

We have 3 main communications. Our flagship **Spokes Bulletin** is 3 times a year – printed, and on our website under the Bulletin tab. Our electronic-only **Action-Update** goes to all emailable members “roughly monthly,” when there are enough important developments, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and road, traffic and planning matters. **Spokesworker** is now a very occasional document, basically a souped-up Action-Update, but on paper as well as online. It is usually produced for occasions when paper is useful – for example at public meetings. Action-Updates and Spokesworkers both also appear on our website under the Spokesworker tab.

To keep in touch with events, developments and opportunities, be a Spokes member and make sure we have your email address.

If you **tweet** about our public meeting – before, during or after – please use hashtag #SpokesMtg.
If you blog, send us the link and we may link to it.

Spring Public Meeting • Thursday 6 April 2017

SPOKES
www.spokes.org.uk

Edinburgh Council Hustings
all welcome!

www.walkcyclevote.scot

- CON** Cllr Nick Cook
Morningside
- GREEN** Cllr Nigel Bagshaw
Inverleith, Spokes member
- LAB** Cllr Maureen Child
Portobello/Craigmillar, Spokes member
- LIBDEM** Hal Osler
Inverleith
- SNP** Cllr Adam McVey
Leith



Scottish Local Government Elections
Thursday 4 May

Question the candidates on cycling and transport policy

Twitter hashtags: #SpokesMtg

STARTS 7.30pm DOORS OPEN 6.45pm

Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Come early ☕ coffee 🗺 Spokes stall 🖼 exhibition 🗨 chat

Organised by **Spokes The Lothian Cycle Campaign**
St Martin's Community Resource Centre, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JG spokes@spokes.org.uk (0131) 313 2114 (Answerphone)
www.spokes.org.uk Twitter: @SpokesLothian

ELECTION HELP

- ◆ If you hear of a **local hustings** – e.g. organised by a community group or interest group - please let us know. We hope to have a website article listing all known hustings, so that you can go along and ask questions about cycling & transport.
- ◆ All Spokes members were sent a [WalkCycleVote](http://www.walkcyclevote.scot) postcard in the Spring mailing. Use it to give to one of your candidates, with a local issue/ question written on it. We still have a number of cards left – contact us if you'd like several.
- ◆ Check out our other election ideas on p6 of [Spokes #127](http://www.spokes.org.uk).

RENEW or JOIN SPOKES

At our public meeting there will be a table to join Spokes - or to renew if you haven't yet done so this year [if possible bring your renewal form]. If you're not a member, **please join Spokes !!**

We keep members in touch with what's happening and also let you know when/why it's a good time to email politicians.

IMPORTANT NEWS

Since Spokes Bulletin #127 went to press...

SCOTTISH BUDGET PASSED

The **Scottish draft budget** has been passed – with no change on cycling investment. The **rise** in trunk road spending (£146m) is **nearly 4 times** the total for walking and cycling for the whole of Scotland (£39m). For every adult and child in Scotland the government plans to spend £150 on trunk roads this year, and just £7 on walking and cycling.

EDINBURGH ON CL+ FINAL SHORTLIST

Edinburgh Council has won 2 of the 5 places in the Sustrans **Community Links Plus** shortlist [Bulletin 127, p7] – for *Meadows to George Street* and *West Edinburgh 'Mini-Holland.'* The final winner(s) will be known this summer and will receive significant funding for their 'ambitious' scheme(s). Meanwhile Edinburgh's West-East route is strongly expected to receive funding through the ordinary Community Links scheme.

LEITH STREET CLOSURE / OPPORTUNITY?

Leith Street is to close for 10 months from 4 September, to all but walk, cycle and emergency vehicles, for the St James work [[Evening News 1.3.17](http://www.eveningnews.co.uk)]. This would be a great opportunity for the Council to consider permanent closure. At the least one traffic lane could be removed at the top, to extend the Leith Walk segregated cycleways right up to Princes Street, instead of just to Calton Road as is currently proposed. *If you agree, speak to your councillors and your council election candidates!*

ODDS & BODS

EDINBURGH BIKE STATION

Following last year's big fire, the **Bike Station** remains open in their temporary space in the warehouse at 246 Causewayside. The roof in the fire-damaged building is being repaired and they hope to re-open in April. Thanks to all the supporters who responded to the crowdfunder appeal last year which raised £16,230.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

This Edinburgh University website is always full of interesting and useful ideas and events. Sign up for their newsletter too ... www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability. The university transport pages are also worth a look, with loads about cycling – a good model for other employers. See www.ed.ac.uk/transport.

