

Many people have difficulty with domestic bike storage, especially if you live in a flat, tenement, or terrace with no separate back entrance. Our Spokes factsheet *How To Be: a Cycling Flat-Dweller* may be able to help you. However, it was produced in 2011 and should now be read alongside this update sheet.

Update 25.5.15 ...

How To Be: A Cycling Flat-Dweller

This document is a brief update to our January 2011 factsheet. Most of the factsheet's technical advice about in-house or in-flat solutions is still relevant, but below we mention a couple of significant developments affecting storage outside the building. For more detailed info and links, go to...

spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : residential bike storage

If you are reading this online, the direct link is

www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/residential-bike-storage/

On-Street Secure Bike Storage

Edinburgh Council is running a pilot scheme with 3 different types of lockable onstreet bike containers, for which keys can be rented to nearby residents [during the pilot scheme the rent is zero]. For more information and pictures, go to the above web page.

The pilot scheme runs for 2 years until summer 2016 and, depending on the results, the Council may then install storage containers on a much wider scale – which could easily take another year or two. Spokes feels that the whole thing has been and remains very slow – meanwhile onstreet storage is being installed on a wide scale in several London Boroughs [see the above web link]. *If this affects you* ask your Councillors for more containers to be installed as soon as possible – find your councillors at www.writetothem.com.

Garden Bike Storage – sheds / containers

Another solution is a garden shed – if you have a garden and if it is accessible. Unfortunately many terraced and tenement properties have no access to the back garden other than dragging bikes through the house. A front garden shed is then the only realistic option if you use your bike every day - as the Council would like us to do, given its target for 10% of all trips to be by bike in 2020 (and 15% of work trips).

Front garden sheds/boxes, however, are subject to planning rules which are far from clear and can be applied very strictly. Spokes and sympathetic councillors have helped several households who fell foul of them, sometimes resulting in great distress, let alone financial costs. Spokes therefore prepared an advice note and, after lengthy discussions, the Council agreed that it is “appropriate” and has included it in their “Guidance to Householders” for a 3-year trial period.

If you are considering a garden bike shed, or you know anyone who is, please first check our factsheet. For more info and a link to the factsheet see the 21.1.14 news item at spokes.org.uk.

The process, unfortunately, still has plenty uncertainty; and can cost you £202 in planning fees alone. **The Scottish Government could easily resolve this** by changing the rules so that sheds meeting certain criteria are deemed 'permitted development.' This would give certainty and, for appropriate sheds, no fee. *Ask your MSPs to raise this with Ministers.* Find your MSPs at www.writetothem.com.