

*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 [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk).*

## URGENT: TRAM ONROAD

The future of the tram could well be decided in Parliament on Weds 27<sup>th</sup> – it is most likely to survive, but the decision is far from a foregone conclusion. FOE (Edinburgh) is running a support campaign, with a downloadable poster “Even Kazakhstan has trams.” See [www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk/campaigns/index.html](http://www.foe-edinburgh.org.uk/campaigns/index.html).

### UNACCEPTABLE ONROAD PROPOSALS

In general trams will use the middle of the road. This is good for cyclists, keeping tram rails well away from the kerbside.

#### LEITH WALK

However, in other respects the initial consultation plans for Leith Walk are quite unacceptable in our view. **The existing uphill bike lane, and the downhill bus/cycle lane will be removed**, and replaced by a general traffic lane [buses will be allowed to use this lane and the tram lane]. **We say an uphill cycle lane is essential, and should be possible to fit in.** There is also a case for a downhill lane and/or a wide segregated 2-way route, though these would be politically difficult as they imply much greater restrictions on car movement or parking – but please do argue for them if you feel them important.

**The Leith Walk neglect of cyclists is also quite unacceptable as it is contrary to Edinburgh's new Local Transport Strategy** [[www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)] which says "Safe provision for cyclists will be made on streets used by the tram" [policy Cycle 10] and "Conditions for pedestrians and cyclists should be maintained or improved" (in bus and tram schemes) [policy PT10].

Note that the promoters, TIE, are suggesting a signposted alternative on minor roads. Whilst this will anyway be necessary during the roadworks, it is absolutely essential that the eventual Leith Walk scheme allows all but the most nervous/novice cyclists to use this major artery in confidence in both directions. No alternative route is anything like as convenient or quick.

#### PRINCES STREET

The detailed consultation plans had not been released as this is typed, but a preliminary sketch suggested there is room for cycle lanes similar to the existing, but that **they may not be included**. Again this is unacceptable. NB: opinions in Spokes vary as to the ideal solution – cycle lanes or a segregated route. However, nothing at all would be the worst option!

#### CONSTITUTION STREET

This will be closed to motor vehicles at its narrow north end. The pavements will be widened and slightly raised, to form a combined wider pavement and tram stop. The tram lines will therefore come close to the pavement, making it dangerous for cyclists to use the road. Our initial response is that the widened pavement should be cyclist shared use, with prominent signs such as 'pedestrian priority, cyclists give way' (**not cyclists dismount**).

Depending on destination, some cyclists could use Henderson Street as an alternative - ask for this to be made suitable if it would help you. However, Constitution St is the direct and best route for most journeys - and will be much quieter than at present thanks to the closure, whereas Henderson St may be busier.

⇒ ⇒ **PLEASE HELP - ACT NOW** ⇐ ⇐

If you use Leith Walk or Princes St and are concerned about neglect of cycling, it is vital that you act now. Do NOT leave it all to Spokes; we can only win this battle if individuals are taking up the case at the same time. Take the opportunity also to comment on any other tram onroad issues concerning you.

➤ **Write to or email your councillors** asking them to speak to Transport Convener Cllr Phil Wheeler and tram promoters TIE.

➤ **Go to the public consultation drop-in sessions, and leave comments.** If you can't go, email [info@tramsforedinburgh.com](mailto:info@tramsforedinburgh.com).

**Tue June 26** [mainly for Leith Walk proposals] 4.30-7.30  
Thomas Morton Hall, 28 Ferry Road

**Thu June 28** [mainly for Princes St, York Pl, etc] 4.30-7.30  
Walpole Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Chester Street.

### CONCLUSION

Edinburgh Council has achieved a lot for cyclists: see our traffic count figures in Spokes 97 and 96. Are they now going to throw this away – in contradiction of their own Local Transport Strategy and just at a time when other cities are hugely increasing cycling investment and are properly integrating cycling and tram – see Spokes 97 [p1, Top Cities] and see 'Europe Grows Bikes' below.

### CYCLE CARRIAGE

This is less immediate and is looking more hopeful than we felt initially. The tram vehicles will be the largest in Britain, and TIE has confirmed that bike carriage is a possibility. Decisions will take some months however, after the final tenderer is decided. Bike carriage has always been a Council 'aspiration,' recently heightened by a successful motion by the new Edinburgh Green Councillors, that the council ask TIE to investigate cycle carriage.

## COLOUR CAMPAIGN

With many new councillors, now's the time to push the coloured surfacing issue. Despite the 'Streetscape Manual' being published, the colour debate is still far from over [Spokes 97 p3]. Indeed, new Transport Convener Cllr **Phil Wheeler** said in the Evening News [4 June], "Coloured cycle lanes are not under threat because they exist to protect bike users, and would only be altered following consultation with interested parties." That promise does not tie up with what has happened on the ground in the last year or two, so we hope it marks a new attitude in the council.

