

Spokes Action Update 09.08.18

... This is a circular to emailable Spokes members. If you recently sent us a change of email address it may not yet be in our database, so this message may go to your old address or possibly to both.

... **Please check below carefully for everything that concerns you, then follow it up.**

1. Spokes central organisation - *help is essential!!*

Spokes is fortunate in having many members who take on individual one-off tasks, such as helping at mailouts or at stalls, or contacting their councillors or MSPs – and many other such one-off tasks. However there has to be a central core of volunteers who work together on a more regular ongoing basis to keep the organisation functioning effectively – indeed without this we'd not be able to create the above one-off opportunities!

- ◆ **Office Manager(s)** This is an really vital task, and could be shared between 2 people. Our current volunteer, Judy, who has looked after the office and related matters for several years, wants a change after the summer, so we need a replacement. **We have already advertised this once, so please do consider whether you might be able to volunteer, or try it out.**
 - Initially you could work with Judy, to pick things up. Judy says, *"This is a varied job, with the chance to meet a range of Spokes volunteers and contribute to our effectiveness. It helps to be an organised person and able to get on with a range of people."*
 - The **time commitment** is a few hours per week on average, but could be less, especially if shared. Attendance at some of the evening Resources Group meetings held in the office or a member's house (every 3 weeks or so) is also helpful and provides ongoing support and a sounding-board. The job could be split between two volunteers, for example as below ...
 - (a) **Dealing with letters received at Spokes Office** [someone else deals with email and phone] Processing new member and membership renewal forms, small map orders, miscellaneous enquiries. Recording and banking payments by cash and cheque and liaising with Treasurer, membership database team, Resources Group Co-ordinator etc
 - (b) **Office Management** Ensuring supplies for new member packs, stalls, Resources Group meetings, including replenishing Spokes maps from the map store. Frequent liaison with Resources Group Co-ordinator, Stalls organiser, St Martins Community Resource Centre (our Landlords).
 - *If you might be interested* please email spokes@spokes.org.uk. **This job is vital to Spokes!!**
- ◆ **Stalls assistant organiser** Spokes ran 21 stalls during the first six months of the year, raising £726 and recruiting around 15 new members. We are really grateful to the many members who volunteer to help on stalls. However at present we only have one central stalls organiser, Mies, and she has new employment commitments coming. **So we very much need an assistant stalls organiser** to work with Mies – otherwise we will have to cut down on the number of stalls we run.
 - Stalls are an interesting opportunity to meet the public, and are very varied. Whilst many are at community festivals, others are at conferences or at environmental events such as the Science Festival Low Carbon travel event, giving great opportunities to meet and liaise with people and organisations with interests relevant to Spokes.
 - *If you might be able to help with this* please email mknottenbelt1@gmail.com.

2. Spokes West Lothian & Livingston 2018 bike map

Our new map is out and has been launched by West Lothian Council Deputy Convener, Councillor [Kirsteen Sullivan](#). There's a full article about the map and the launch on our website [here](#). It includes a fascinating document by map designer Tim Smith on how the map was surveyed and produced – *How the West was Done!!* Also a letter we have sent to a number of schools to which we donated leftover copies of the 2012 map – the letter shows the myriad ways that our maps can be used as an educational resource.



3. Spokes Summer Competition – *closes 2 September*

- ◆ Our summer competition has a wide range of fantastic prizes. Please enter **and** tell friends!!
- ◆ This year we want to hear of something – anything! - whether an idea, a product, a cyclist route, or whatever - which has *transformed your cycling life*. Full details of the competition, and how to enter, here... www.spokes.org.uk/2018/08/spokescomp-my-cycling-transformation.
- ◆ Our competitions are not just a chance for you to win a prize, but also so we get a wide range of ideas and experiences on how people and the city are benefiting from getting about by bike. We can then publicise the ideas so other people get inspired. *Therefore by entering the competition you are helping not just yourself, but also Spokes and the wider community.*
- ◆ The prizes ...
 - **ScotRail**: Return standard class ticket for 2 adults + 4 kids between any 2 Scottish stations
 - **Edinburgh Bike Coop**: Edinburgh Bicycle £50 voucher
 - **Grease Monkey Cycles**: 'Norm' service worth £59.99 [2 prizes]
 - **Sustrans Scotland**: Any 5 maps from 'Pocket Cycle Map' series
 - **Filmhouse**: Tickets for 2
 - **Camera Obscura & World of Illusions**: Family day ticket [2 prizes]
 - **Kalpna Indian Veg restaurant**: £20 voucher
 - **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling**: day hire of Urban Arrow cargo bike
 - **Laidback Bikes**: Recumbent Edinburgh tour for up to 2 people
 - **Harts Cyclery**: One week hire of e-bike
 - **Boardwalk Foreshore Cafe**: £25 voucher.
 - Even if you don't win a prize... the 10 runner-up entries get to choose a free [Spokes map](#).

