

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.

FOR YOUR DIARY

For more events, see *Spokes Bulletin 98, page 2.*

Nov 1 - Is oil running out, and what happens if so? Edinburgh Council Active Citizenship group public meeting, 7-9pm, Lothian Chambers, Geo IV Bridge. jean.meagher@educ.edin.gov.uk 469.3048

Nov 10 Gifford-Ormiston [East Lothian] - *walk* along disused rail line - by Railway Ramblers. For details, including bus connections, tony.jervis@talktalk.net 01383.732834.

Nov 21 Spokes Autumn Public Meeting Edinburgh City Council transport convener **Cllr Phil Wheeler**. "Transport in a New Era." Come along and decide whether the new LibDem/SNP council lives up to the LibDem election manifesto promises [Spokes 97]. Augustine United Church, Geo IV Bridge, 7.30 or 6.45 for coffee, stall, chat. *Info:* jackieh@waitrose.com.

Nov 29 Water Crises Facing the World Today Details as Nov 1. **Jan/Feb/Mar Training for Change** FOE short courses on campaigning skills - Media/Communication; The Planning System; Community/Project development. *Details* - csymonds@foe-scotland.org.uk 243.2700.

Dec 6 Forth Estuary Forum conference Theme this year - *sustainable economic development around Forth Estuary* [scope to suggest cycling initiatives??] If you could attend as Spokes delegate, phone Dave 01506 670165. www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk.

TRAM - BIKE

A great deal is happening, and we thank the many members who have emailed councillors to express concern over onroad conditions and the question of cycle carriage. What we will achieve is still unclear, but it will not be for lack of trying.

We are having a deputation to the Council on Oct 25, when the tram Final Business Case is up for approval, and the many contacts from cyclists to councillors will help our case be taken more seriously. However, it appears that meeting will not be the final word on the above issues, and continuing lobbying will be possible and quite probably very important. **If you are concerned and have not contacted your councillors, please do so!** For more info see Spokesworker 15.10.07 [at www.spokes.org.uk]. New developments where we again need your help will be on the website and in future issues of Spokesworker.

To find name/email/phone of your councillors (you have 3 or 4) go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk and click on *Find your local councillor*, or phone 529.3186.

We also particularly thank **Mark Lazarowicz MP** (a Spokes member) and **Sarah Boyack MSP** (Edinburgh Central) who have both done what they can to help in terms of lobbying.

SPOKES TO BRING IN EUROPEAN EXPERT

At our latest consultation meeting with tram developers TIE and operators TEL Spokes offered to bring over a Dutch or Danish tram/bike expert for a couple of days, to look at the proposals for Leith Walk, Princes Street, etc, and suggest alternatives. We were pleased that TIE/TEL at once responded positively, and agreed to work with this person. However, the TIE drawings do suggest that space is tight in Leith Walk - given that a row of car-parking bays is being provided on both sides.

Bringing over the expert is a really important move, which will hopefully throw up design improvements, boosts Spokes credibility with councillors and officials, and tests the willingness of TIE, TEL and the council genuinely to take cycling seriously.

We can only take major initiatives like this thanks to the generosity of Spokes members (such as you) with your annual renewal donations. Keep them up at your next renewal!

MORE HISTORIC PICS

We ran out of space in Spokes 98, but here are a few more pictures! For colour versions see Spokesworker on our website.



Another Spokes stall, with volunteers Jackie, Katharine and Peter



1984: Save the Smeaton Line demo with Gavin Strang MP



The magnificent Innocent railway tunnel - as it was!!



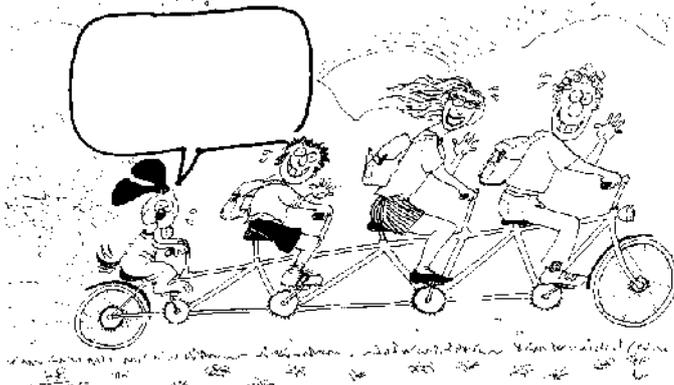
Yes, it's the future PM and Chancellor in contact with a bike! [even if Alistair Darling does seem to have his mind elsewhere]. - sent to us by Spokes member Ken Morrison [hidden, 2nd from left], from the Make Poverty History bike ride, London to Edinburgh.

CARTOONS COMP

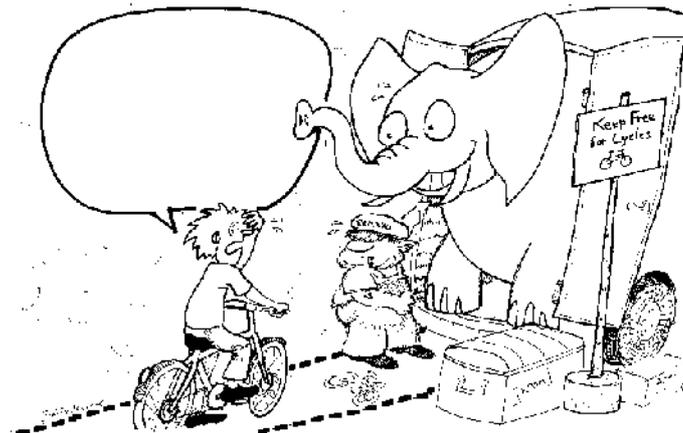
A summary of our summer competition results is in Spokes 98, but full results are here – and a correction to the prizewinners list. Thanks to cartoonist **Manuel Rucco**; and **TryCycling** for prizes.

