

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

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

Our 40th anniversary exhibition and videos will be at the public meeting - come early to see them!
You can also join Spokes or renew at the meeting.

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!!

EDINB PARK by 25 Oct

Massive planning applications have been lodged for the huge last remaining vacant area in **Edinburgh Park** – straddling the tramline between Lochside Way and the rail station.

The plans include a dual carriageway (a 'boulevard') and two multi-storey car parks (plus residential parking) - despite a tram down the middle, an adjacent rail station and being in the heart of the Council's planned West Edinburgh mini-Holland project, for which it has won significant Community Links Plus funding [see 'Big Projects' article]. Shades of the Picardy Place scenario!!

The plans in their present form would be a serious blow to the Council's ambition to reduce car dependency and promote health.

More generally, for such a massive development there should be a public exhibition and consultation before the detailed application.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

◆ Object to the Planning Applications, as follows...

→Email Eileen.McCormack@edinburgh.gov.uk and David.Inverarity@edinburgh.gov.uk

→Say you are objecting to planning applications 17/04341/AMC, 17/04349/AMC & 17/04391/FUL - all for 'Edinburgh Park (South)'

→Then give your reasons.

◆ It is not necessary to look up the documents but, if you wish to, go to citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web and then enter one of the above reference codes. Be aware that the info is massive – but of the three the most useful is 17/04391/FUL.

◆ If you want advice/support in objecting, contact our member Peter Hawkins who is organising the Spokes objection. Phone 0131 443 6712 or email peterhawk@phoncoop.coop.

◆ **Email your councillors** with your concerns. Find them at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors

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.

BIG PROJECTS

As mentioned in Spokes 129, Edinburgh Council has won £m's from the Sustrans 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 shortly on the council website. With a bit of luck you'll be able to find them by searching for *Cycling Projects* at edinburgh.gov.uk.

LEITH STREET *by Oct 31*

Although work is underway in Leith Street, the Redetermination Order covering its use is only now out for objections & comments. This type of Order (an RSO) is powerful, as if there are unwithdrawn objections then there has to be a government inquiry. So if you are unhappy with the proposals, do object!!

Living Streets has already submitted an objection, and Spokes will be doing so. Individual objections will help back this up.

The Order is **RSO/17/13**. To find it, go to...

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk – See All Open Consultations – Traffic Orders – View - **RSO/17/13 Leith Street, Calton Road, Greenside Row, Waterloo Place.**

To object to the Order, or for more information, email

TrafficOrders@edinburgh.gov.uk, stating the above number and name of the Order and your name and address. Their phone number is 0131 469 3122. **Objections close on 31 October.**

ISSUES WHICH CONCERN SPOKES

- ◆ The maps accompanying the Order show the areas of footway, cycle route and carriageway affected but are not **detailed plans** – e.g. details at junctions. This makes comment more difficult than it should be. We have been asking for these plans.
- ◆ The Order should allocate more space to walking and cycling, and only provide carriageway space for buses, taxis and emergency and service vehicles – the present Leith Street closure shows that traffic patterns can adjust. It should also include **segregated cycle provision** right to the top of Leith Street, instead of just to Calton Road as in the draft Order.
- ◆ If the above is not agreed at this time, then at the very least an **uphill advisory cycle lane** should be included, from the end of the segregated route (at Calton Road), up to the top of Leith Street, ending in a deep advanced stop area where the road narrows immediately before the junction at Waterloo Place.
- ◆ There appears to be no consideration for how cyclists heading for the top of Leith Street will leave the segregated cycleway which ends at Calton Road – although we expect many more to be heading up Leith Street than heading for Calton Road.
- ◆ The **junction arrangements** at Calton Road and Greenside Row are unclear but, as far as we can see, they look unsatisfactory for both cyclists and pedestrians.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **Object to the Order**, as above. See the points above which concern Spokes. Even if you don't have time to look at the full Order, object to any main points that concern you.
- ◆ **Email your councillors** with your concerns. Find them at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors

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.

TRAMLINE SAFETY

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

Predictably, nearly all the resulting comment has been on the pros and cons of the red surfacing (and there are both pros and cons) but it is important to remember that much of the campaign is aimed at making motorists more aware of the presence of bikes and to give bikes space around the tramlines. Motorists are reminded by signs, bus-back adverts, and the red surfacing.

PICARDY PLACE *soon*

A huge amount has happened in recent weeks, following the news that Picardy Place was to be rebuilt imminently as a gyratory, with virtually zero public consultation – and the resulting furor and Transport Committee motion by Cllr Chas Booth. Some of the background is on our website [[August 11 article](#)] and more recent developments have been well covered by the local community newspaper broughtonspurtle.org.uk [articles Oct 2,5,10 & more].

The present situation is that some form of public consultation is expected in October and a final decision will be made by the Transport Committee on 7 December. We hope the consultation will take account of recent comments 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 99% certain – 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 cycle routes** for all important directions, including...
 - The west-east route, York Place ↔ Leith Walk
 - Broughton Street ↔ Leith Street
 - Leith Walk ↔ Waterloo Place
 - ◆ Cycle routes must be **laid by machine**, not hand-rolled, which caused the bumpy Causewayside & Pleasance cycle routes.
 - ◆ We do not know if this consultation will include **Leith Street**. If so, there are additional vital issues – see separate article – and they need included here too if this consultation also covers it.
- ### 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.

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.

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, so we can take it into account in the official Spokes response.**

EDINBURGH: consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk

EAST Lothian: eastlothianconsultations.co.uk

Currently includes *Haddington Town Centre + Citizens' Panel*

MIDLothian: www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultations

Currently includes consultation on *next council budget*

WEST Lothian: www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations/

Currently includes... *Air Quality guidance & Green Networks*

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS: consult.scotland.gov.uk

Currently includes *Low Emission Zones* [see article].