



The Lothian Cycle Campaign

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RESULTS FROM THE SPOKES SURVEY ON ON-STREET BIKE STORAGE

This survey was carried out during November / December 2010 (18 November - 15 December), mostly using an online form (SurveyMonkey). The survey was promoted to Spokes members and others via the Spokes website, Twitter (with various re-tweets) and hard copies were made available at the Spokes Public Meeting on 25 November. 66 responses were received. We requested that respondents only completed the survey if they were indeed interested in using on-street bike parking facilities, if provided. As such, the respondents were self-selected, but the survey responses and comments are of significant interest as they provide some very useful feedback, direct from potential users, to steer the design of the on-street storage facilities pilots currently under discussion with the City of Edinburgh Council.

Full Results, Including Comments Left

1. Where do you currently store your bike, if you have one (or where would you if you don't currently have one but wanted to get one)?

N=66

	No. of respondents	%
In-flat	23	35
Stairwell	21	32
Own garden / shed / cellar	11	17
Shared garden / shed / cellar	5	8
On-street	2	3
Elsewhere	5	8

(NB some respondents have more than one bike to store)

Comments

1. I am only able to do this as I live on the top floor where there is more space
2. I don't have one currently, but it would have to hang from the ceiling (if it's strong enough) as I don't have any other space to put it.
3. Nicer bike stored in flat, delapidated bike stored in stairwell.
4. Lockable Bike Room with door access to the street.
5. outside flat attached to useless bike rails, uncovered and wholly inappropriate
6. I alternate between locking it on the street outside my flat and around a tree in a shared garden, also outside. If it's raining I go for tree cover, but the bike gets wet anyway.
8. In mother's garage
9. In my bedroom cause I have no space for it - not ideal for getting in and out especially in winter
10. I cannot have a bike because there is literally nowhere for me to put it
11. In a cupboard.
12. Stuffed in my bedroom where I have to clamber over it every day depending which bike I want and whether I want to get anything that's behind it.
13. 2 bikes - 1 in flat; the other on stairwell.
14. We have had about 20 bikes stolen from our stair well over the years. Asked council many times to be in trial but no luck. Seem to talk about this for years but no action.

15. I used to keep one in my stairwell until everything was stripped off it and only the frame was left as it was D-locked to the banisters, on the second floor landing. Don't want to risk that happening to my new one!
16. I live in a tenement block in Marchmont, and while my husband and I (clog our kitchen up by) put our bikes inside our flat, there are a good 6 or so bikes blocking our entrance hall (and often the emergency exit/back stairs)
17. The stairwell of my tenement building is literally crowded with bikes, there are 7 in the entrance, 3 on the first floor stairwell expanding along the whole rail and beyond (making passing with bags quite difficult due to narrow corridor and wide handlebars), 2 more on the second floor, plus several more in flats.
18. currently in my bathroom
19. I have one in the flat and one in the stairwell.
20. Have more than one bike. Storage is a problem.
21. I am 70 and find hauling my bike up steps to the main door and then down steps to the cellar quite tough, although the cellar is secure and dry
22. Neighbours don't like it, and too heavy to keep carrying up and down 46 stairs
23. It is difficult taking it through the shared stair and out into the back garden. Also, the bikes are not under cover.
24. Shared bike racks to rear of undercroft parking below flats. Hidden from any overlooking. Repeated thefts and vandalism because of this (free access from street despite being private land).
25. Our shed is in our back garden and we therefore have to get the bikes through the flat to use them. I would use my bike more if it were stored at the front of the flat.

2. Do you think on-street bike storage would be a good idea in principle, thinking about your own bike storage needs and those of your neighbours?

N = 65

	No. of respondents	%
Yes	62	95
No	3	5

Comments...

