

SPOKES SURVEY ON RESIDENTIAL BIKE STORAGE – FULL DATA

[See separate file for a report on this survey]

Methodological note: this quick survey (10 questions) was completed online using SurveyMonkey, between 19-30 September 2010, during which time 100 responses were collected. The survey was promoted via the Spokes news-sheet (Spokes worker), Spokes website and Twitter (with re-tweets by various organisations as well as email forwarding by recipients). Greener Leith included the survey link in its e-bulletin, and some forms were completed at the Spokes stall at the Painting Edinburgh Green event. Thus participants will be self-selected for an interest in this issue; however, it was notable how quickly responses came in. It was not designed as a scientific survey but more as a tool to inform future action by Spokes as part of its Climate Challenge Fund project to tackle residential cycle storage constraints for tenement and flat dwellers in Edinburgh.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. IF YOU HAVE A BIKE, how often do you use a bike for your everyday activities such as travel to work / study, shopping, visits, commuting, etc?

58% said Most days
24% said Once or twice a week
13% said Less than weekly
2% said Never

(100 respondents)

2. Where do you normally store your bike?

45% said "In flat stairwell"
34% said "In house / flat"
6% said "Outside on-street"
5% said "In separate shed / garage / own garden"
5% said "Outside in shared garden"
3% said other: stair cupboard / our building (a new build) has a bike store / In cellar of tenement

(100 respondents)

3. Do you have any problems storing your bike at your home?

54% said "Yes - it's awkward but I still use my bike"
32% said "Yes - it's awkward and stops me using my bike as much as I'd like"
14% said "No"

(100 respondents)

"If 'yes', please give brief details"

1. Not enough space in stairwell
2. not much space and stairs from door to living area. No shed or covered outdoor space.
3. Top floor tenement, carry bike up the stairs and lock to stair railing.
4. Previously stored bike in shared stairwell, but too many items stolen from pannier (e.g. pump, gloves, tools).
5. Although I have installed a small shed, it is not easy access and not enough space for more than one bike (there are two in household).
6. Because my bike is stored in a cupboard in the flat, it does mean that it's out of sight and therefore I don't use it as much as I could. I suppose I don't have a problem with the existing storage, it's just that its inconvenient for

everyday use. I also find it a bit of faff gathering all the bits you need for your bike - helmet; lights; pannier; lock etc. Again this is all time consuming and inconvenient.

