

Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign 0131 313 2114 [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk) twitter @SpokesLothian  
St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG - this is a postal address, Spokes is a voluntary body with no staff

## LIFE TRANSFORMED!

When we ran a competition asking what change had transformed your cycling life, little did we anticipate the amazing impact of e-bikes. Yes, we all know they help you get up hills and perhaps go further; but lives literally had been transformed!

Five entries were from people middle aged or over who had bought an e-bike. Most hadn't cycled for years, some for decades, but all now go remarkable distances by bike, for work and/or leisure. Indeed, three had cycled 1000 miles or more since getting the bike.

One of the five had lost "a ton of weight," three had each lost 1-2 stones, and the fifth was slim already!

These stories were so impressive that we used them as the basis of a new factsheet on the why's and how's of getting an e-bike.

The factsheet is in the middle of this printed Bulletin, and online is at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : documents : advice : ebike.



*Cllr Mark Brown hadn't cycled for 20 years, but in just his first few e-bike months he has travelled over 1000 miles. He often bike-commutes, has visited the Kelpies and North Berwick, and lost a stone in weight!*

## CYCLING IS FOR ALL

Our competition showed how getting about by bike is not just for the fit adult male commuter. It can and should be for a diversity of people and purposes - regardless of age, gender, fitness, ethnicity, etc. Our **public meeting** on **Nov 15** will be on this theme - details on page 2.



*Adaptive bike enabling cycling with a buddy - for example if balance is a problem* West Lothian Bike Library

## CITY TRANSFORMED?

After years of painfully slow action towards a more people-friendly city, particularly the city centre, are we at last going to see real change in real time? There are genuinely hopeful signs, though still plenty uncertainty.

### CITY BIKE HIRE

Seeing the **public hire Just Eat bikes** round the city feels a sign of real change. We congratulate *Transport for Edinburgh* on the final bike design (a Spokes member helped in the testing), the effectiveness of the whole operation and the great idea of giving bikes individual names!

One complaint is that a (reasonably modern) smartphone is essential; but otherwise we've only heard praise. Overall, the Just Eat bikes look set to become a much loved feature of the city. [advert on p7]



*Local shopping - sweet!*

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Next year should see **car-free 'Open Streets'** on the first Sunday each month in parts of the city centre and of 'town centres' like Leith and Portobello. Send your ideas for where & what to: [spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk).

### INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES

The disastrous Leith Walk tram plan, with parking in advisory bike lanes near tramlines, has totally changed, to segregated provision throughout, after major efforts by Spokes and others - **thanks if you played a part!** However, problems remain beyond both ends of Leith Walk - and during the 1½ -year construction period [p6].

In 2019 we expect several long-delayed projects to see work on the ground. New active travel project officers have been appointed, for which the Council deserves credit at a time of cuts. We should see action with **Meadows to Canal**, **on-street secure storage**, **Picardy area routes**, a **West-East route** start, and more [p6].

Finally, in 2019 the Council will receive and decide on the **City Centre Transformation** report [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : 24.6.18]. This will determine whether in the next few years the city will see a real transformation.

**Bike trips in Edinburgh average over 40,000 a day. Imagine the added congestion if they were by car!**  
[based on 15.3m trips a year, *Bike Life Edinburgh*, Sustrans]

Help Spokes, other cyclists, and yourself, by contacting your MSPs, MP, councillors and the press periodically. See back page for contacts. Ask them to raise your point with the relevant Minister / Convener. Send us the results!



## LEISURE BIKE RIDES

**Spokes Sunday Rides** - 'Explore, Dream, Discover!' First Sunday each month, 30-40 miles. Meet 10am, Usher Hall. Lunch at pub/café, or bring picnic. We show the way, help with breakdowns, wait for the less-speedy. Your bike *must* be in good order. If under 14 you *must* come with an adult. [www.snowcycle.co.uk](http://www.snowcycle.co.uk) [stuart@snowcycle.co.uk](mailto:stuart@snowcycle.co.uk) 445.7073.

**Other Edinburgh rides** - [www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.cycling-edinburgh.org.uk) includes 'very easy' rides, regular rides, weekend rides.