1. As long as it allowed for specific allocation to the bike owner which was guaranteed for that person alone.
2. It would encourage me to use my bike more as it is a long way up to the top floor with my bike
3. but there's barely room for cars, so I'm not sure there would be room for bikes.
4. Only if storage is very secure.
5. I don't think it would be as secure, weatherproof or convenient as storage in the stairwell. I'd rather have a storage solution within the stairwell.
6. If bike was safe from weather and thieves it would be a great improvement. Save carrying bike up three flights to own flat
7. Definitely. There are about 8-10 bikes just in my flat either in the garden, right outside, or in the stairwell. Clearly there is a need, especially during the rainy months. I see far too many rusty chains out there that could've been avoided.
8. Provided it was completely secure, convenient to use and didn't cause problems for others
9. I would still be worried about theft though as my brother has a police secured box in his garden and it has been attempted to be broken into.
10. But only if it was very secure
11. We have a large brick bin storage thing in the grounds of the flat, which are unused. These could be converted to bike storage..
12. This would be ideal as I have very little space and the garden shed has regularly been broken into and items (including a bike) been stolen from it. Security is a huge issue which is why I keep my bikes in the house.
13. Definitely would improve safety
14. I have no back garden and can't keep it in the stairwell for safety, my flatmate has a bike too and in a tenement flat two mountain bikes take up a lot of room. Would be a great facility to have as long as it wasn't ridiculously expensive.
15. DEFINITELY!! There's a real need in Marchmont, where there are hundreds of bike users, many who resort to chaining their bikes to stairs (inside and outside)

16. As long as it is secure and sheltered it should be fine. Besides, I cannot see why private car owners have the right to park their vehicles on public space for free or for a ridiculous amount, and clean transport vehicles like bikes can barely find a secure enough place to do it in the street.
17. Several neighbours park bikes in the stair. A few have been stolen in the last couple of years usually by someone breaking the bannister rail
18. I would like to get a cargo-carrying trike for me, my 2 young daughters and shopping. It would be impossible to store one in the garden because 1) the gate is too narrow; and 2) cars are parked bumper-to-bumper in the road so we couldn't get a trike into the gateway.
19. I live in a tenement that has a narrow stairwell. There is not enough room to leave bikes without them sticking into the stairs, which is quite dangerous, but as there is not enough cellar space, tenants inevitably lock their bikes to the banisters. Which in turn makes it hard to get bikes out of the cellar and up to the entrance. We could REALLY use a covered outside facility.
20. Would be worried about capacity, security, damage, deterioration, etc.
21. vandalism and theft are the main problems. I have lived in London where on street storage with fixed racks works well but every so often there is a spate of vandalism/theft. It works best if racks are in places where they are overlooked.
22. For overnight, yes. But for longer than that, there is a risk of theft or vandalism, or weather damage (if not enclosed).
23. I often visit people in tenement flats and parking in stairs or in flats is a regular problem and sometimes leads to problems with neighbours. On-street bike lockers would be a great advantage. On-street parking for bicycles with Sheffield racks would be good, but the security of on-street bike lockers would be ideal. They would greatly encourage bicycle use while simultaneously discouraging car use.
24. I would need it to be secure and sheltered, though (computer, lights, rust avoidance...).
25. It would be fantastic and could benefit a lot of people in our council estate (Redbraes, off Broughton Road)
26. But it would need to be secure to protect against theft, vandalism and damage.
27. What about spaces in shared gardens?

3. One possibility might be to install storage facilities (racks or possibly some type of covered facility) using a couple of parking spaces in a street. How far would be reasonable to have to walk from your home's street entrance to get a bike from the on-street store?

N =65

	No. of respondents	%
50m	22	34
100m	23	35
200m	15	23
Other	5	8

Comments...

1. My area is quite built up, so it would make sense to have a communal storage rather than one or two sets, but possibly that wouldn't work, so probably 200m would be fine.
2. Small and more frequent on-street storage would be more useful and encourage more people to use the facilities.
3. I would be willing to walk further, however, again it would have to be ridiculously secure as thieves would still try... I am not sure I would feel confident in leaving my bike there.
4. Distance is not so bad for convenience but knowing it is nearby where you can possibly keep an eye on it would put my mind at ease rather than constantly fretting to see whether my bike has been stolen or vandalised.
5. I use my bike because it's quicker to get to work as I just hop on it and go but if it was more than 50m I might as well use my car as it is never parker further than that.
6. As long as it was very secure, and covered.
8. How far depends on how secure it is. I'd walk further for a more secure, enclosed, store.
9. No further than the distance a car driver would expect to walk to their car - perhaps there's data on that.
10. If the store is secure, wouldn't mind how far it was.
11. They'd have to be this close together in tenement areas for there to be enough of them, anyway.
12. I would be concerned about security if the store wasn't in site of my flat

13. 100m is reasonable, but given there is car parking outside every flat, there should be bike parking outside at least every 1 in 5 blocks.