7. There are several others & it is a crowded space. It's such a hassle to actually get the bike out that I'm less likely to take it out for spontaneous short trips.
8. Only one space at the bottom of the common stair to padlock the bike. That space is shared with two other bikes. This means getting our bikes in and out is a nightmare. If I don't use this area, I must carry the bike up 3 flights of stairs, often with shopping. Total nightmare.
9. We store 3 bikes in our boxroom, we are on the second floor and it is a lot of hassle to get them out and down the stairs. We used to bikes in a storage cupboard at the bottom of the stairs but they were stolen. neighbours have had bikes stolen from the stairwell
10. I have to store my bike at the top of the stairwell which is awkward, as my bike is heavy to carry up 4 flights of stairs.
11. There are six flats in my building and four bikes currently chained at the bottom, including one that has been dumped (left chained up by a tenant who moved out two years ago!) I have to physically lift my bike over the other three in order to get it out of the space.
12. Limited space in stairwell, difficulty of getting through heavy front door with steps whilst carrying a bike, issues with safety
13. There are two bikes in my hall, which is fairly wide but I still find they are in the way sometimes.
14. It's just not easy getting my bike in and out. That's fine for going to work which is a fair distance and the alternatives are worse (an hour's walk or two buses via Princes St, compared to 20mins on bike). But for shorter or ad hoc journeys it rarely feels worth the while lugging it up/down to third floor.
15. I keep bike in spare room. Big problems carrying bike up stairs and also ensuring it is clean enough to put in bedroom. Placed shower curtain on floor to protect carpet, but have also damaged paint on walls due to tyre rub! Hasn't stopped me from cycling though.
16. After my bike was stolen I've had to drill a special lock into the wall (which I'm probably not meant to have done!) to lock my bike to. The bike gets in the way of neighbours and blocks my door a bit, but it's not too bad. But there's only space for one bike maximum. When I have a lodger it's a real problem.
17. I live in top floor flat so have to carry up 3 flights of stairs.
18. Involves quite an effort to get the bike from the attic!
19. I have a light road bike for day to day use, which is fine. The awkward part is due to my mountain bike which is difficult to clean as there is no external tap in our shared back yard. I keep my MTB in the flat and road bike in the stairwell.
20. Getting the bike up and down stairs is a pain, especially upstairs at the end of a long cycle. If it is wet outside, the bike brings dirt into the house. Our two bikes clutter up our hallway, but I really want to avoid getting them stolen. Other neighbours keep their bikes in the hallway, but I don't think it is safe enough there.
21. Limited space in our stairwell for bikes. There is no cellar, and the back green is not secure or private, so installing a bike shed not an option either. On street storage not really practical as any bikes chained up outside soon lose wheels or parts, or disappear completely.
22. I live on 3rd floor, and my downstairs neighbours don't like my bike in 'their' stairwell. So I carry my bike up and down 3 flights of stairs each time I use it. Not ideal!
23. Our building (a new build) has a bike store downstairs. It's badly planned and it's very difficult to get the bike in and out (it has 2 doors at an angle from each other - one of which apparently is a fire door), and you then still have to manoeuvre the bike through the front door that opens at another angle from the direction of the bike store. The room is small and lots of people who don't use their bikes often have them stored on a pile. If more people were to actively use their bikes it would be even more difficult to use the bike store.
24. While a bike store was built as part of the development C.2000, there are more bikes than the store has capacity for - cycling too popular? Store too small?
25. It is at the top of stairwell we live on the top / 3rd floor but the ground floor is full of buggies / prams plus two other bikes.
26. My last bike was stolen from the bottom of my stairwell. I have a perfectly adequate place to put it (as I was the only one with a bike in the stairwell) but neighbours repeatedly leave the front door open!
27. I store my bike in my hall cupboard. As much as it shouldn't, the hassle of taking it out of the cupboard (mainly because there is too much other stuff in there!) means that I cycle less than I should. There is usually no room at the bottom of my stairwell. Also, I am not too happy with bike storage etc. in the stair well. For example, there

were four bikes that sat there for three years without moving. Now one of my neighbours stores other bits and pieces.