**Our immediate aim is to press for colour re-instatement on one important route – Mound / Buccleuch St / Causewayside, where it has been (deliberately) allowed to deteriorate badly.** In our favour is that some of the new councillors for this area are particularly sympathetic to cycling. Several officials and top councillors in the old council also agreed that the Mound needed colour replaced, but it never happened. On Buccleuch St, sections were re-tarmaced and the colour deliberately not reinstated, whilst elsewhere it was allowed to wear off almost completely.

⇒ ⇒ **IMPORTANT – PLEASE HELP!!** ⇐ ⇐

If you use the Mound, Buccleuch St and/or Causewayside, and if you feel coloured surfacing important, **please help us now by contacting your councillors.** Explain why it matters to you that colour is urgently reinstated, and ask them to raise this with Transport Convener Cllr Phil Wheeler [copy to him too if you wish].

It is important to write to /email **your own** councillors – either all of them or those from the party(ies) that you support [you now have 3 or 4 councillors - find them at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk), or 0131.529.3186]. We list below the councillors for the immediate wards, to save you time if it's your area; but if you live elsewhere and use these roads please look up and contact your own councillor(s) - the campaign has much more hope if more councillors are involved.

If emailing, please include your postal address, so the councillor knows you are a constituent.

**SOUTHSIDE/NEWINGTON** [steve.burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:steve.burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk) [Green, cyclist]  
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**CITY CENTRE** [david.beckett@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.beckett@edinburgh.gov.uk) [SNP]  
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**Please copy us any useful replies (along with your letter/email).**

## EUROPE GROWS BIKES

The climate crisis is providing new impetus to huge bike initiatives and investment in Europe, aiming to reduce short car trips [Wall Street Journal, 4.5.07]. This is happening particularly in places that Scotland/Edinburgh look to as examples – Denmark, Norway, etc. **Use this when writing to councillors/MSPs!**

In **Copenhagen** 36% of commuter journeys are by bike, double 1990's figure, thanks to heavy investment starting in the 70s/80s. But now the city is doubling its spending over the next 3 years, with most cycle lanes to be widened to cater for yet more bikes.

**Norway** plans to double bike trips from 4% to 8% by 2015.

**Sweden** plans to raise bike use from 12% to 16% by 2010.

Rising cycling investment in **Amsterdam** will include replacing the existing 2000-space central station bike park by 10,000 spaces.

Commuter cycling in **London** has nearly doubled in the last 5 years. Officials say this is due to quadrupled investment, allowing many new onroad routes and ambitious promotional schemes. London now invests £35m p.a., double Scotland's entire cycle spending. Note that the congestion charge is not the main factor – it has helped, but it only covers a small area of central London.

## EXPERT NEEDED

Following the remarkable results of our Lothian Road traffic counts [Spokes 97, 96] we hope to put proposals to the Council for making the whole route Meadows/Bruntsfield to West End much more cycle-friendly, to better cater for existing cyclists, and to encourage yet more. We want a plan which will make a real difference, but which is realistic enough to be taken seriously – or maybe a couple of options, one visionary and one more 'realistic'. For example 'advance traffic lights' giving cyclists a few seconds start at junctions (as in Copenhagen already) together with wider and more continuous bike lanes.

We are looking for a volunteer traffic/planning expert to come up with ideas and prepare a report for us to put to the new council. If you have the skills and are interested in helping (or if you have any useful ideas) please email Dave at [ddf@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ddf@staffmail.ed.ac.uk).

## INFO / DATES

See also Spokes 97 page 2 – below is additional/recent info...

- The new and first ever **Spokes/Go-Bike Glasgow Cycle Map** should be out by end July, price £4.95 in all good bike/book shops. **Special advance offer for Spokes members.** Glasgow Bike Map £3.30, or all 5 maps [Glasgow, Edinburgh and the 3 Lothians] for just £15. Send a cheque payable to Spokes **before end June** to Map Offer, 5 St Marks Place, EH15 2PY.
- A Spokes **30-year anniversary booklet/exhibition** is being considered for September. If you have useful historic photos, info or ideas, email [maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:maggie@trycyclinginedinburgh.org.uk).
- **June 28 Climate Change and the World's Poorest People** FOE public mtg, 7.30 Friends Meeting Hse, 7 Victoria Ter. 553.6869.
- **July 7 Live Earth worldwide Climate Change concerts.** Have your own house party – with special downloadable video from Al Gore [www.avaaz.org/en/live\\_earth/lg/php](http://www.avaaz.org/en/live_earth/lg/php).
- **Sponsored Research Studentship** [in Bristol] Why is car ownership lower than might be expected amongst certain groups, and who are they? Apply by July 9. [www.transport.uwe.ac.uk](http://www.transport.uwe.ac.uk)

## STOLEN BIKES

New online sites allow you to post pictures and descriptions of bikes stolen in Edinburgh and Glasgow – and also record details of your unstolen bike in case it is lost in future. There is a link to both sites at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk). See links – Edinburgh. The Ed site is [www.flickr.com/groups/stolen-bicycles-in-Edinburgh](http://www.flickr.com/groups/stolen-bicycles-in-Edinburgh).

