

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 – before, during or after – please use hashtag **#SpokesMtg**.

If you blog, send us the link and we may link to it.

Autumn Public Meeting : all welcome : Thur 10 Nov

Benefiting Business through Cycling

Hear and debate the issues with experts from the Council, business, bike trade & a bike user group

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ♦ healthy workforce | ♦ delivery by bike/cargo-bike |
| ♦ people-friendly city | ♦ quick, quiet, door-to-door |
| ♦ local shopping | ♦ awards for employers |
| ♦ bikes and the City Deal | ♦ emission-free transport |
| ♦ new bike-based businesses | ♦ bike hire, locals/visitors |

| the Council | local business | local bike trade | big business |
|---|--|---|--|
| Cllr Lesley Hinds Transport Convener, City of Edinburgh Council | Michael Johnston Vice President, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce | Hannah Ward Partner, The Cycle Service | David Monaghan Organiser, RBS Gogarburn Bike User Group [600 members!] |

Four short talks, then audience QA and panel discussion ... chaired by Dr Caroline Brown

Asst Professor, School of Energy, Infrastructure and Society, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton

SPOKES

For meeting tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg

STARTS 7.30PM, DOORS OPEN 6.45, ENDS 9.30

Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh

Come early ☕ coffee ☕ Spokes stall ☕ exhibition ☕ chat

Organised by **Spokes The Lothian Cycle Campaign**
St Martin's Community Resource Centre, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JG

spokes@spokes.org.uk (0131) 313 2114 (Ansaphone)
www.spokes.org.uk Twitter: @SpokesLothian

RENEW or JOIN SPOKES

At our public meeting there will be a special table to join or renew Spokes membership. If you have been sent a renewal form, please bring it if possible (but it's not essential). **Please join Spokes !!** We want to keep you in touch with what's happening and to let you know when/why it's a good time to email councillors or MSPs.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- ♦ Nov 12 & Dec 10. **Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Spokes Stall, Castle Terrace, morning** – buy the new Edinburgh Spokes map at our special stall price – an ideal Christmas present!!
- ♦ Nov 26 **Cycle Campaigners' Training Day** at Nicolson Sq Methodist Church, Edinburgh, 10am-4pm, organised by the joint [WalkCycleVote campaign](http://WalkCycleVote.org.uk). Share ideas and expertise, particularly with the May 2017 Council elections coming up. No fee, but £5 donation suggested. Lunch included. To sign up for the day, go to walkcyclevote.scot/news [Nov 3 news item].

HELP SPOKES!!

- ♦ We have an active [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/spokeslothian) and [twitter](https://twitter.com/spokeslothian) presence. Please like facebook posts and RT tweets that you support. Our tweets are at [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian) and also on our website [right-hand col].
- ♦ We have plenty copies of new [Spokes Bulletin #126](#). Can you take a supply to leaflet bikes at your work, shopping areas, etc (& how many?) for Bulletin 126 or regularly (3 times a year).
- ♦ **Wanted – Assistant Stall Organiser.** Our stall organiser is now out of Edinburgh frequently. Mies from Resources Group has taken over, but would really appreciate someone to work with her – and possibly become main organiser eventually. You'd if possible be sometimes available in the day, and also able to come to our Resources Group (roughly monthly at 7pm). Stalls are vital for Spokes at festivals, meetings, conferences... We have volunteers to help at stalls but **organisation** is crucial to arrange dates, volunteers, ensure stall materials, etc, etc. To find out more, please email mknottenbelt1@gmail.com

YOU & THE COUNCIL

The Council currently has two consultations where you can give your ideas on future developments. **Please ensure cycling and sustainable transport issues get a good coverage!!**

1. consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/playyourpart/

This concerns only libraries, online services, recreation and sport.

2. edinburgh.dialogue-app.com

A very wide consultation asking you to put forward ideas, and vote on other people's ideas – already several are relevant to cycling. To take part you have to sign in, but it is really simple to do so.