28. We live in the top flat of a three-storey tenement and my bike is quite old and heavy, so the prospect of lugging it down the stairs (and back up again) often puts me off using it, even when I'd really like to.
29. Complaints from residents.
30. Gets wet and rusty
31. There are 4 bikes stored in a small area - only 2 are actually used, 1 is used for another bike to be locked to it and the other bike is just gathering dust.
32. No good space to store bike, not sure about neighbours opinions, and slightly worried about damage to bike.
33. I live on the 3rd floor and have nowhere else to store my bike other than in the flat, having to carry it down stairs puts me off taking it out for short journeys, i.e. going to the shops.
34. They're not small, are they?!
35. I am on the third floor and it is a pain having to carry my bike up an awkward staircase
36. Has been stolen in past. Crammed in between other bikes. No room in flat.
37. Generally storage space in flats is not designed to cater for bikes therefore I have to store it on top or in the way of many other things. I store it in a box room which doubles as a study meaning I have to remove my bike to use the study which means it ends up in the hall
38. In summer I can get away with leaving my bike outside, but in the winter I have to bring it indoors to protect it from getting damaged by the wet and cold conditions, which means carrying it up two flights of stairs to my flat as there is nowhere to store it at ground floor level.
39. Have to manoeuvre bike in and out of flat, through doors etc. Luckily I do have a lift!
40. We have a basement area at the bottom of the stairwell so it's awkward in that you have to negotiate with the various other bikes and boxes that are there as well as carry your bike down and up a flight of stairs every morning and evening.
41. I have to carry it up three flights of stairs
42. We have to give over an entire boxroom to the three bikes, and getting them out past each other takes a lot of juggling.
43. Awkward as I don't have room for a shed, and it blocks part of my small back yard.
44. To store/retrieve my bike in the cellar in the tenement, I have to carry it down/up a curving flight of stairs. The stairs are often impeded by other bikes (!) being locked to the bannister (our tenement has a very narrow stairwell and small hallway).
45. Me and my partner both store our bikes in our one bedroom flat. They sit in the hallway in a very awkward location but we have nowhere else to store them. It does not affect us using them though! Just a bit annoying at times.
46. We have a rudimentary bike rack at the bottom of our stairwell, but it's always completely overloaded with bikes (both regularly used and disused) making it awkward to get bikes in/out and of sporadic usefulness.
47. Basically there is not much space in the entrance of the tenement's flat, so one or two bikes fit okay, but more will give problems, and I live in the third floor, so it's a problem to carry it up and down every time since I use it 2 or more times a day.
48. We store bikes in the stairwell but are under intense pressure from the factors to remove them. The bikes have to be stacked and so are unsafe - they have fallen on a child. They are awkward to get out of the door and chip the paintwork. We also have a problem with old bikes being stored there from previous occupants. The factors asked everyone to contribute to an external bike rack but a majority didn't vote for it so we are being threatened with removal.
49. Road bike is too big for cupboard so has to stay behind sofa
50. I have to carry it up to 2nd floor as already too many bikes on ground floor stairwell.
51. The bikes take up a fair amount of space in our small flat and we live on the top floor, so it's a long hike up! But there is no place else to put them.... the stairwell is small and always full of bikes and leaving bikes outside just isn't an option.
52. There's nowhere ideal to lock it downstairs so I have to carry it up three flights of stairs plus whatever I'm normally carrying. I could lock it downstairs but I would be constantly worried about its security so it ends up safely locked on the third floor and I use it less often because of this.
53. I have 6 flatmates and we keep all of our bikes in the communal walkway - impossible to get in or out without clambering over them all.

54. I do not feel safe leaving my bike in the stairwell, the main door is often left unlocked, there is also only space for about one bike at the bottom which means i often have to carry my bike up 2 flights of stairs - usually getting oil on my clothes and in the flat.
55. The stairwell is very narrow and there are a couple of bikes there already, so I have to leave it in locked in the street. It's not convenient to take it to the flat as i live on the 3rd floor and I use it a couple of times a day, and the staircase is narrow enough to be uncomfortable to carry the bike to the flat.
56. Yes, after a large number of bike thefts on our street i live in constant fear of my bike getting stolen, despite deliberately riding an older bike that is less attractive to thieves/vandals. My wheels were stolen after being removed from the bike by a car driver. the driver found my bike blocking access to their car after I had locked it to a lamp post nearby.. now I use two strong locks but still half expect my bike to be gone if I leave it for more than a day or too. My girlfriend's bike was stolen on the same street and it took us several months to get her a new one..
57. Currently bike has to be lifted out of its storage position and carried up / down 3 flights of stairs each time it is used. In practice I don't use it for most journeys.
58. I've had experience with other flat owners complaining about there being so many bikes in the stairwell to the point where the council got involved and forced tenants to remove their bikes. This was a conflict which would not have happened had there been designated storage space for bikes.
59. Too many bikes in stairwell
60. Have to carry it into the basement to store it (and out again to use it). I have to lock it to my flatmate's bike - there are not enough railings
61. We live in a top floor tenement flat. As we also have a buggy for our two-year-old son, the buggy is kept on the ground floor and my bike is strapped and locked over the railings outside our flat.
62. Too many bikes at the bottom of the stairs but it's a well kept stairwell and a number of the flats don't like the landings being used for bikes.
63. Takes up room.
64. I have folding bike for commuting. My "big" bike is better for the weekly shop but it has to live hoisted on pulley in hall & I am lazy(!).
65. There is not enough secure storage for my bike. I will still use it but it puts me off. I just moved to live on the 3rd floor and if I have to carry it up to my flat to make sure it's safe I will stop cycling.
66. Have to take front wheel off to lock to railing
67. Takes up room in the flat, but still worth it.
68. There are four bikes competing for limited space in my stairwell. Only one bike at a time can be secured to the railings. If you don't get that space you have to just lock to your wheel and keep your fingers crossed.
69. The bike is kept in a small closet with another bike and other stuff. It is a hassle to get out and the gears and breaks sometimes get damaged and cables accidentally pulled out of place.