Spokes activist **Mark Symonds** had his bike stolen whilst delivering our recent mailing in the High Street. Please look out for his **red and white GT Karakoram Mountain Bike**, also with Vaude black panniers (containing many Spokes envelopes!)

Another active Spokes member, **Neil Robertson**, has lost a much loved **Giant XTC3 2005 Mountain Bike Original**, unpainted alloy frame with white transfers. Neil 07884.488682.

## SPOKES COMPETITION

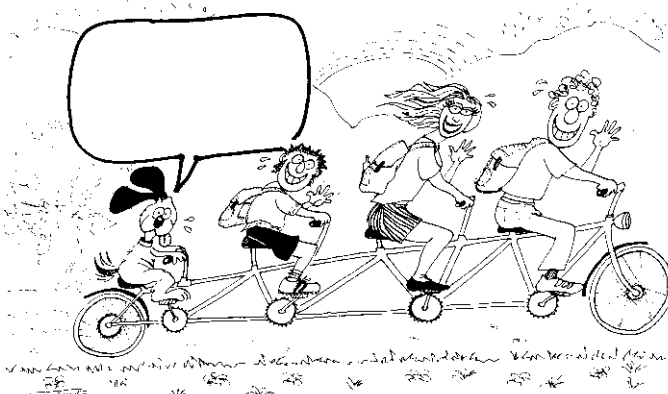
Prizes will be awarded for the best speech bubble wording for either or both cartoons below, as judged by members of Spokes Resources Group. We have not defined 'best' – it will just be the slogans we like most, for whatever reason – for example, because they are especially apt, or especially funny. Prizes include...

- *'In Search of Robert Millar: unravelling the mystery surrounding Britain's most successful Tour de France cyclist'* – book signed by author Richard Moore. Donated by [www.TryCyclinginEdinburgh.org.uk](http://www.TryCyclinginEdinburgh.org.uk).
  - *2 Filmhouse tickets* – for a bicycle film [title not yet known] during European Mobility Week, probably 22 September. Donated by Filmhouse, Lothian Road.
  - Set of all 5 Spokes maps – including new Glasgow Cycle Map.
- Our thanks to cartoonist **Manuel Rucco**. Apologies that the reproduction here is not perfect. We hope to have the originals at the TryCycling Meadows stall on Fringe Sunday, 12 August.

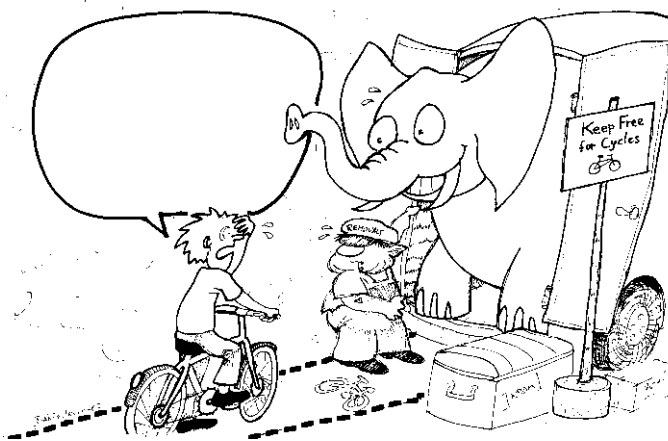
### RULES AND HOW TO ENTER

- Closing date Monday 20 August
- Maximum one entry per cartoon per person.
- Post your entry to Spokes, or email [jackieh@waitrose.com](mailto:jackieh@waitrose.com), with the following details, or enter at the Fringe Sunday stall.

  - Your name
  - Address
  - Postcode
  - Phone
  - Email (if available)
  - Do you use a bicycle? [yes / no]
  - Are you a Spokes member? [yes / no]
  - Speech bubble for cartoon 1 [family outing]



- Speech bubble for cartoon 2 [cycle lane obstruction]



### BIKE BREAKFAST COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners in our 'Maps Missing Pieces' competition designed by map artist **Tim Smith**.

*First*– Gandolf [prize: toolkit donated by **Edinburgh Bicycle**]  
*Runners-up* - Liz Foster, Ron Minto, Colin Williams.