GEORGE STREET

George Street cycling provision during the Festival was very poor – a ridiculously narrow 'lane,' and crush barrier feet extending into even that space. Whilst the Council had promised to maintain a cycle route, there had been no detailed planning of how to do so.

Spokes volunteers have met Council officers & event promoters to seek better future conditions. For the winter festivities some disruption is certain, but overall we hope for improvement. The west block, unfortunately, will close totally twice each evening for a short 'Street of Lights' event, but a 2-way north-side cycleway should be open all other times. The Council will consider changes if problems arise. We'll pass on any further details via [twitter](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian) / [FB](https://www.facebook.com/spokeslothian).

Of course, much of this may be superseded once the long-term George St plan is in place, following last year's [massive trial](#) by the Council, which recommended (amongst many other things) one-way cyclistoutes on each side of the street, adjacent to the footway. Proposals are expected at the March 2017 Transport Committee.

ODDS & BODS

VOTE FOR CYCLING!!

Aviva Insurance is funding over 800 community projects, based on public votes. If you'd like to vote, search for 'pedal' or 'cycle' or similar at community-fund.aviva.co.uk.

SCHOOLS CYCLING CASH

Grants of up to £3000 to develop pupil cycling champions and implement action plans to get more cycling to school. *Details at..* www.cyclinghub.scot/cycle-friendly [then primary or secondary]

BIKE SCHEMES GALORE!

The Council is consulting on a wide range of schemes. **Please check those that concern you, and submit your comments** – it is great to see these schemes, but some are by no means perfect.

In most of the consultations you can comment either through an online survey or by email – or both. **Spokes Planning Group also wants to hear your views**, to consider in the Spokes response – so please tell us any points you feel particularly important, or cc us.

Some of the consultations [not all] also have **public drop-ins**. We give details below where there are drop-ins still to come.

Most of the schemes aim to get you past danger points, or to link existing facilities, giving options for longer journeys separate from heavy or fast motor traffic. The Council calls these *Quiet Routes*. QR6, for example, stands for Quiet Route 6. [You can see the QRs at edinburghcouncilmaps.info/atlas/cecAtlas.html .. tick the '+' at Transport].

FINDING THE CONSULTATIONS

Except where stated, the cycle/walk consultations below are at... http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20087/cycling_and_walking and the contact is martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk 0131.469.3776.

There's an even wider range of Edinburgh Council consultations (not all cycling-related) at consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS [closing date in col 1]

18.11.16 Carrington Rd QR20

Links North Edinburgh paths to the Botanics. Thoughts...

- ◆ Nice to have this scheme, but higher priority is the S. Groathill Av section, which has far more traffic, especially at weekends
- ◆ Crewe Rd South junction is tricky. Should there be red paths across Crewe Rd both ways (or a 2-way red crossing)? Should the 2-way cycleroute continue up to the junction? What about cycle advance lights?
- ◆ Why is Carrington Rd path only 2.2m, on such a wide road? The government [Cycling by Design](#) manual suggests 3m min.
- ◆ Can traffic speeds on East Fettes Av be cut for safer crossing?

18.11.16 Easter Rd QR20

Light-controlled crossing of Easter Road, part of QR20.

Concern re cycling north to south (i.e. westbound on the short Easter Rd stretch) – too tortuous. Better might be one-way cycleroutes each side of Easter Rd, allowing better crossing points.

25.11.16 Leith Walk, Brunswick St to Montgomery St

Leith Walk project, phase 5, segregated cycle lanes on both sides.

NOTE– this is a different type of consultation – an opportunity to formally comment or object to Traffic Regulation Orders. Search for RSO\16\13 and then TRO\16\58 at edinburgh.gov.uk. Consultation drop-in **Thur 10 Nov**, 3-7pm, McDonald Rd Library. Go there before our [Spokes public meeting](#) – the same date!