**On all rides ... Please ride considerately and carefully. You are entirely responsible for your own safety.**

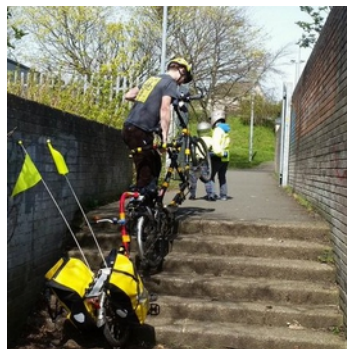
## SPOKES PUBLIC MEETING, Thu 15 Nov Cycling for all - Diversity Rules!!

**Who should be able to get about by bike??**

- ◆ Youngsters with parents who are worried about safety
- ◆ Older people who maybe feel they are past it
- ◆ People of all cultures
- ◆ Women
- ◆ People living with disabilities
- ◆ People in difficult financial circumstances
- ◆ **You** ... whoever you are
- ◆ Oh, and we nearly forgot, young adult male commuters!



**The good** Bikes for Refugees



**The bad** hankchief@twitter

**Our meeting will hear 5 mins each from people making things happen – and how it could be so much better!**

*With speakers from...*

- ◆ **West Lothian Bike Library** - [www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk](http://www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk)
- ◆ **Woodland Wheels** Facebook - [WoodlandWheels](https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandWheels)
- ◆ **School student or Sustrans i-bike schools officer**
- ◆ **Ageing Well** – google *ageing well cycle skills Edinburgh*
- ◆ **Councillor Mark Brown** - his e-bike revelations
- ◆ **ELREC - Regional Equality Council** - [elrec.org.uk](http://elrec.org.uk)
- ◆ **ABC All-Ability Cycling** Facebook – [EdinburghABC](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghABC)
- ◆ **Bikes for Refugees** - [www.bikesforrefugees.scot](http://www.bikesforrefugees.scot)

**Then a one-hour Q/A with the speakers ...**

**chaired by Spokes member Alison Johnstone MSP**

### WHERE & WHEN

- ◆ Starts 7.30, ends 9.30, doors open 6.45 for coffee & stalls
- ◆ Augustine United Church, 41 Geo. IV Bridge, EH1 1EL

### SPOKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members not yet renewed for 2018 receive a reminder in this mailing. If you are up to date you'll get a 2019 renewal form in Feb/March – please don't try to renew in advance!

### ☺ THANK YOU ☺

Spokes is funded by donations from our 1000+ members and sales of our unmissable maps. Thus we can speak out without fear or favour, not worried about losing funds.

**Join Spokes!** See [Spokes.org.uk/Donations](http://Spokes.org.uk/Donations)

## CYCLING LIVES TRANSFORMED!

Whatever your cycling experience, it can be transformed for the better; or so the inspiring entries to our summer competition suggest! What makes the difference?

**Better infrastructure** was top motivator, but also getting an **e-bike**, or a specialist **adaptive** or **cargo bike**. Other inspirations included the city-wide **20mph policy**, **charity rides**, **puncture-proof tyres**, **panniers** instead of rucksack, **courses** for the novice or nervous, etc, etc...

Thanks to such reasons, various people **cycled more**, felt more **confident/safer** or **healthier**, lost **weight**, could **carry children** or goods by bike, felt **environmentally responsible**, saved time ... and lots more benefits.

**Mary Higgins** of Dalkeith Saltersgate Special School won first prize, telling how **adaptive trikes transformed cycling & skills development for our young people with complex learning disabilities** ... parents were amazed.

**Mark James** of Dunbar had a stunning pictorial entry of his **trailers**, from 1990 on, carrying everything from children to 147kg of logs, enabling a largely car-free life.



Top **e-bike** entry was **Cllr Mark Brown** who, after 20 non-cycling years, has pedalled 1000+ miles for work and leisure in just 4 months – and lost over a stone! [photo p1]

**Women** easily outscored men, with 67% of female entrants winning prizes but just 29% of men! Entries from the **Lothians** were right at the top of the prizewinner list. **Edinburgh males** need to up their game next year!!