4. Given that enclosed / lockable containers might make installation less likely (design / aesthetic and management issues, as well as cost)... realistically, what level of security from theft do you think would be necessary for the storage to be an attractive option for you, compared to current storage options? [tick all that apply]

n = 66

	No. of respondents	%
Something that a bike frame and wheels could be secured to, using owner's lock(s) (e.g., Sheffield racks, as currently used on pavements around Edinburgh)	19	29
Something that encloses bikes to some degree, with owners responsible for making them secure with locks	25	38
Enclosed and lockable communal containers (e.g., a bike shed with keys / PINs for access)	35	53
Enclosed and lockable individual containers (e.g., lockers)	26	39

Comments...

1. I wouldn't lock my bike up outside if it wasn't covered.
2. People should be responsible for the security of their own bikes. If there were communal keys, PINs, etc., and an external party got access to them, then any communal security features would be rendered pointless.
3. At this point anything with a permanent rain cover is an attractive option. Also some signs posting 'security camera' - and maybe an actual CC camera! - are helpful. I sometimes lock my bike outside a nearby building that has security cameras, but it's not covered from the rain there either. I think a simple 'bus shelter for bikes' type design would be a good start for 'commuter' bikes.
4. in the view of CCTV
5. Part of the problem with security for bikes (given insurance will not cover a locked bike on the street, as far as I know, especially for higher value bikes) is that someone with a cheap bike can gain access to a communal area and abuse that access to steal bikes. On a separate train of thought, the number of bikes I have seen around with rusty chains/parts etc is unimaginable. Because the most of people that use bikes for commuting have a cheap bike they tend to not know much about maintenance and having something enclosed is more protective of the bike.
6. My main reason for wanting storage is to protect my bike from the rain. I can securely lock it to a lampost but its getting rusty!
7. Would need to be as secure as currently available options - and something which did not invalidate insurance policies. So just racks possibly not enough for overnight use. Have back green storage options been considered?
8. It would need to be facility that the bike was locked inside of, bike thieves can and will strip down a bike of all its bits as they did with mine.
9. Obviously we'd have to see how this went in terms of bike theft; a lockable container in which the owner could use their own locks inside AS WELL would be much more desirable.
10. A communal bike shed with keys/PINs would be ideal, as long as it has fixed racks to lock the bike to. In any case, it should be sheltered from the rain.
11. Ensure that there's enough space for trikes etc. between or at the end of sheffield racks
12. This could also allow prams to be stored, as that is also a problem for people in higher flats.
13. The important thing is that vandals can't stomp the wheels
14. Enclosed individual containers would be best.
15. Something lockable and covered would be ideal. Buggies and pushchairs could also be stored there, locked to sheffield stands etc.

16. I would not be willing to use on-street storage that was not weatherproof and met the requirements of my insurance, which means not being classed as "outside" overnight. Enclosed and lockable communal containers would only be acceptable if there was something inside the communal containers for bikes to be individually secured to. Otherwise you're relying on every other user to never disclose the PIN, lose the key, steal your bike etc.
17. Users should be required to register (with ID) and pay a deposit for key / pin-card, to ensure that resources are granted only to genuine users and to discourage infiltration / access by thieves.
18. Need a degree of weather-proofing and appropriate siting – will let, not too easily vandalised.
19. A Sheffield rack with a roof for the rain.

5. Thinking about the street where you live, ideally, should bikes in any on-street storage facility be?

n = 61

	No. of respondents	%
Visible to passers-by	34	55
Out of sight	27	44

Comments...

