8pm, Augustine United Church, Geo. IV Bridge. Info [monica@unison-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:monica@unison-edinburgh.org.uk)

**Apr 26 Forth ward** 6-8.30pm, Royston-Wardieburn Community Centre, 11 Pilton Drive North.

**Apr 27 Fri Student Hustings** 5.30pm at Teviot Study, EUSA 5 Bristo Sq. [www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/news/article/representation/Voice-Your-Vote-Campaign](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/news/article/representation/Voice-Your-Vote-Campaign)

**The Evening News** wants questions to put to candidates, for the newspaper... *Email your question to:* [edelect@edinburghnews.com](mailto:edelect@edinburghnews.com)

### OTHER EVENTS

**Apr 23 & 30 Haymarket Stn Future** Drop-in, 4-8pm. See below.

**May 11 Concert for Andrew** Four top Scottish musicians play at a concert in memory of Andrew McNicoll, killed earlier this year when cycling to work in Edinburgh, and to raise funds for the *Andrew Cyclist* safety campaign [[www.andrewcyclist.com](http://www.andrewcyclist.com)]. Tickets £12/£8. [www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2012/04/concert-for-andrew](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2012/04/concert-for-andrew).

**May 26 Spokes Summer mailout and Bulletin 113.**

## HAYMARKET FUTURE

Work on a truly massive redevelopment starts in May. Thanks to pressure from Spokes *and many individuals*, the developers have agreed that bike/rail integration was not considered adequately. EGIP (the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Project) told us, "the initial plans did not cater for appropriate cycling provision. We have agreed to look at various options as to how or if this can be addressed." **Continuing pressure from concerned individuals is absolutely vital if substantial improvements are to be made.**

**In England** a £7m fund has been launched to improve bike/rail at stations. Many exciting ideas are in the spreadsheet link at...

[www.dft.gov.uk/publications/linking-places-fund](http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/linking-places-fund). A station of Haymarket's future significance needs a Bike Hub like the new **Leeds Cyclepoint** [www.abellio.com/uk/cyclepoint.html](http://www.abellio.com/uk/cyclepoint.html).

If you use bike/rail, and Haymarket in particular...

- ◆ **Email** [EGIPScotland@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:EGIPScotland@networkrail.co.uk) to say why Haymarket bike/rail matters *to you*, and what you want to see done.
- ◆ If not satisfied with the reply, ask your MSPs why this huge government-funded infrastructure project is not supporting the government targets to boost cycle use.
- ◆ **Attend the project drop-ins** on Mon April 23 and 30, 4-8pm, at Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor hotel, Grosvenor Street. **Speak to the officials, and leave written comments.** The events are to explain the project: use them also to press for bike provision! <http://egip-consultation.co.uk/latest-news/haymarket-community-invited-to-drop-in>

## PEDAL ON PARLIAMENT

Spokes is supporting this major grass-roots protest in Edinburgh by concerned people from around Scotland on April 28. Hundreds are now expected, including round-the-world cyclist **Mark Beaumont** – on the same day as a mass rally by London Cycling Campaign, inspired by the Times campaign for more and safer cycling.

**Assemble 2pm at the Meadows; the ride to Holyrood is at 3pm; then short speeches, ending with a Holyrood Park picnic** [bring your own food!] More info: [www.pedalonparliament.org](http://www.pedalonparliament.org).

There are also **feeder rides** from several parts of Edinburgh and from other towns including Glasgow and Kirkcaldy. See tab *The Pedal – Getting there* at [www.pedalonparliament.org](http://www.pedalonparliament.org).

### POp MANIFESTO AND PETITION

You can find the manifesto at the PoP website. Its main headings, [each of which is then described in more detail] are...

- 1) Proper funding for cycling [this section is based in part on Spokes research into cycle funding in Scotland].
- 2) Design cycling into Scotland's roads.
- 3) Safer speeds where people live, work and play
- 4) Integrate cycling into local transport strategies
- 5) Sensible road traffic law and enforcement
- 6) Reduce the risk of HGVs to cyclists and pedestrians
- 7) A strategic and joined-up programme of road user training
- 8) Solid research on cycling to support policy-making

**If you support the manifesto, please sign the petition at the PoP website - and ask concerned friends and relations to do the same. There are around 1500 signatures already.**

## TRANSPORT VOLUNTEER

Transform Scotland seeks research/campaign volunteers on road-building, aviation expansion, and transport & climate change. You work in a team with supervision and a chance to boost your CV. See [tinyurl.com/cdywwam](http://tinyurl.com/cdywwam) and [tinyurl.com/ceat9oo](http://tinyurl.com/ceat9oo). **Apply by 3 May.**

## ELECTION SPECIAL

- ◆ **For local area hustings** see Diary opposite. Try to go along!
- ◆ **For candidates, how to contact them, manifestos, party websites**, etc see *Mar 30 & Apr 14* news at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk).
- ◆ **The election uses a preferential system:** you number the candidates in your preferred order, 1, 2, 3 etc. *For your vote to have maximum effect, number every candidate.* Enjoy putting your least favourite candidate last as well as your best first!

