

We have 3 main communications. Our flagship **Spokes Bulletin** is 3 times a year – printed, and on our website under the Bulletin tab. Our electronic-only **Action-Update** goes to all emailable members “roughly monthly,” when there are enough important developments, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and road, traffic and planning matters. **Spokesworker** is now a very occasional document, basically a souped-up Action-Update, but on paper as well as online. It is usually produced for occasions when paper is useful – for example at public meetings. Action-Updates and Spokesworkers both also appear on our website under the Spokesworker tab.

To keep in touch with events, developments and opportunities, be a Spokes member and make sure we have your email address.

If you tweet about our Public Meeting or Bike Breakfast – before, during or after – please use hashtags #SpokesMtg or #SpokesBB respectively. If you blog about the events, send us the link and we may promote it.

To contact your councillors, MSPs or other representatives, it's easy to find and email them via www.writetothem.com

SLOW DOWN

Life is better at **20**

Stuart Hay of Living Streets Scotland produced this graphic summarising different ways in which 20mph makes life better ...



Spokes members will remember Edinburgh Council's huge consultation about making the entire city 20mph apart from a network of 30mph and 40mph arterial roads [see spokes.org.uk 5.9.14]. Results were very positive and implementation is now beginning, with the City Centre and West Edinburgh going 20mph on 31 July. All areas should be complete by Jan 2018 – assuming the May 2017 council election results don't scupper the final phases.



For more about Edinburgh's 20mph plans - the *what* and the *why* - see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph.

NATIONAL DEFAULT 20MPH?

Unfortunately current laws have made the whole process of becoming a 20mph town or city very unwieldy for Councils – for example legal orders specifying every street and alleyway affected are necessary (many 100s in Edinburgh's case). The solution is a law change so that 20mph becomes the default speed limit in urban areas instead of 30mph, with Councils allowed to designate specific roads to be at other speeds. In addition to the complex

legal orders they have to consult the public about all streets rather than just the major ones – then publicise locally the changeover to 20mph, a big duplication of effort compared to this being done as a national changeover. Costs of implementation are higher too, with much more signing needed than if the default was 20mph.

The Scottish Government has the power to make 20mph the default speed for urban areas, but they prefer to keep it at 30mph despite the safety and environmental reasons for change.

Even in our area, whilst Edinburgh is putting in the necessary effort and cost, we still have 30mph as default in many **Lothians towns** – and councils wishing to change that have to allocate their limited transport staffing and cash resources to do so.

A recent 20mph conference in Edinburgh, attended by many Scottish Councils, strongly supported a 20mph national default. This dominated the QA session, with pleas to the government speaker by officials from Edinburgh, Glasgow & Moray councils.

HOLYROOD PARK 30MPH

Whilst Edinburgh Council is moving to 20mph, Holyrood Park stays 30mph because it is controlled by the government rather than the Council. In Nov 2015 local organisations including Spokes and Living Streets asked the Scottish Government for 20mph and other measures to make the Park safer and more people-friendly [www.livingstreetsedinburgh.org.uk, 30.11.15]. A review of traffic in the Park was promised, but there is still no sign of action.

20s PLENTY - HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you'd like 20mph as the default speed limit in all Scottish urban areas, and/or if you'd like attention to Holyrood Park, please contact your MSPs [www.writetothem.com]. Ask them to speak to the Transport Minister and to tell you the outcome.

PLANNING PROPOSAL EXHIB'S

Check spokes.org.uk > documents > local every so often for details of the latest relevant planning proposals by developers, and how to look them up on the council website. **Some big forthcoming consultation exhibitions (with council refno.) are...**

16/01929/PAN Major city centre proposal between Canning St, Dewar Pl, West Approach Rd – potential to benefit cycle routes. Exhibition 4-8pm, June 16, Conference Centre, Morrison St. *More info:* ps@scotthobbsplanning.com 0131 226 7225.

16/01688/PAN Major housing development, Ratho. Exhibition Ratho Community Centre, School Wynd, June 21, 2.30-7.30; June 27, 4-8pm. *More info:* stuart@rickfincassociates.com.

16/02796/PAN Residential development Portobello, beside Fishwives Causeway. Exhibition Portobello town hall, July 29, 3-7pm; July 30, 9am-1pm.

RENEW or JOIN SPOKES

At our public meeting there will be a special table at which you can join or renew Spokes membership. **Please join Spokes !!** We want to keep you in touch with what's happening and also to let you know when/why it's a good time to email councillors or MSPs. **Or download a membership form** at spokes.org.uk/membership.

ONSTREET STORAGE HOLD UP??

In 2011 Edinburgh Council advertised for people with bike-storage difficulties, e.g. tenement dwellers, to take part in a trial of onstreet secure containers, with keys rented out. They said: "*The Council is committed to increasing the % of all journeys by bike to 10% by 2020. One of the biggest barriers is a lack of suitable cycle parking for residents in tenement areas.*" [spokes.org.uk 26.10.11].

After many delays, a pilot scheme began in 2014 in Lonsdale Ter, Warrender Park Ter, South Oxford St and Douglas Cres.

The pilot has been very successful. A paper to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership [7.12.15] said all 51 spaces were taken up immediately, with a waiting list of 90. Residents of 53 streets have now requested onstreet storage. The pent-up demand is clear, and is likely to be constraining the number of people able to get about by bike - as in the Council's above rationale for the scheme.