4. Graphics design volunteer needed

Our Autumn public meeting is to be on the theme "*Cycling for All – Diversity Rules!*" We are inviting a range of organisations to speak on how cycling is and can be for a wide diversity of age (young as well as old), gender, ethnicity, fitness, physical abilities and so on.

We hope the Bulletin leading up to the meeting will include a centre-page pullout supplement on the same theme, with text and photos from the organisations speaking at the meeting. It would be the normal format - landscape A4 double-sided sheet, which will be folded to A5 inside the Bulletin.

The person who often designs our centre page supplements is unavailable this time, so we need another volunteer. You not only need design skills, but *also* ability to work co-operatively, sending drafts to and fro, and not getting too frustrated e.g. if some of the text turns up late. Examples of previous supplements are...

- www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Spokes-Cycling-Business-8.5.pdf
- www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/B125-centre-all.pdf

The supplement needs to be complete by around mid September and we would hope to get most of the text and suggested pictures to you by around the end of August.

If you are interested... please email davedufeu@gmail.com with any relevant info or example of your work - I hope to reply in 10 days or so, once everyone has had a chance to read this.

NB – if anyone reading this wants more info about the public meeting itself, we will publicise this once more is known, but meantime you can contact Martin, email MCD Bristol116@gmail.com

5. Forthcoming dates [* = Spokes stall expected at this event - helpers needed!]

- ◆ *Edinburgh Council Locality offices are organising walk/bike festivals with local communities this summer, as below (See the dates Sep 2, 23, 30; Oct 6). Details and any updates can be found [here](#). There will be another in South Edinburgh, probably at Moredun in October, but details not yet known.*
- ◆ ***Aug 18 Inch Festival**, Inch Park, 1-5pm. Details: twitter.com/RangiferBirota/status/1026481257927127040
- ◆ ***Aug 19 Linlithgow Canal Fun Day**, 1-4pm twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1027593315741564929 Stall is run by [Linlithgow Active Travel Hub](#), with Spokes helping. More local volunteers welcome!!

- ◆ *Sep 2 [Inverleith Walking/Cycling Festival](#), 1.30-4, Inverleith Park. Elaine.Lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ *Sep 22 Spokes stall at Castle Terrace [Farmers' Market](#), 9am-1pm.
- ◆ *Sep 23 [Drumrae Walking/Cycling Festival](#) 1-4pm Steven.Kipanda @edinburgh.gov.uk 529.5050
- ◆ *Sep 30 [Harrison Park Walk/Bike Festival](#) 1.30-4.30. James.Ross@ea.edin.sch.uk
- ◆ *Oct 6 [Portobello Walk/Bike Festival](#) 11-2, Straiton Place Park (by the Prom). iain.twaddle@ea.edin.sch.uk

6. Recent Edinburgh Transport Committee decisions

Mostly good, though the last one below isn't! Click the links in the headings below, and the other links, for info about each topic. Contact your councillors with praise or disappointment about any that particularly inspire or concern you. Find your councillors here... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors

- ◆ [Edinburgh Transformation](#) Major consultation is to start in September. The report is [here](#) [7MB].
- ◆ [Bus Lane times](#) The Committee has agreed to consult on introducing 7-7-7 bus lanes, 7am-7pm, 7 days a week. This marks a complete reversal of [the previous council's](#) inexplicable decision to scrap Saturday bus lanes and cut back others to peak-time only – despite our huge efforts at the time.
- ◆ [Non-Residential Parking Levy](#) There is pressure on the Scottish Government to allow Councils to levy premises on the basis of the number of car park spaces, over a certain minimum. In England the power applies only to *employee* car spaces (*Workplace Parking Levy*, WPL) but Spokes and others are strongly pushing for [wider powers in Scotland](#) so that, for example, there could be a levy on car spaces at out of town shopping centres – to benefit town centres and local shopping. A report to Edinburgh's Transport Committee had proposed investigating a WPL, but thanks to a successful amendment by Spokes member [Cllr Chas Booth](#) a wider Non-Residential Parking Levy will be investigated.
- ◆ [West-East segregated route](#) The Committee approved the next stage of the Traffic and Redetermination Orders needed for the route, rejecting a LibDem amendment, supported by the Conservatives, which would have put the process on hold pending the outcome of various objections.
- ◆ [Leith Street](#) Big disappointment here, where we have still failed to get a cyclerooute continued to the top of the road, rather than ending at Calton Road. However there remains hope, depending on how radical the City Centre Transformation (first bullet point above) turns out to be. A more temporary disappointment is that, although the Leith Street carriageway has been opened to all traffic, the cyclerooute uphill to Calton Road has itself not been opened (pending the works in Picardy Place). The Council tells us they are looking for a temporary solution to allow this to open soon, albeit it will not have big usage until it is extended down to Leith Walk and through Picardy Place.