FIGHTING TOXIC POLLUTION

Inspired by the BBC *So I Can Breathe* pollution series, FOE Scotland has launched an e-action asking the Scottish Government to take a series of measures, including European-style investment in cycling, to tackle pollution. See act.foe.scot/act-now-clean-air.

SHUT THE M8 FOR A DAY AND LET'S HAVE A PARTY...
...in parts of central Glasgow. If you agree, sign the petition at... you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/shut-the-m8-to-traffic-for-a-day-and-let-us-have-a-party. The page also has a great collection of examples of other cities that have done this – some permanently!

FREQUENT FLYER LEVY

Transform Scotland and the Campaign for Better Transport are lobbying Westminster for a Frequent Flyer levy so that those who fly the most are taxed the most, with the revenue used to support greener alternatives. More details at: www.afreeride.org. And there's a Parliamentary petition at www.bettertransport.org.uk/ask-your-mp-support-frequent-flyer-levy.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ *Mar 25, May 21, Sep23, Oct 28* [Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Spokes Stall, Castle Terrace, morning](#) – come and say hello! And buy Spokes maps at our special stall price.
- ◆ *Mar 1-31* **Edinb University, Spring into Cycling** Cycling opportunities for staff and students – good ideas for other workplaces! www.ed.ac.uk/transport/news/spring-into-cycling
- ◆ *Mar 15* **Locality Improvement Plans, Edinburgh** 2-4.30, Out of the Blue, 36 Dalmeny Street. Discuss environmental priorities for Edinburgh 's 4 Localities. More info and booking at lip-15mar.eventbrite.co.uk.
- ◆ *Mar 15* **Davidsons Mains Path** drop-in – see *Consultations*.
- ◆ *Mar 20* **Sit Less, Get Active** Start of 3-week free online course run by Edinburgh University, including Spokes member Prof Chris Oliver. www.coursera.org/learn/get-active
- ◆ *Mar 26* **Mothers' Day WalkCycleVote Action** Bangholm Outdoor Centre, 10am. Cycle around Edinburgh paths with children in tow (if you have any!) handing out #walkcyclevote leaflets to families. We hope for press coverage, and there'll be a photographer so you should be able to get a good photo of yourselves too! Back at Bangholm by 12ish. For more info, email... contact@walkcyclevote.scot. All welcome!!
- ◆ *April 2* **Bikes for Refugees** Fancy-dress 45-minute city centre bike ride in aid of Bikes for Refugees, which refurbishes bikes to donate to refugees & asylum seekers. Starts 11am, top of Middle Meadow Walk. Prizes/stalls at end. *More info...* twitter [@Bikes4Refugees](#). [Facebook](#). email jennytizard@gmail.com.
- ◆ *April 4* **Women's political speed dating** 6pm at Glasgow Women's Library. Roundtable discussions/ informal talk with women election candidates – aiming to encourage dialogue, not political point scoring. Email contact as for Mar 26 above.
- ◆ *April 6* **Spokes Election Hustings** – see poster.
- ◆ *April 7* **Future Vehicle Showcase** Drop-in 1100-1600. Edin Centre for Climate Innovation, High School Yards, Infirmary Street. Includes lots of cycling stuff and possible Spokes stall. www.sciencefestival.co.uk/event-details/future-vehicle-showcase Other bike-related events at www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability/events
- ◆ *April 22* **PoP Edinburgh & Aberdeen** pedalonparliament.org
- ◆ *April 23* **PoP Glasgow** pedalonparliament.org
- ◆ *May 5* **Council Elections** See article. And, if necessary, register to vote - at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote - do it now!!
- ◆ *Jun 8-18* **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** edfoc.org.uk Includes
 - *Wed 14* **Spokes public meeting – Tackling Road Danger**
 - *Thu 15 (not Wednesday)* **Spokes Bike Breakfast**
- ◆ *Sep (?)22* **Car-Free Sunday** Edinburgh Council is considering a car-free Sunday in September, in which streets will be closed to motor traffic, to allow local events. Road closures will be decided from event ideas submitted by local groups. The Council will handle the closure, bus re-routing, etc. *Send your ideas for the road closure and the events that you and others could organise to* southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk.