4. If you said that problems storing your bike affect your use of it, would you use your bike more if your problems were solved? If so, please describe how.

1. Need easy/quick access. Safe and dry storage.
2. If the bike was stored (securely) either at the foot of the stairwell or outside the building then I think I'd be more tempted to use the bike for my everyday journeys. Also if the storage had a locker area for your accessories/waterproof clothing, this would help greatly.
3. Yes - would use it for shorter journeys if it was easier to access
4. Joists or secure bits of metal on communal stair walls to padlock bikes to.
5. I would cycle at weekends, away from the roads. I get the bus to work and cannot cycle to work as it would involve going up Leith walk, along Princes Street and up Lothian road - the traffic is too scary!! I would cycle if there was a safe really separate cycle lane
6. I would be more likely to use my bike if it was easily accessible and secure at street level.
7. Absolutely. In my previous flat in Edinburgh, I was the only one who had a bike and I could easily roll it in, lock it, and roll it out. Now I find myself using it less and less because of the hassle of getting it out of the small area where all the other bikes are stored.
8. Would be more likely to use it at weekends- popping to shops or taking bottles to bottle bank.

9. I would store my bike in the stairwell on the ground floor if I hadn't had two bikes stolen from there in previous years.
10. Yes, if there was secure parking on street
11. If I had storage on the ground floor, it would be worth using the bike for short trips to the shops etc. Carrying a bike and shopping upstairs is difficult, even if the shopping is in a backpack. I used to do all my shopping with my bike when I lived in another city and had a garage to store my bike in.
12. I don't have a bike
13. Perhaps slightly more.
14. Yes. If the bike was outside, easily accessible, and ok to be left in a state that I could use it immediately I would use it a lot more. My flat is on the fourth floor so again, carrying up and down, with shopping, work bag etc. etc. puts me off. More relaxing to get on the bus. Well, to the point where the bus gets stuck in traffic and I wish that I was cycling! Essentially, like car users, if I could get going within a matter of seconds/minutes that would be perfect.
15. Yes, definitely. Some of the residents in our stair are thinking about collectively purchasing a small bike shed for our back garden, although even that would not be a complete solution, as again, there are narrow, awkward stairs to the garden, as well as a locked gate and a heavy door to negotiate.
16. Yes, I'd use it more for short trips
17. Yes, I'd get a bike for my partner as well.
18. If I had a safe place to store my bike at ground level I would be far more active and could get more done in the day.
19. If my bike was stored at ground level I would be more likely to use it as I wouldn't see it as so much of a chore.
20. I'm worried it might be stolen...
21. People could stop stealing bikes so i could put my bike in the space provided outside my flat
22. Probably - useful for short shopping journeys etc, or just cycling for fitness / leisure.
23. Knowing that I'll have to drag the bike up to the second floor after using it is a disincentive, especially in bad weather when I would probably have to clean up mud/slush/salt residue from the bike in my stairwell and front hall.
24. Yes, I would ride it considerably more, most likely every day
25. I'd feel happier getting a better, more expensive bike if I knew it was safe and secure.
26. I currently don't bother getting the bicycle out for journeys that will take less than ten minutes on foot, because it's too much hassle.
27. For short trips, I am put off by the effort involved in retrieving the bike, especially when I am wearing work clothes, or smart clothes, that get damaged from bike oil when I have to carry the bike up and down the stairs.
28. I would probably use my bike the same amount but it would make our flat a bit more spacious and I wouldn't keep banging my legs off pedals every time I walk through our small hallway.
29. I'm determined to use my bike for all my needs, but I think it puts others off - especially those living on the top floor.
30. Definitely, for short journeys to save time and to avoid trips that I would otherwise take by bus. Simply being able to lock it safely downstairs would mean I would use it much more often.
31. If there was a safer place to leave my bike at street level i would find using my bike much easier - on days when I often choose to walk over cycling due to the carrying or weather i would probably be much more likely to use it if it were available, and safely locked at street or ground floor level.
32. Yes. Both my girlfriend and I would use our bikes more if storage was improved. Secure, on-street or in-tenement storage would mean we would spend less time faffing about with multiple heavy locks and be more inclined to use our bikes more often. There would also be extra time spent cycling due to bikes not being stolen.
33. Yes - I'd use it for some journeys where there was a safe cycle route (your maps are great by the way). The lack of safe cycle routes is a larger barrier to use in general.
34. It doesn't stop me
35. I would use my bike more if it was more easily accessible.
36. It doesn't make a difference to how much I cycle, but it would improve my stairwell relations and would generally make life that little bit easier.
37. Bikes are chained to each other in the stairwell so sometimes I can't get to my bike.
38. More shopping instead of commuting/ Sunday rides