More info: alan.dean@edinburgh.gov.uk 0131.529.7519

26.11.16 Roseburn Park

Aims to improve pedestrian/cycle interaction on the existing route

We suggest instead a continuation along the A8 to Riversdale Crescent of the Council's planned east-west route (if it follows the direct Option A route). This would allow commuter cyclists and others heading for the city centre to avoid Roseburn Park, whilst locals and school children would still use it on short trips.

26.11.16 Balgreen Rd QR8

Light-controlled crossing as part of QR8

Cycling west to east looks a problem – you cross Baird Drive when traffic may be approaching or queuing at the junction.

26.11.16 Bankhead etc QR8

Part of QR8, including road crossings

Under the plans, South Gyle Access keeps its two-phase crossing with tight turns round guard rails. This being an official signed cycle route, it should be a single phase crossing to cut delays.

2.12.16 North Ed Network

This consultation seeks ideas for a wide range of minor upgrades, e.g. accesses, surface, lighting, vegetation, drainage.

3.12.16 Lower Granton Rd QR13

The long-awaited cycleroute parallel to the narrow and often busy Lower Granton Road – fantastic news!!!

9.12.16 Meadows-CastleTer QR6

Partially segregated route via Lady Lawson St & Grindlay St, with pedestrian/cycle Lothian Rd crossing near Usher Hall.

Consultation drop-in, Central Library, **Tue 15 Nov**, 5-8pm.

A welcome fairly major scheme, including some long-promised features. However, we have concerns about several aspects.

9.12.16 InverleithRow-Goldenacre QR20

Consultation drop-in, Stockbridge Library, **Wed 16 Nov**, 5-8pm.

We have not yet started looking at these plans.

REGIONAL/LOTHIANS CONSULTATIONS

SESPAN – Regional Development Plan – closes 24 Nov

"The vision and broad development patterns and levels for the city region over 20 years from 2018." This is a major document, and includes good material on cross-boundary cycling proposals. It distinguishes between 'functional' and 'recreational' long-distance routes. The consultation website, with links to relevant documents is [here](#). Detailed information on responding is on [this page](#).

Drop-ins: **Mon 7 Nov, 3-6.30** Edin City Chambers, High St
Wed 9 Nov, 3-6.30 Musselburgh, Brunton Hall

East Lothian

See eastlothianconsultations.co.uk

Includes *E.Lothian Local Development Plan* and *Haddington & Lammermuir 'Wishes' consultation*. Both close **7 Nov**.

Midlothian

See <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/directory/33/consultations>

West Lothian

See www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations/

[none relevant as of 5 November]

DES RUBENS MEMORY

Spokes Bulletin no.126 reported the cycle cortège which



accompanied the funeral in June of Des Rubens, a keen Spokes member and much admired Scottish mountaineer.

As a teacher in Craigroyston Community High School, Des for thirty years helped young people to experience the best of the outdoors. Based on his own early experiences of the coasts and mountains of Scotland, he believed passionately in bringing young people, particularly those from deprived backgrounds, to the hills. Des also undertook numerous expeditions to remote corners of the Himalaya, the Alps and more, reflecting his spirit of adventure.

To commemorate Des a fund has been set up to give grants to people who wish to carry out an adventurous project, with an educational or scientific element, in the spirit of Des's life. The scheme is administered by the John Muir Trust, a charity devoted to the protection and preservation of wild places. The grants were started in 2007 in honour of Bill Wallace, a former President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC). In the decade since its inception £40,000 has been raised, and over 40 awards given. The sad death of Des, who had also been a SMC President, has given an impetus to extend the fund in honour of both these much loved mountaineers. As Des was a keen cyclist, suitable cycling adventures might now also be considered for grants.

If you'd like to donate, go to www.johnmuirtrust.org/donate; tick the box 'Does your donation have a particular significance...' A window headed 'Please tell us more' will open. In this window, please write 'Des Rubens – Bill Wallace Grant'.

To find out more about the grants, and how to apply, please visit www.johnmuirtrust.org/grants-and-awards/the-bill-wallace-grant.