HELP SPOKES!!

- ◆ **Wanted: Stalls organisation help**

Stalls are vital for Spokes, bringing our presence to community festivals, public meetings, conferences, etc. We have quite a few volunteers to help at stalls but **background organisation** is essential to arrange dates, organise volunteers, stall materials, and so on. Without this, our stalls wouldn't be feasible.

We also hope to do more stalls as part of community events/ programmes. To help, by volunteering to help at stalls, or, even better, helping organise stalls in your or other communities, email Mknottenbelt1@gmail.com or phone 07501 381018.

For the future, Mies the current stalls organiser would really appreciate someone to work with as a deputy – and possibly become main organiser at some future point. There is support from Mies and Spokes Resources Group, which meets roughly monthly at 7pm. Incidentally, we're also hoping to do more to support volunteers: briefings, annual get-together, etc.

- ◆ **Wanted: policy expert**

Our Planning Group manages to respond to virtually all *cycle scheme* consultations and relevant *planning applications*, but we sometimes don't have sufficient expertise and/or time to respond to *policy* consultations. For example - *Future of the Planning System in Scotland* [see *Consultations* article] could affect cycling significantly, for good or bad, but it looks like we won't make a submission. We need someone to do a draft for Planning Group comment before submission. There are several such policy consultations most years, so someone who could join Planning Group would be ideal (it meets every 4-5 weeks).

- ◆ We have plenty copies of new **Spokes Bulletin #127**. Could you take some to leaflet bikes at your work, shopping areas, etc? Either one-off for this bulletin or regularly (3 times a year).
- ◆ We are active on **facebook** and **twitter** [[@SpokesLothian](#)]. Please like or RT posts/tweets that you support. Our latest tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.

SPOKES MAPS

- ◆ Unfortunately we have not kept an **archive collection of past editions of Spokes maps**, and would very much like to have a couple of copies of each edition. The only back copies we do have of the Edinburgh map are 1987; 1994; 8th edition (year?); 9th edition (2010). If you have a missing map you no longer need - or early Lothians map editions - we'd appreciate it!
- ◆ **East Lothian map** We hope to produce a new edition early this summer. If you have comments/corrections please email them urgently to tim@vizualz.co.uk.
- ◆ **Edinburgh map** Our new water- and tear-resistant Edinburgh map has been selling really well. A great idea is to buy a supply at the bulk rate to re-sell at your workplace or a cycle group. See bulk prices at www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps.

CONSULTATIONS

- ◆ *Check the websites below for current (and past) consultations*
- ◆ *Please do respond to all consultations that concern you*
- ◆ *Send us a copy of your response asap, so we can take it into account in the official Spokes response.*

EDINBURGH COUNCIL

See consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk

Braid Road safety measures [ends 26.3.17]

A series of short, medium and long-term proposals which came out of a local consultation - more cycling consideration needed.

Davidsons Mains Park [ends 7.4.17]

To improve the width, surfacing, lighting of the path connecting Queensferry Rd to East Barnton Av, and improve QF Road signal crossing. As well as the online consultation there will be a staffed exhibition/drop-in, 5-8pm on Wed 15 March at Blackhall Library.

EAST LOTHIAN

See eastlothianconsultations.co.uk

MIDLOTHIAN

See www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open

Includes the Council physical activity strategy [closes 17 March]

WEST LOTHIAN

See www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations/

Includes... *Green Networks Guidance* [closes 7 April] and *Residential Developments Planning Guidance* [closes 7 April]

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

National Transport Strategy (NTS) Review [ends 31 March]

See the background info and a link to an online survey at... www.transport.gov.scot/strategy/national-transport-strategy.

This is an initial consultation, requesting themes for the new NTS. For example, *What do you think are the main transport challenges and opportunities over the next 20 years?*

Future of the Scottish Planning System [ends 4 April]

This is a major and extensive consultation, likely to affect cycling development significantly, but very complex to understand, so Spokes may not be able to respond [see 'Help Spokes' article].

consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning If you respond, please send us a copy asap!