39. Easier and less awkward ways to secure my bike, for example short rings embedded in the floors would mean all bikes could be locked up and would be easier to access for a short trip somewhere.
40. Yes. If it was quicker to get the bike out and road ready (I have to remove the seat, for example), I'd be more likely to cycle to work. As it is, I usually walk.

**5. If you do NOT currently have a bike... would you have problems storing one at home?
If 'yes', please outline the problems (briefly)**

[NB not sure if some people answered both this and Qu 1 as total numbers seem too high]

3 said No

10 said Yes

1. I don't have room in the flat for it. My neighbour stores hers on the stairway outside my door (which is fine by me) but there's not enough room to store another one and people couldn't get past if I tried. We've had bikes stolen from the bottom of the stairwell and they wouldn't last in the back garden either. We do have a large metal storage container at the bottom of the stairwell but it's too small for bikes.
2. My bike was recently stolen from a railing near my flat, I had complaints from the neighbour about storing it inside on the ground floor, possible solutions thought of were to have a bike hoist like in Dutch houses. This would keep the ground floor clear and fire risk down whilst not needing to carry the bike 3 floors up each time. Another solution is a bike rack inside properly mounted.
3. Already one bike and a desk on the landing shared between two flats, so definitely no more room for another bike. Inside the flat there's no further storage for a bike either.
4. No storage facilities in flat, and would be unable to keep in the stair. Would love to have a bike!

6. If you do NOT currently have a bike, would you get and use one on a regular basis if it was easy to store at or near home?

[NB most respondents do currently have a bike]

1 No

1 Yes - rather than walk

1 Yes - rather than bus

2 yes - rather than use the car

“Other – please give details”:

1. Yes, if I had the storage space I would buy a revamped one and use it for travel around town. I'd be keen to use it to commute to work but I'd never get it on the train due to lack of spaces.
2. I used it regularly but it was stolen.
3. I don't commute anywhere at the moment but if I needed to I would prefer walking or cycling to public transport. I don't own a car.

7. [Whether or not you have your own bike] Do other people's parked bikes at home cause you any trouble?

48 % said No

52 % said Yes

(100 respondents)

1. For insurance purposes I cannot use my communal stairway to lock up my bike.
2. Block the stairwell. Need space under cover somewhere to store the bikes, and at ground floor level (without having to carry them up or down stairs)
3. Stairwell becomes blocked.
4. Too many bikes on stairway
5. They do clutter up the stairwell, and my stairwell is not very wide.