### CONTACT YOUR CANDIDATES

In our experience, the **individual councillor** is often as important as the party manifesto. **Manifestos** are vital, and provide useful lobbying material, but a committed effective **individual councillor** can make a huge difference. The last 5 years are a prime example. The Lib Dems, with a manifesto to create *A Model Cycle Friendly City*, ruled as the largest party, in coalition with the small SNP group. Despite their manifesto, little happened for 2 years; it felt we were even slipping back. Then an internal LibDem reshuffle led to **Cllr Gordon Mackenzie** becoming transport convener, and suddenly cycling was a serious form of transport! Policy, staffing and funding all started moving forward. **Same party, same manifesto - different individual running transport!**

So - contact the candidates for your ward (or at least those for parties likely to win seats – LibDem, Lab, SNP, Con, Green). *Ask for their track record on fighting for better cycling conditions*, and ask about one or two local points that concern you, e.g. a cycle

facility needed in your area. Use the links in our March 30 website news item to find candidate names and email addresses.

Spokes does not advise you how to vote, but we do mention....

- **Candidates who are Spokes members are in bold type below.**
- **Candidates who are not Spokes members but as councillors were very pro-active on cycling issues are in bold italic.**

### EDINBURGH CITY

Ward 2 – Pentland Hills – **Sheila Low**, Conservative  
Ward 5 – Inverleith – **Tim McKay**, LibDem  
Ward 9 – Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart – **Andrew Burns**, Labour  
Ward 10 – Meadows/Morningside - **Melanie Main**, Green  
Ward 13 – Leith – **Chas Booth**, Green; **Gordon Munro**, Labour  
Ward 15 – Southside/Newington - **Steve Burgess**, Green; **Gordon Mackenzie**, LibDem; **Cameron Rose**, Conservative  
Ward 16 – Liberton/Gilmerton – **Joan Carter**, Green  
Ward 17 – Portobello/Craigmillar - **Maureen Child**, Labour

### MIDLOTHIAN

Bonnyrigg ward – **Ian Baxter**, Green

## PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTOS

To see the full Edinburgh manifestos of each party, use the links in our March 30 website article. We don't have manifesto details for parties in the elections to **Lothians Councils** – but parties don't always issue council manifestos, especially in smaller councils. If any more do turn up, we are happy to put them on our website.

**We now list relevant extracts from Edinburgh Council party election manifestos [some minor cuts/edits for space reasons – check full manifestos if you wish].** The listing below is in order of the current size of the parties on Edinburgh Council.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

[The Lib Dems also supplied a 'cycling manifesto' with background to their cycling policy: it is in our Apr 14 website article].

*Over £70 million has been spent on road and pavement repairs in the last 4 years, moving us from 2nd worst in Scotland to 11th best for repairs; roads needing repair have dropped from 50% to 31%; a Quality Cycle Corridor is being introduced, Kings Buildings to George Square; Edinburgh's first 20mph limit in south Edinburgh brought in; local road safety measures introduced across the city; and cycle use increased 15% year on year.*

*An accessible, effective public transport system with walking and cycling encouragement contributes to our well-being. We will:*

- ◆ *commit to reducing the percentage of roads and pavements in need of repair over the next five years.*
- ◆ *use the extra £3m in the 2012-13 budget to fix over a third of the city's potholes with our award-winning "Right First Time" scheme, using materials and processes to make more permanent repairs. Over the next 4 years, we will invest additional funds to ensure all potholes are fixed permanently wherever possible.*
- ◆ *building on our investment in cycling, the highest in Scotland, and our road safety measures such as 20mph zones, increase the percentage of transport spend allocated to cycling to a minimum of 5% in 2012/13 and increase by 1% annually.*
- ◆ *accelerate the Active Travel Action Plan, improve maintenance of the existing cycle network, target safety issues and reaffirm our commitment to the goals set out in the Charter of Brussels.*
- ◆ *roll out cycle training to all P6 children in Edinburgh schools.*
- ◆ *work with NHS, education, voluntary and private sectors to promote cycling to work or study.*
- ◆ *introduce more 20mph limits for areas where there is support from local residents.*
- ◆ *introduce Streets Ahead Plus scheme - trained local volunteers to identify road safety problems (speeding, hazardous parking at schools, misuse of cycling and pedestrian areas) to address by targeting those responsible and raising awareness.*
- ◆ *trial carrying bikes on trams within the first six months service.*
- ◆ *start to deliver Jan Gehl's recommendations for the city centre, creating new welcoming spaces for residents and visitors; and report on potential temporary traffic schemes by the end of 2012, and on permanent schemes by the middle of 2015.*