1. Not ideal in the area where I live - but there will be issues around visual impact!
2. Ideally out of sight but this may be hard to achieve
3. They wouldn't be able to be out of sight on my street.
4. It really is not a problem for me but the aesthetics might be an issue for non cyclists
5. Not only should shelters be enclosed to keep bikes out of site, and thus remove temptation, but it would also help protect bikes from the weather.
6. Ideally out of sight, but to be honest something is better than nothing and just a simple covered bike shelter would be a good start.
7. This is a difficult one - being visible to passers by makes it more obvious that they are there but makes it safer after dark etc. Being out of sight may make them less likely to attract casual vandalism.
8. no opinion as long as secure
9. difficult one, but thieves would go looking for them and would find out about their existence so would then have privacy to steal them if out of sight, so in sight would be better!
10. Don't know, would want to see research about which discouraged theft
12. Ideally unseen, the less conspicuous the better.
13. Although maybe providing a temptation to thieves, visibility is on balance probably best as people would notice if anything untoward is happening and possibly from a security viewpoint as I'd imagine people against them would argue that explosives could be hidden in them otherwise.
14. Visible will make them more secure & encourage their use
16. why out of sight? cars aren't. Also: I hope that visibility would deter theft.
17. It would probably not be realistic to have them out of sight.
19. Our square is overlooked on all four sides which acts as a deterrent to theft.
20. As noted above, I have undercover private bike racks with my flat. However they are not overlooked at all, and there is persistent vandalism and theft.
21. Out of sight to passers-by, within view of people living in the block
22. The facility should be visible to encourage passive surveillance by passers-by. Unsure about the visibility of bikes inside, if not locked container – might attract vandalism by drunks etc?
23. Bike storage visible; bikes perhaps less visible (e.g., shelter with back-to-front access')
24. I could store my every-day bike on-street if it was covered. My special bike would need to be out of sight and secured well.

6. Bearing in mind that designs involving roofs etc might make the necessary permissions less likely, as well as being more expensive. What level of weather protection would be necessary, for the storage to be attractive compared to your existing options?

N = 66

	No. of respondents	%
Uncovered is fine, if the design means it's possible to secure bikes adequately with locks	13	20
Covered racks would be good to keep rain off	22	33
I'd only use it if it was enclosed	31	47

Comments...

1. Covered is fine so long as the covering is adequate taking into account driving rain
2. Many people have bikes costing several hundred pounds. Enclosure is the only option in this case.
4. Leaving bikes uncovered and open to the rain will put people off as water can rust the bike and chains.
5. But I'm sure that others in my block (ie the ones who leave their bikes in the way downstairs!) would be prepared to use an uncovered rack.
6. Although enclosed should be the ideal option.
7. The damp weather in Scotland makes leaving bikes in an uncovered space really unattractive; they rust really quickly.
8. I could leave bike outside now, locked, and secure, but not enclosed. If covered rack would keep wind from blowing rain and snow, that would definitely be acceptable.
9. I would need it to be secure and sheltered, though (computer, lights, rust avoidance...).
10. My bike really suffers from being stored outside. There's no advantage having bike racks here unless they are covered, as we have a plethora of railings to attach bikes to.
11. Would be willing to pay rent for a good quality secure facility of £20-£50/year, i.e., under £1/week.
12. Uncovered only attractive for temporary storage, not long-term

7. Thinking about the street where you live, and bearing in mind the costs of installation and management, how important would CCTV coverage be?

N=65

	No. of respondents	%
Not very important	30	46
Potentially a good idea	32	49
Important	0	0
Very important	3	5

Comments...

1. CCTV has been shown to have relatively little impact on bike thieves, and many other residents may view it as overly intrusive.
2. Theft is fairly rife in my area of town and because in the past I have been victim of robbery from the shed, CCTV would be very important in my opinion as it acts partly as a deterrent and if it fails as such would be invaluable in the recovery of any stolen goods.
3. Would prefer covered storage than cctv
4. Lockable sheds are more of a deterrent than CCTV.
5. But not vital
6. Depends on how secure it is - if just open racks then CCTV might be good, but I'd rather have enclosed storage so that bikes are more secure themselves and then CCTV isn't necessary
7. That won't stop people trying to steal the bikes if they want to steal them.
8. Only useful if followed up - never followed up in my experience for bike vandalism or theft. Better to make sure owners get their bikes security marked
9. Near the Police station, but not staffed in the evening or weekend.
10. If the storage was not a lockable shed then I would be more likely to use it if there was cctv
11. I live right behind a police station but if I didn't, cctv would be more important

12. Again, if there was a monthly / annual rent or a deposit this should be affordable and webcam-style cameras are cheap.
13. CCTV only installed temporarily in theft blackspots.