- 1st **Katharine Taylor** (cartoon B) *I thought the M74 was the only transport white elephant!*
 2nd= **Pat Andrew** (A) *I still miss those lampposts!*
 2nd= **Sophie Tobin** [age 10] (A) *Cycling for All*
 (B) *This isn't a trunk road!*
 4th **Oliver Brookes** (A) *Share the joy!*
 (B) *We said 2 yellow lions, not a white elephant!*
 5th **Anne Carter** (A) *This is what I call a dog's life!*

CARTOON A



CARTOON B



ONSTREET PARKING

As reported in Spokes 98, **Edinburgh Council is installing 100 onstreet 'Edinburgh' racks** [Sheffield plus lower horizontal bar], as below. **Many of these are locations requested by Spokes members.** A future locations list is also being drawn up.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rose Street – many locations | Brunton Place surgery |
| Brunswick Pl Tesco | Abbeyhill Post Office |
| Causewayside Tesco | Fountainbridge, Citymark |
| Newbattle Terr, Dominion | Castle St |
| Dalry Swimming Pool | Dalry Rd, Somerfield |
| South Charlotte St | Queen St, Erskine House |
| Southside, Engine Shed | Hope St, Frasers |
| Lothian Rd, Capital House | Festival Square |
| Gorgie Farm Tollcross, Cameo | St George's West Church |
| James Gillespie's | Montague Streetscape |
| Marchmont Road - two locations | Morrison St, Odeon |
| Frederick St – several locations | Bruntsfield, Peckhams |
| Dalmeny St, Out of the Blue | Bruntsfield, Scotmid |
| Bread St/Lothian Road | Warrender Pk Rd, Scotmid |
| E Fountainbridge, New Uberior Hse | Hunter Square |
| East Princes Street, Register House | Waverley Court |

This fantastic list shows the worth of sending your ideas to the Council – see Spokes 98 p3 to suggest more locations ... and please see the comments there about Princes Street bike parking.

GOVERNMENT MONEY

On 14 November the new Scottish SNP government is to announce the result of its spending review – with its spending plans for the next few years. Decisions being made now will affect cycle project spending over the next 3-4 years.

Please contact all your MSPs urgently, seeking higher sums for Sustrans and council cycle project work across Scotland. Ask them to speak to the Minister and get back to you. **See Spokes Bulletin 98 p8 for contact details.** Remember you have 7 List (i.e. second vote) MSPs as well as your constituency MSP.

It is particularly important to lobby SNP and Green MSPs ... in our area these are **SNP: Kenny MacAskill** (Ed East), **Angela Constance** (Livingston); **Ian McKee, Fiona Hyslop, Shirley-Anne Sommerville** (all List); **Green: Robin Harper** (List). *However, with the extremely fine balance of power in the Scottish Parliament it is worth lobbying all parties, since the SNP will be seeking deals with other parties to ensure their budget gets through - if they are defeated on that they could even lose power.*

In 2006/7 total cycle project expenditure for the whole of Scotland was around £18m [Spokes 97] – compared to £36m in London alone [thanks largely to Mayor Ken Livingstone]. Places where there has been consistent investment over a period of years – such as Edinburgh and London, as well of course as many European countries and cities – are seeing significant growth in cycle use, against a background of static or falling use elsewhere.

There's no need to go into a lot of detail in your letter/email. However, if you want more info on what we would like, see Spokes 98 page 1 for a summary – or for more details see our letter to Cabinet Minister John Swinney [on spokes website – see the news item from summer 2007, and links from there].

When writing/emailing to SNP MSPs, it is worth quoting SNP promises, and asking that funding is allocated to ensure these commitments are fulfilled...

SNP Scottish election manifesto: *"We will promote simple every day activities like walking and cycling. This will help reduce carbon emissions as well as improving physical fitness."*

Speech by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & Environment [13.6.07, Scottish Parliament]: *"We want to create ... a Scotland where people walk, cycle or use public transport as the norm because they are clean, efficient, safe, ..."*

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth [Government News Release 20.8.07]: (talking specifically about the impact of removing Forth Bridge tolls) *"We will continue to invest in initiatives which reduce congestion, such as improved park and ride, and improved rail, bus and cycle links."*

[See Spokes 98 page 7 for more specifically on Forth Bridge links].

MORE LOCAL ITEMS

- **Edinburgh Council is consulting on its Core Paths Plan** – comment by 31 Dec. We hope to send a leaflet to all members in this mailout [copies may run out]. More details in all libraries and at www.edinburghcorepaths.org. A specific point is to ask for **Millburn Path** to be included as a core path – this is the main offroad route from Edinburgh Park to the new Royal Bank campus at Gogar. It is sometimes in appalling condition - ploughed up and not rolled down. If it were a core path, upgrade/maintenance would be a council responsibility. [For more info on Millburn path, contact peterhawk@care4free.net 443.6712]. Of course, the Royal Bank should have provided this path (and upgraded the A8 paths) when their campus was built, but the council did not insist, and that is now history unless the RBS has a sudden 'green' conversion.
- **Want Fountainbridge bike lanes??** - see Spokes 98 page 3.
- **A new danger to cyclists is proposed for Carrington Road**, which links Inverleith Park cyclistroute to the Western General and to Craighleith retail park. The Council proposes end-on car parking in this not very wide road – so cars will be reversing in/out with limited visibility. **Please send comments to** Andrew Mackay, Transportation, City Development, Waverley Court, Edinburgh EH8. Also lobby your local councillors – find them at www.edinburgh.gov.uk 529.3186. Send us any useful replies.