

SPOKESWORKER

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The Action-Update of Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign

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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.

Twitter hashtags: Use #SpokesMtg before, during or after our public meeting and #Spokes40 for our 40th anniversary.

Blogs: send us your link and we may link to it.

Autumn Public Meeting : all welcome : Thurs 9 Nov

Cycling Plans in the new Councils

New Edinburgh and Lothians councils were elected in May 2017.

Now they have settled in, what are their policies and plans for cycling as a form of transport? Can they learn from each other?

Can they work together on cross-boundary issues?

Hear and debate the issues with top councillors!

A particular opportunity for Lothians residents

◆ Edinburgh	Cllr Lesley Macinnes	Transport and Environment Committee Convener
◆ East Lothian	Cllr Norman Hampshire	Cabinet Spokesperson for the Environment
◆ Midlothian	Cllr Russell Imrie	Cabinet member, former SEStran chair
◆ West Lothian	Jim Stewart	Development and Transportation Manager

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

Daisy Narayanan

Deputy Director, Sustrans Scotland

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

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www.spokes.org.uk Twitter: @SpokesLothian

Our 40th anniversary exhibition will be at the public meeting: now open 6.30, not 6.45. You can also join Spokes or renew at the meeting.

OTHER DATES

◆ **November Picardy Place** consultation [dates unknown] – article

◆ **Nov 19 Facing the Reality of Climate Change** Debate between two experts, with a religious angle. 7pm, Kings Hall, 41A South Clerk Street. [Details here](#) or google *hayhoe edinburgh climate*.

◆ **Nov 22 Clean Air as Environmental Justice** Emilia Hanna, FOE Pollution campaigner (& Spokes member). 10.30-11.30a.m. Peace & Justice centre, 420 Morningside Rd. morningsidejandp.org

◆ **Dec 5 'Rejuvenating Roseburn'** Murrayfield Community Council meeting, 7.30, Murrayfield Parish Church Centre, 2b Ormidale Terrace [murrayfieldcc.org.uk/meetings]. The Council will present draft public realm designs which have been developed with the local community as part of the West-East route project. More info: Rurighd McMeddes 0131 469 3606.

#SPOKES40 EXHIBITION

A huge amount of work has gone into preparing our 40th birthday exhibition, including with professionally produced artwork by Transform Scotland media offshoot transformcreative.org.uk.

We are now building a schedule of public venues which will host the exhibition, each for 2 weeks or so. The basic requirement is space for six A1 posters, though we can also supply leaflets, etc, and possibly a rotating slide presentation and/or 3 short videos if display facilities are available. We have 2 copies of the exhibition, so can display in 2 venues concurrently.

If you know of a potential venue, and ideally if you can help with organising there, please contact Spokes (attn: Mies).

The first two exhibitions, with **provisional** dates, are...

- ◆ **Nov 16**, for two weeks, **Edinburgh Bicycle**, Alvanley Terrace. It is also EBC's 40th, and they will have additional materials.
- ◆ **Nov 18**, for two weeks, **The Bike Station**, 244 Causewayside. It is also the Bike Station's 15th (in its current incarnation).

LOTHIAN RD FUTURE?



As part of our 40th anniversary materials Spokes is producing ideas for the next 10 years. This is how we'd like Lothian Road to look. The Council has in fact talked of a wide ped/cycle crossing here for many years - ask your Councillors why it never happens!!

BIG PROJECTS; BIG CASH

As mentioned in Spokes 129, Edinburgh Council has won £m's from the Sustrans CL+ (Community Links Plus) competition, for **Meadows-George Street** and **West Edinburgh 'mini-Holland'** projects. These are at a conceptual stage, with initial options still to be defined but we understand that outline details will appear soon on the council website. You can find them by searching for **Community Links Plus** at edinburgh.gov.uk.

The Council had hoped to win one project bid but had no expectation of winning both - this was only possible following the government doubling of cycling investment.

A condition of CL+ is that the Council provides or raises 50/50 match-funds, and so the two wins mean that much more match-funding than expected is needed. Whilst the Council is committed to doing this, it is likely to mean less cash than expected for some other projects (in a year or two). Ideally therefore the Council would raise significant match-funding from other sources (£10K's or ideally even £100K's). **Do you know a relevant trust - or a rich philanthropist! - who could help?** It might be possible, for example, to 50/50 fund a specific project element, such as a bridge.

SPOKES in PARLIAMENT

On 31 October the Scottish Parliament debated cycling and walking, following the announcement 2 months ago of a doubling of investment. Spokes was mentioned by no fewer than 5 different MSPs in the debate!! For a report and links to the debate itself, see the Nov 2 article on our website spokes.org.uk.

The increased cash applies each year of this Parliament and we had hoped for an announcement in the debate as to how it would be allocated - at least for the coming year - but apparently that's not yet been decided. One point that concerns us is that nothing has been said about the CWSS fund [Cycling, Walking, Safer Streets]. This must be retained - more about this in our website article.

Before the debate we sent a briefing sheet [linked in the website article] to friendly MSPs, and several of our points were raised.

TRAMLINE SAFETY

The Council has installed Phase 1 of its measures to try and ameliorate the dangers resulting from the tramline layout.