8. People have different views on bike storage. Various factors need to be considered: de-cluttering stairwells and streets of bikes; loss of parking spaces (though better cycle storage for everyday cycling may actually help by encouraging some people to cease owning / using a car); possibly, young people hanging around in open bike shelters (though design - e.g., vertical bike storage - may mean they're only attractive for storing bikes).

Thinking about your area, do you think others living near you would, on balance, be in favour of providing more bike storage in the form of some type of on-street facility (e.g., racks, possibly covered)?

N=65

	No. of responses	%
Yes	38	58
No	9	14
Don't know	18	28

Comments...

1. Hopefully. Port of Leith Housing Association has houses around here, so they may well be interested.
2. Many see the idea of bike storage visible on the street in any form as unacceptable, but then they probably do not use a bicycle at the moment. Future rising fuel costs may change attitudes.
3. Definitely. Like I said there are the same bikes locked up outside regularly, either in the garden or on metal racks on the street.
4. I don't know any other cyclists nearby, but I don't know if my neighbours would be against the idea.
5. As previously mentioned, many of the people that live in my area will agree that security is a huge issue. Anywhere that is a shelter seems to attract crowds of drunk young people who cannot help but damage the environment around them. In addition to that, they will agree with my concerns of security for the more vindictive theft of bikes.
6. It is a topic discussed among all sorts of people on my street, with or without bikes of their own, and I hear strong support for such provision.
7. As far as I'm aware, we don't currently have a problem with 'loitering youths' in our area. (Unless you count the students!!) I wouldn't have thought that building the covered bike racks would create a problem.
8. In the private estate that I live in, there are ample racks for bikes to be stored outside in all weather. This satisfies most people, however the very high rate of theft that I experienced from using these facilities mean that I don't find it acceptable. People who are not aware of the theft issues (until it hits them next) don't mind what there is.
9. Most car drivers won't be happy, but many cyclists will.
10. I live on a quiet, older residential street off Viewforth. While there are some rented flats there I think that some of the existing homeowners would be very opposed to it. The street is a cul-de-sac which would allow for a good spot at the end of the street. However, I would imagine some people would object to the storage detracting from the character of the street.
11. I think that cycle users would be very happy to have covered storage space available. But inevitably I also imagine that if these were to mean reduced car parking spaces there might be some opposition, as car parking space is also in short supply.
12. Tenement (non-bike owners) neighbours would be pleased to have bikes taken away from stair. Most do not own car, so would have no reason to complain about fewer car parking spaces.
13. Some kind of communal storage area with a lock would deter people using it as a gathering point.
14. There is space in our stair to lock bikes and people feel very strongly about parking availability. Other people in different stairs probably feel differently
15. Yes, but I think it would need to be more secure than just plain racks, but more racks never hurts.

9. If on-street storage (with overnight use in mind) was installed using Sheffield Stands racks or similar, in an area where it could clearly be seen, would you use it in preference to your current storage option(s)?

N = 65

	No. of responses	%
Yes, even if uncovered	8	12
Yes, if covered	22	34
No	21	32
Maybe	15	23

Comments...