But now there are rumours of disagreements in the Council. Rather than a rapid rollout there are delays and talk of much higher charges than the original ~£5 a month intention. A report on the pilot, and a scheme rollout plan, were promised for the Oct 2015 Transport Committee - then delayed to December, then March 2016, and now failed to appear on the June 2016 agenda.

IF LONDON CAN DO IT...



Meanwhile onstreet bike storage containers are appearing on a huge scale in some London Boroughs. A London-wide website www.cyclehoop.rentals operated by the suppliers, working with the Boroughs, allows people to rent a space (just £30-£45 a year) and to suggest new locations. This removes from the Boroughs the hassles of managing key rentals and container maintenance. Private residential developers are also procuring the containers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you need onstreet bike storage, contact your councillors. Why can't Edinburgh follow London? - the need is clear!

GOOD NEWS SNIPPETS

To ensure more good news, **contact your councillors every so often**. The more they understand the desire and the reasons for improved cycling conditions, the better decisions we will get!! Congratulate them on developments that you like, and tell them what is needed now. If you'd like to do more, *invite them on a bike tour* to see local good and bad - we may be able to help and find other people to go with you.

- ◆ **EDINBURGH COUNCIL CYCLE STAFFING** ... Despite staff cuts, due to reduced government council funding [Spokes 125] Edinburgh has decided to retain a central cycling/walking team - indeed it is to grow from 3.75FTE to 4 persons, plus 2 liaison officers linking the central active travel and road safety teams to the transport officers based in Edinburgh's 4 Localities (i.e. local areas). This is a great decision, which helps enable the Council's cycle budget to be fully and effectively used. **If you emailed councillors about the need to keep a central cycle team - thanks!!** Spokes efforts are greatly helped by individuals putting pressure on their own councillors. Note that 3 of the existing team have left, so it will take time to fully staff the new team and re-build knowledge and experience.
- ◆ **LEITH WALK** ... The government Reporter has overturned the two remaining objections to the next phase, Pilrig to

McDonald Road, and work should begin soon after the Festival. This is the start of the Pilrig-Picardy segregated route, and consultation on the next phase is expected soon.

- ◆ **BRAID HILLS DRIVE** ... Edinburgh's Transport Committee in June approved the city's first '**soft segregation**' cycle lanes (intermittent rubber dividers) together with a speed limit cut from 50mph to 40mph. Central hatching will also be removed, and the eroded road edges resurfaced. Only one person had objected to the speed reduction, but officers pointed out that speed has been a factor in all 5 crashes on this road in recent years. Work is expected in the next few months.

MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **2017 COUNCIL ELECTIONS** ... By next year, Edinburgh Council will be allocating 10% of its transport budget to cycling (much of which also supports better conditions for walking). The benefits are now coming through, with segregated facilities, new connections and lots more onstreet bike parking appearing. Next May's Council elections will almost certainly bring a coalition of some sort. It is therefore vital for all party manifestos to promise, at least, to maintain the 10% policy. **If you are speaking to a councillor**, urge them to get this included in their party's council manifesto. **If you are involved in a political party**, raise this, and try to influence their manifesto. **If you live in another Council area**, try to ensure that party manifestos include a strong commitment to cycle funding.
- ◆ **ROADSHARE VIDEO & PETITION** ... Record-breaking long-distance British adventurer Mark Beaumont has fronted a heart-felt video about Sally Low, killed on her bike by a speeding driver. The video makes the case for **presumed liability** and has been sent to all MSPs. **You can help** by asking your MSPs to support Presumed Liability, and by signing the petition. Find the video and petition at www.roadshare.co.uk.
- ◆ **EAST-WEST CYCLEROUTE** ... A Council report on the public consultation is due soon, though final proposals await a Transport Committee report in the autumn. Controversy rages over the Roseburn section, with websites by local people on both sides. The website www.roseburncyclerooute.org.uk supports the council plan (as does Spokes) whereas an alternative is at www.kidsnotsuits.com (click on Stop West Coates Cycle Track). Look at both sites and make up your own mind!
- ◆ **BIKE-RAIL** ... The news of planned cuts to bookable bike space on the West Highland Lines, and potentially worsened bike storage in central belt trains, prompted a huge response [Spokes 125]. As a result we were invited to meet the Scottish Government's head of rail policy. He promised to look again at all the issues, with some positive hints. **Please continue emails to MSPs - they help keep up pressure for positive outcomes whilst the situation is in flux.** Other good rail news - online bike reservation should be reinstated in the next few weeks.
- ◆ **BUS LANE CUTBACKS** ... The council trial of scrapping Saturday and off-peak bus lane operation is now well underway, despite strong opposition from Spokes and other individuals and organisations [spokes.org.uk, 3.6.15]. Now UK transport expert and former Edinburgh Transport Convener **Prof David Begg** has slammed the Council plans [Evening News 2.6.16], saying that bus times have already worsened since he introduced the Greenways, and that cutting bus lane times will add to the problems. **Please tell your councillors if you are concerned.**
- ◆ **SPOKES BULLETIN125** ... Tell us if you could take a supply (how many?) to leaflet bikes at your work, shopping areas, etc.

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! There are great prizes - some to help you shop by bike! Closing date 5 Sept. **The entry form/rules/prizelist are at...** www.spokes.org.uk : documents : odds&ends : competitions.