7. Locally-based bike action

Increasingly, people in local parts of Edinburgh and the Lothians are getting together to promote local discussion and lobbying. We are happy to email Spokes members in any specific area to let them know of any such local meeting, and to support local lobbying as best we can given that Spokes is all volunteer.

- ◆ [Roseburn](#) www.roseburncyclerooute.org.uk The brilliant local group set up to support the East-West cyclerooute, particularly at the Roseburn end
- ◆ [West Edinburgh](#) Thanks particularly to a couple of local individuals (both Spokes members) a great deal of local lobbying goes on, much of it centred round [Harts Cyclery](#) and [@Hank_Chief](#), though there have not been local meetings as such.
- ◆ [South Edinburgh](#) Local meeting and embryonic local group set up as [Safe Cycling South Edinburgh](#) covering largely the area south of Grange and out to the City Bypass. Inspired by this, Spokes member [Cllr Scott Arthur](#) raised the issue at the [Aug 9 Transport Committee](#), where he was promised a meeting for South Edinburgh cycling activists with himself and relevant Council officers. NB – if you live in Burdiehouse area, you might like to get on the mailing list of the **Friends of Burdiehouse Burn** – their newsletter often has path news – contact them here... www.friendsofburdiehouse.org/contact.
- ◆ [Portobello](#) A '[Spokes Porty cell](#)' may be set up. We will try to email local members if a meeting is held.

8. Other things to do

- ◆ **Broken glass on roads & paths?** Help reduce this by responding to the government consultation on deposit/return (and help reduce plastic pollution). There's an excellent guide on how to respond here ... www.haveyoutothebottle.org.uk/consultation
- ◆ **Cycling programmes in schools – Midlothian & West Lothian** Sustrans is looking for volunteers to help its 'i-bike' programme. They say... *Volunteers support our local officer to deliver led rides, playground cycle skills, learn to ride workshops and much more to engage more children in cycling. Most activities are delivered during the school day with some afterschool sessions. Volunteering is really rewarding experience and we offer training to support our volunteers. More information: Amanda.mckay@sustrans.org.uk 07748 700 385 Twitter @iBIkeVols.*
- ◆ **Climate Change Act** Stop Climate Chaos, Friends of the Earth Scotland and other bodies are fighting to toughen up the government's Climate Change Bill – for example, to bring forward the target date for net zero emissions. Find out more and sign up to e-action at ... act.foe.scot/SCCS-climate-change-act
- ◆ **Meadowbank future** Drop-in events on August 20 (4-7pm) and 22 (12.30-3pm). Details and more info here... consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/meadowbank-masterplan
- ◆ **Spokes tweets** – if you use twitter, why not RT some of our more important tweets? For example...
 - twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1026404674746949632
 - twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1027162888446902273
 - twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1027501710451855360
 - twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1027515485863243777

9. Other consultations – *Check out council, government & some other consultations here...*

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk Includes...
 - [ends 26 Aug] West Granton Road – proposed pedestrian central island [pinch point?]
 - [ends 26 Aug] Johns Place at Elbe St – proposed pedestrian central island [pinch point?]
 - [ends 5 Oct] Powderhall site redevelopment
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open includes...
 - **Midlothian Active Travel Strategy. Ends 18 September.** Please respond and send Spokes your comments, so we can consider them for our own response.
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot Includes...
 - [ends 25 Sept] **Deposit-Return scheme for Scotland** See top bullet point in (8) above.
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** www.transport.gov.scot/consultations
- ◆ **Just in case...** Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts Check it out in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the website addresses above.

10. Finally

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.
- ◆ We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](#). Follow us and RT tweets you support. Check our 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Recent tweets also appear on our website.
- ◆ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#). We hope soon to restart the automatic twitter feed to Facebook.
- ◆ The **Spokes Bulletin** is one of our main means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling development, and how people can help. Can you use a supply (large or small) to leaflet bikes at your workplace or on bikes parked around any areas of the city [not Haymarket or Waverley which we already cover] – or would your local cafe, barber, etc like 5 or 10 copies? If you'd like a supply of the current bulletin, and/or if you'd like a regular supply of future copies, email updates AT spokes.org.uk.