1. But only if my insurance covered it.
2. Again, many people have bikes costing several hundred pounds. These need to be out of site so as not to tempt professional thieves or opportunists, and need to be protected from the weather so the mechanical integrity of the bike is not affected.
3. If it was enclosed and at least equivalent to my current storage
4. Only because my bikes are both expensive and I have been the victim of crime twice in one year so I am very cynical. I would only use it if it had been proven that it was safe. i.e. no thefts. If I had a cheaper bike that thieves wouldn't be so interested in then I might.
5. Shiny bikes in plain view in a non-central (ie, not very busy) location in my opinion will attract the bad kind of attention.
6. Just don't think my bike would be safe, during the day, let alone at night.
7. I might not always use it nor would I leave my bike there when I am away for more than a couple of days.
8. We actually chose our flat (which we own) on the basis that there was space inside it for bikes, and only one flight to carry them up. If the racks already existed, we would have had a far greater selection of flats to choose between!!
Again, I really do feel that many of the other bike users in our area would be even more likely to use the racks, especially if they were covered, but even if they're not.
9. I would keep my bike indoors if there is no enclosure.
10. I would be concerned about theft as I know of several people who have had bikes stolen in the central Edinburgh region.
11. Sometimes... especially if I was only storing the bike for a short while. I'd be more likely to use storage racks when visiting friends who live in tenement flats
12. If I felt bike was safe, yes. I use uncovered racks in London in safe areas, not in others.
Could you run a competition to get innovation in to design and ideas for preventing bike theft - the London Design Centre did this some time ago and there were some interesting ideas which now that cycling is more popular might be worth looking at again.
13. At present, my shared back green is quite secure, but uncovered, so my main interest is in covered/enclosed solutions. I can see if I lived in a different area that just secure parking would also be attractive.
14. Possibly yes even if uncovered - current bike store suffers frequent vandalism and theft to bikes; although currently undercover, would rather have a rusty bike than no bike...
15. If it was deemed adequate by my insurance company, and I had peace of mind that it was secure, and my neighbours objected to me keeping my bike in the stair, then on-street storage would be worth looking at
16. Would need to be covered (rain / rust) and in a secure container / shed. Am still willing to pay!
17. Useful as overspill area if own storage too full!
18. The Council will currently install compost bins in shared garden for tenements. What about installing covered locking spaces for bikes in the gardens too?

10. Other, Final Comments Left by Respondents

1. Thinking that many private garages are unused. I would be ready to pay e.g. £50/month to get a share of my close neighbours' garages for my family bikes. Could such a scheme be organised as a way to offer flexible solutions of sheltered and secure storage, utilising available space, and why not getting neighbours to talk?
2. The flats on Harrison Park at West Bryson Road provided token bike racks but they were always unsatisfactory, bike being left for years have been a constant nuisance
3. This is something that I would love to see in action. I have racked my brain for more practical in house solutions to bike storage, but nothing seems to work due to either practicality or damage to the bike. While I appreciate that having a bike shed as secure as one's home is incredibly difficult to roll out city-wide, it would unfortunately be the only occasion where I would use an external bike storage, especially overnight. If I were to use a commuter bike (a cheap, old, used bike) I would happily leave the bike locked out in plain view with a cheaper Sheffield rack and this would definitely increase people's use of bikes to go to work and back, I fear that many people do not have the money to run more than one bike, and that they would be reluctant to lock their pride and joy outside overnight. Unfortunately I seem very pessimistic about the whole idea, but this couldn't be farther from the truth. My concern is that the council will not justify the expense of having pricey secure sheds and non cyclists will further demonise cyclists who they consider to be nothing but "road tax dodging" people.
I think a more successful approach would be to offer comprehensive bike storage in the town centre rather than in residential areas as this would encourage people to go to work on their bike, while not having to shell out the money for a city-wide storage scheme.
4. Better on-street provision would be great, and for evening trips out etc in city centre. However for overnight storage at home i'd probably still opt for holding my bike in my kitchen...
5. A concern may be that - like the shared garden I use (where the bikes are chained to trees) - bikes are locked up and then forgotten about (i.e. the owner moves away and leaves it behind or simply never uses the bike etc), thereby preventing others from using the facilities.
6. I think this is a great initiative and understand the cost implications but unless it is closed unit, like a shed or locker it is not going to be safer than keeping my bike in my flat. Bike thieves in Edinburgh are devious, omnipresent and seemingly deterred by very little. However please do keep me informed.
7. Suggestion: use disused shop units as a bike park. Users would need to pay a rental and seedcorn funding would be needed, but could be commercially viable?