6. It is congested in the small stairwell/back door area, with four bikes chained up (including one which was left by a tenant who moved out two years ago.)
 7. Blocked stairwell and stairs because of too many bikes
 8. New tenants recently moved into the stair, they had to be given a key for the garden to put their bikes outside as there is only room for 1 bike at the foot of the stairs (in addition to my pram base and sometimes my neighbours push chair).
- Our stairwell doesn't even have a 'good' area for storing bikes so all the ones there obstruct the stairway a bit. There is a bit of space at the bottom of the stair which could probably be really well used for vertical storage of bikes, but there are two bikes locked up there covered in dust- I think the owners have long since moved away.
9. A neighbour's bike locked at the bottom of the stairs makes it difficult to get a brown bin through from the garden to the street.
 10. We have two bikes in our hall. They occasionally get in the way. They mark the wall and, in the winter, the mess the floor with mud and salt from the roads.
 11. Arrangement of bikes crowded and not ideal. Difficult to get bike in and out of the space.
 12. Occasionally people do try to store more than one bike on a landing which makes access more difficult.
 13. Over-crowding of bike store
 14. One of my neighbours attaches his bike to the railings on the second floor of my stairwell. Very easy to get around it if you aren't carrying anything. As soon as you try to get something past i.e. shopping, when I had a washing machine delivered, it all becomes a bit tricky.
 15. Bikes on stairwell can affect daily access and certainly carrying things up and down
 16. Not in our current flat, but previously, people's bikes have been stored inconsiderately, often making it difficult to get past.
 17. My neighbour complained about my bicycle but i do not think it caused him a problem.
 18. I don't mind them storing their bike locked on my fence. However, some people leave valuable and easily stolen items attached to the bike and this allows drunks late at night to steal stuff. I do not like that happening in my area.
 19. Unused bikes make it difficult to lock up mine
 20. Not always a convenient space for mine.
 21. Sometimes there are bike left on the landings, these are difficult to get past as the landings are very narrow.
 22. We have 6 bikes in total, they need a lot of space!
 23. Corridor filled up - fire hazard.
 24. Difficult to get around narrow stairwell anyway, with other bikes locked to the railings, makes more difficult because the bikes get caught on each other
 25. Just sometimes they lock theirs so that I can't get to mine.
 26. Just crowded. Not everyone uses it every day.
 27. Its awkward
 28. They can be a hazard in the stairwell.
 29. All the bikes are piled in different corners and the majority are not used, so they occupy spaces available for usable bikes.
 30. In stairwell causing conflict between some households
 31. Sometimes there can be too many bikes and not enough space to have them all locked up. Plus there's a couple of bikes that don't seem to have been touched for years!
 32. My tenement stair is missing three supports for the bannister near the bottom because thieves have kicked them out to steal bicycles attached to them. It's already not safe for toddlers, and won't be safe for anyone if another one goes, but it's really difficult to ensure that people (especially visitors to rental flats) don't park there. It's really hard to find workmen to quote to replace them because so few of them can pour lead (which is how they're set into the floor).
 33. As mentioned above, tenants in other flats lock their bikes to the bannisters, making it hard to squeeze past with mine. Also in the past bikes have been abandoned there, we had to saw through the bannisters to remove them.
 34. Only when they are locked to the railings when the small bike rack is full.
 35. just because there isn't enough space
 36. They're unsafe where they're stored and encourage dumping. The storage isn't very secure so I've been put off getting a new bike even though my bike is in desperate need of upgrading.
 37. If anyone else at home had a bike I would not have room

38. Because I have to carry mine upstairs!
39. The bikes make the stairwells very difficult to navigate!
40. Cluttering the stairwell
41. There's no space left for mine
42. Too many bikes in a cramped space
43. In our tenement stair there is only room for 2 bikes. Even these get stolen. I would like to park in our stair but there is not enough space for our bikes. Getting a cycle rack for the stair would be an option but would take some organisation and buy in
44. Not enough space for all the stairwell's bikes
45. Storage of bikes in stairwell can hinder me from getting my bike up & down stairs. It can also annoy neighbours who don't cycle.
46. If there are too many then they get crammed in and pedals knock spokes etc and risk damaging bikes
47. Locked to my bike
48. Sometimes too many bikes parked in communal stair. Get in way of back green access.
49. Bikes just left in hall blocking it to people and those carrying bikes up
50. Only in making it crowded at the bottom of the stair well and therefore occasionally difficult to extract my bike.
51. Block stairs, things get snagged on handlebars and pedals.

8. Would clear practical information on possible bike storage solutions (in-flat, in-stair, backgreen or on-street) be of interest to you?

92% said "Yes"
8% said "No".