Predictably, resulting comment has centred on the red surfacing (and there are both pros and cons) but much of the campaign is aimed at making motorists more aware of the need to give bikes space around the tramlines. Motorists are reminded by signs, bus-

back adverts, and the red surfacing. A video emphasises the 'give cyclists space' message - you can find it [@Edinburgh_CC](https://twitter.com/Edinburgh_CC) [Nov 6] on twitter or if you are reading this online click [here](#).

Subsequent phases take longer because they need Traffic Orders, wider consultation with operators, etc, and will involve changes to ASLs, traffic lights, some changes to road layouts, etc.

Of course this is only ameliorating a layout which could have been a lot more bike-friendly from the outset if it had been designed more holistically, as we unsuccessfully campaigned for.

More info: See the [Oct 1 article](#) at spokes.org.uk.

Stop Press: Consultation on **tramline extension** expected in Feb.

SETTED STREETS

Edinburgh has recently consulted on the future of setted streets. This follows our successful initiative early in 2017 [Spokes 127 p6] to get a Committee Report postponed as it virtually ignored the implications of certain types of setts for cyclists or pedestrians.

To see the [Spokes consultation response](#) go to...

spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : CEC cycle policy.

The consultation is now complete, but officers are preparing a report due to go to the 7 December Transport Committee. *If you have views on setted streets and/or would like to support our paper* it's worth contacting your councillors and asking them for your views to be taken into account in the report.

PICARDY PLACE *soon*

Much has happened recently, following news that Picardy Place was to be rebuilt imminently as a gyratory, with virtually no public consultation - and the resulting furore and Transport Committee motion by [Cllr Chas Booth](#). Some background is on our website [[August 11 article](#)] and recent developments are well covered by the local broughtonspurtle.org.uk [articles Oct 2,5,10 & more].

The present situation is that some form of public consultation is expected in early November, with a final decision by the Transport Committee in January. We hope the consultation will take account of comments already made by Spokes and others.

The problems are due partly to a Council decision some years ago to allow 1800 car spaces at St James, up from 550 - so bigger roads are 'needed.' For that, and for subsequent financial and legal reasons, the gyratory now seems very likely - but the Council has said that cycle and pedestrian aspects can be modified extensively.

ISSUES WHICH CONCERN SPOKES

◆ We **oppose the gyratory**. But assuming it does go ahead, our main thoughts at this stage are as below. We also note that, though the current plan is disappointing overall, and the cycling provision needs improvement, it is better than the present roundabout!

◆ The final design must be **such that it can be modified in future** to a traffic-reduced more pedestrian-friendly design. In particular, the huge triangle inside the gyratory should not be built on - it should be open space to allow maximum future scope for a T-junction instead of gyratory when less traffic is deemed possible.

◆ The planned '**shared space**' - in front of the cathedral and elsewhere - should be changed to segregated cycle and pedestrian

◆ The **main road crossings** should be side-by-side ('tiger') cycle/pedestrian crossings, not combined 'toucan' crossings.

◆ There should be **clear and direct cycleroutes** for all important directions, including...

- The west-east route, York Place ↔ Leith Walk
- Broughton Street ↔ Leith Street
- Leith Walk ↔ Waterloo Place

◆ Cycleroutes must be **laid by machine**, not hand-rolled, which caused the bumpy Causewayside & Pleasance cycleroutes.

◆ We do not know if this consultation will include **Leith Street**. If so, there are additional vital issues - see spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : city centre [click [here](#) if online].

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Keep your eyes open for the consultation, and go along to the exhibition and/or respond online.
- ◆ Consider our points above when making your response.

TRANSFORMING IDEAS

Transform Scotland is seeking transport ideas to put to the Scottish Government for possible inclusion in various policies in 2018. Ideas will be judged and the best 20 submitted to government.

For more info, and **to submit your own big idea** go to transform20.transformsotland.org.uk. **Closing date:** 1 December

LEZs *by 28 Nov*

The Scotland *Programme for Government* [Spokes 129] revealed that Low Emission Zones (LEZs) will be established in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee by 2020. The government is now consulting on how to design, build and manage LEZs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

◆ **Find the consultation details**, full document, and online response form by searching for LEZ at consult.scotland.gov.uk. The email for more info is lezconsultation@transport.gov.scot.

◆ If you want a simpler and quicker way of responding, use the Friends of the Earth consultation tool at act.foe.scot/support-lezs.

◆ There is a danger of some Councils concentrating only on buses initially - there has already been some talk of that in Glasgow. We suggest focusing equally or more on tackling private vehicles and ensuring that active travel and public transport are part of the *solution* to LEZs - as well as to many other urban problems.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

- ◆ **Check the websites below for current (and past) consultations**
- ◆ **Please do respond to all consultations that concern you**
- ◆ **Send us a copy of your response asap, to take into account in any official Spokes response.**

◆ **EDINBURGH:** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk

Stop press: includes *Budget consultation* - please respond!

◆ **EAST LOTHIAN:** eastlothianconsultations.co.uk

Currently includes *Join the Citizens' Panel*

◆ **MIDLOTHIAN:** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultations

Currently includes consultation on *next council budget*

◆ **WEST LOTHIAN:** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations/

Currently includes... *Council budget; Broxburn Air Quality*

◆ **NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS:** consult.scotland.gov.uk

Currently includes...

Diet, Activity & Weight - closes 31 January

Low Emission Zones - closes 28 November