### LABOUR

*We will set up a city-wide Transport Forum of experts and citizens to think through our modern transport needs. It's a complex challenge. ... We'll pay attention to the everyday things..*

- ◆ *bringing roads/pavements to good standard, esp. in busy areas*
- ◆ *controlling the work standards of utilities who dig up our roads*
- ◆ *extending 20mph limits to all residential and shopping areas*
- ◆ *encouraging more walking and more cycling by spending a minimum of 5% of our transport budget on them and increasing that share year by year.*

### SCOTTISH NATIONAL

Manifesto out a.m. today according to SNP press release, but not on their website! We emailed for it at once but not here yet [6pm]. Will put on our website. The press release [www.snp.org] promises..

- *Increase the road repair budget to £20 million.*
- *Increase investment for cycling with a view to increase the percentage of people getting to work by bike.*

### CONSERVATIVE

*We will seek to deliver:*

- ◆ *More cycling in the city both for getting to work and for leisure and, in particular, improved cross-city routes.*
- ◆ *The renewal and maintenance of the city's road and pavement infrastructure. We need to make sure our pavements are safe to walk on and potholes are fixed quickly and correctly first time.*

### GREEN

*Greens are committed to active and public transport and believe the 40% of households without cars should get more consideration. We want a step change in street design so that all users, pedestrians, drivers and cyclists, feel confident to use them safely.*

*Green councillors have campaigned for improved cycle-safety measures and secured improvements such as freeing up the cycle lanes on the Mound and pushing for 20mph zones. We will work towards ensuring that Edinburgh is accessible for all citizens by:*

- ◆ *Appointing a Travel Advice Officer to advise workplaces on sustainable travel.*
- ◆ *Bringing together all partners to strengthen the City's Road Safety and Active Travel Action Plans, to make our streets safer and more suitable for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists, including partial pedestrianisation of Princes Street.*
- ◆ *Making the existing network of walking and cycling routes comprehensive across the city, incorporating Safe Routes to School and making sure that school travel plans, with cycle training, are actually implemented.*
- ◆ *Investing £10 per head of population in cycling by 2017.*
- ◆ *Introducing dedicated off-road cycle lanes, incrementally with routine road upgrading and so minimising extra cost.*
- ◆ *Extending 20mph limits and other road safety measures where communities want them, prioritising disadvantaged areas where accident rates are highest.*
- ◆ *Ensuring that new developments allow access by foot, bike and public transport and have good cycle parking.*
- ◆ *Creating a bike share or leasing scheme to help meet the target of 15% of all trips in Edinburgh by bike by 2020. In the longer-term we want Edinburgh to be a European leading cycle city.*

## MANIFESTOS COMPARISON

*Spokes has compared some main issues in Edinburgh manifestos...*

### FUNDING [from best to least good]

1. **Green:** highest level of funding, comparable to European levels
2. **LibDem:** a clear promise, revolutionary in British terms
3. **Lab:** a % promise is again excellent, but annual increase not specified, and unclear if 5% for cycling+walking or 5% for each.
4. **Con:** funding not mentioned

### 20MPH [from best to least good]

1. **Lab:** shopping areas as well as residential; also *all* such areas.
2. **Green:** more 20mph but not all areas. Prioritise high crash areas.
3. **LibDem:** more 20mph but not all areas.
4. **Con:** 20mph not mentioned

### OTHER STAND-OUT PROMISES [not in special order]

- x. **LibDem:** Trial bike carriage on trams within 6 months of start.
- x. **Green:** Princes St partial pedestrianis'n [presume includes bike]
- x. **LibDem:** Trained local volunteer scheme to identify road safety issues: speeding, misuse of cycle lanes, hazardous parking, etc.
- x. **Green:** "dedicated off-road cycle lanes" [presume this refers to European-style roadside physically segregated; ask your candidate]