(100 respondents)

9. If you had this type of information on tackling storage, what might you be interested in doing next?

41% (n=36) said yes to "Buy equipment etc to make practical improvements within your own home"
85% (n=75) said yes to "Discuss with neighbours/ other stairwell residents with a view to collective action (in stairwell/backgreen/on-street)"
52% (n=46) said yes to "Lobby your councillors / others to take action on your / other residents' behalf"

(88 respondents)

Other actions / comments:

1. I think careful consideration has to be given to the types of bikes people are storing in their homes and what purpose these bikes have, for example in the UK cycling is considered by many to be a sport/leisure activity but it isn't seen as form of transport for everyday use. As a result a lot of people have quite specialised (and expensive) bikes which they are reluctant to use for everyday use, leave in public places etc. These bikes will often spend most of the week or longer in storage, most likely in a flat or tenement! If this campaign is also about encouraging people to use their bikes more often (for utility journeys) then it's not only about providing secure storage in/near flats/tenements, it is also about providing the same level of quality/secure (and accessible) storage at the journey end point. It's important that new storage options are about making cycling more convenient/accessible and not about creating stores where people can keep their bikes for months on end (instead of their flat)!
2. I would pay to use a locker of some sort at street level.
3. Bikes are easier to carry up and down stairs than some prams and pushchairs, so any solutions to bike storage may also be useful to the parents of small children, whether they are cyclists or not.
4. I've seen on the internet that some European countries have hi-tech bike storage which takes up little space and keeps the bikes secure from thieves and from the weather (automated stacking systems). While it would be unrealistic to expect these city-wide, it is time for such solutions to be examined and introduced in certain areas of Edinburgh.

5. As I live on the top floor, I would rather carry my bike upstairs to chain it outside my door, rather than leave it downstairs. This is for security reasons. I would not consider leaving my bike outdoors, even in the backyard.
6. We have a basement that could be used for storage, but there are steep narrow wooden steps down to the basement and some adjustments would need to be made to the door. I would be interested to find out if it were possible to wall-mount a bike near the entrance to the basement. We do not have a backgreen for storage and there is not enough space on our landing to add bike storage - also putting a bike there would block light coming into the stair well.
7. The new flat development next to my block have a great outdoor cycle cage for the residents there. The block I'm in doesn't have a garden. But, there is a lot of space outside where bike lockers/cage could be placed on the main street or even in a section of the small play park that isn't used.
8. There really isn't space for cycle storage on the back green or in the stairwell, if there was we have used this solution before now. In my street we really need on street parking.
9. Security is the main issue. Myself and my partner have had several bikes stolen, and theft attempts from our stairwell, so I would want to know how to store our bikes in the stairwell (or perhaps in a joint storage area somehow) securely.
10. It can be really difficult for people in rented housing to make changes to their accommodation, particularly younger tenants - including students, but plenty of young professionals are also affected) who tend not to stay long-term at one address - often because the landlords and agencies who let to them provide a poor service. Sometimes bike storage is the least of your worries, and if you plan to move on in a year or so, you don't want to spend lots of money on improvements or hassle your landlord to do the work (or even to give you permission to do the work yourself)
11. On street lockers required as stair and access to backgreen to small for storage and too difficult.
12. I don't particularly know my neighbours and I live in rented accommodation so for me the best action would be if larger community bodies for example the council realised there is a demand for more safe bike storage and provided that for it's community. You see enormous bike sheds in other cities across the world but nothing like that in Edinburgh. I am sure if the city provided better bike storage facilities you would see a rise in people using bikes (it is fairly common sense) and whilst I understand there are many other projects needing funding from the council I think it would be money well spent to invest in long-term safe bike storage across the city, especially around residential areas as the common flats in Edinburgh do not have enough space for bikes to be stored in them.
13. I would use my bike every day if I was more confident cycling on the roads with my son but his nursery is on a very busy road (Pilrig Street) so I end up wheeling him on the pavement which means there are no time benefits to taking my bike.
Some bikes taking up space have obviously not been touched for years but I do not want to offend neighbours by asking for it to be removed.
14. As a student I would struggle to find the money to install home solutions, if not for the price but simply for the fact I will only live in the flat 9 more months at most.
15. If there was an easy, formalised way to set up and share costs for in-stair bike parking with neighbours i would definitely be interested.
16. It really depends on how viable the proposed solution was likely to be. If we had a means of securely parking our bicycles on the road (like cars do) this would reduce the barriers to cycling. Having it in backgreen wouldn't really help me as it's still a pain to get it to / from there. No-one expects motorists to carry their car up and down stairs. Secure on-road parking for bicycles would take up considerably less space than a car and would help give the message that cycles were a recognised form of transport. I'd happily lobby for this. I appreciate it is a harder ask, but interventions based on the bike still being carried into the tenement would probably just be greenwash. I imagine solutions based on storage in backgreens would be of use to some.
17. If Edinburgh is to be a cycle friendly city, this issue must be addressed.
18. Our flat is too small to hang bikes, I've done that previously (though not in a tenement flat). As a family we're keen cyclists (two bikes and a tandem), but i almost never use my own bike these days due to a combination of the storage problem and coping with a toddler on the stair. We're thinking of moving flat, but the nicest place we've seen has no groundlevel storage at all, not even for a buggy - the backgreen is accessed down steps and there is no other way of reaching it. Bike storage in tenements is a significant problem for a lot of people.

19. We have good cycle storage in our tenement but it's constantly full - often with bikes that never seem to be used. If we could have secure, or at least covered, cycle storage in the city centre/near residential areas, so that there is more space for storage this wouldn't be such a problem.
20. Advice of action for tenants can take would be great. Something to pass onto my landlord with financial pros of equipping the stairwell with secure storage? Maybe you have this, i haven't looked yet...

10. Final comments from respondents:

1. I've noticed a lot of student bikes locked to railings in the New Town. They would be an excellent audience for this survey. I'm sure Edinburgh World Heritage and the Neighbourhood Partnerships would also be interested in this survey.
2. The survey relates to one bike - which I have. I often have lodgers. If they bring a bike it has to be stored outside which is not great for security and it's out in the rain. It makes it much harder to own a bike. I have at times stored them inside the house, but it's almost impossible due to lack of space. So the problem isn't necessarily that bike storage problems make it more awkward to use the bike (although it is can be harder to access the bike in these situations) but more that people don't have a bike at all because there is no secure, accessible and dry storage. I would probably keep a second old bike for visiting friends and lodgers to use if there was somewhere good to keep them, but it's not an option at the moment. Hope this helps...
3. It would also be great to see more safe and practical bike parking facilities in the city centre. In the Netherlands they have indoor bike parking garages. Is there a space in the city centre that can be used for something like this for people going out at night or who would like to keep their bikes dry and safe during the day? Although this is normally free in the NL, I would be willing to pay a small parking fee if I knew it would be safe.
4. Not sure how much I can do as a renter - our agency tends to deny us making requests for improvements to the landlord. Could bike storage be made a condition of HMO licencing??? Perhaps not, hmmm
5. My partner keeps his bike in the stairwell and the owner (landlord) of the flat opposite asked him to move it as her fire inspection had said it was a hazard (its not preventing access in any way). She didn't press the point but it concerns me that landlords are getting official advice against bikes in shared tenement stairwells. n.b the previous owner of that flat managed to store 2 heavily modified bikes with added windshields and motors in the same space as my partner's 1 hybrid, so I really think the fire officer was being a bit over the top.
6. Lack of proper on street bike parking facilities is a far greater problem than personal storage issues. I would rather see more street furniture and secure bike storage areas outside.
7. I am unsure of the insurance implications of permanently storing a bike outside of my own home, but I believe there is a 24h abandonment clause. This may still apply to communal storage areas?
8. I like the Tollcross Energy & Carbon Saving group's bike rack scheme, and would be interested helping our community group (Transition Edinburgh South) to partner with Spokes to offer our local residents a similar offer..
9. Another issue is security in tenement stairs. I had my bike's wheels nicked before i moved it upstairs, and last week we had our bike trailer stolen overnight.