### Table of prize-winners

1 Mary Higgins, Dalkeith	Saltersgate School – see above
2 Mark James, Dunbar	Trailers – see above
3 Charlie Wood, Portobello	Teach your kids by example
4 Mark Brown, Corstorphine	E-bike for work & leisure
5 Julia Dorin, Dunbar	Improved infrastructure
6 Alison Powell, Blackhall	Elephant bike
7 Kate Sugden, Southside	Cargo bike inspiration
8 Paul Allen, Edinburgh	E-bike, return to bike commute
9 Katharine Wake, Blackhall	No longer feeling eccentric
10 Elaine Appleby, Northfield	City-wide 20mph
11 Colin Inverarity, Newington	Ageing Well bike course
12 Rosanne Rabaeijs, Craigleith	E-bike, enables long distances
13 Rob Payne, Braidburn	Gifford Park alley revamp
14 Judith Stark, Bruntsfield	Towpath resurfacing

**Prizes** - our thanks to *ScotRail, Edinburgh Bicycle Coop, Grease Monkey, Sustrans, Laidback Bikes, Harts Cyclery, Camera Obscura & World of Illusions, Boardwalk Beach Club, Kalpna, Edinburgh Festival of Cycling, Filmhouse.*

**More info** - See our website [13.9.18] for all the entries, more about the prize donors and a link to earlier comps such as *Cycling Jokes/ Recipes/ Problems/ Routes.*



## CARGO BIKES

Interest in cargo-bikes for local delivery is well established in Europe and growing rapidly in Britain!

The UK government has just consulted on 'last mile' delivery, and suggested a major role for e-cargo bikes...

*"A national network of e-cargo bike hubs could support a wide range of clients and consumers ... e-cargo bikes may be particularly well suited in high-density urban areas and historical city centres."* [google: DfT last mile]

They have also announced an e-cargo bike grants fund [google: boost for green last mile delivery bikes] - albeit just £2m compared to £400m+ already given in EV grants.

Unlike England, Scotland's e-cargo/e-bike grants cover only public and community bodies, not businesses. For individuals and businesses Scotland has 4-year interest-free loans. See [energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland) : grant/loan However, much more needs done - see p5 (e-mobility).

A useful article on UK e-cargobike initiatives by European Cycle Logistics Federation director, Richard Armitage, is at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk): documents: projects: cargobikes.

### EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Council [Transport Cttee 7.12.17] is to develop a cargo bike pilot for suitable Council deliveries. A report is due in December. Cargo bikes are also being considered for tram extension works, including to help local businesses.

## SPOKES CARGOBIKE SUPPORT

Spokes is keen to support use and awareness of cargo bikes for local transport in Edinburgh/Lothian - it's great to see growing numbers in action! Thanks to kind donations from our many members, Spokes will consider top-up grants for community groups needing a cargo bike. We have already donated £500 to the groups below - look out for their cargo bikes, with a Spokes logo!!

### HEARTY SQUIRREL [heartysquirreledinburgh.weebly.com](http://heartysquirreledinburgh.weebly.com)

A long established Edinburgh University voluntary food coop, Hearty Squirrel sells local organic and Fairtrade food, with stalls on campus and elsewhere. **FOODSH**



### ARING EDINBURGH [foodsharing.scot](http://foodsharing.scot)

This volunteer-led group collects surplus food, which would otherwise be wasted, and distributes it to charities and the public. Most transport is on foot and by bike, so their new **Urban Arrow** e-cargobike will help hugely.

## WEST LOTHIAN MAP

Our new map is selling well, confirming our experience that quality printed maps remain valued alongside new digital options. They put local routes in a wide-area perspective without losing any detail; they are great for pinning up on home or office noticeboards, and our new water-resistant paper is perfect to take on bike rides.



Cllr Sullivan with representatives of Spokes, Sustrans, West Lothian Bike Library, Council officers - and the new map!

We were delighted that West Lothian Council's deputy leader, **Cllr Kirsteen Sullivan**, organised an 'opening' for the map, along with publicity for Sustrans and West Lothian Bike Library [who will be at our public meeting, p2].

### BUYING YOUR SPOKES MAPS

- ♦ **Edinburgh; East Lothian; West Lothian/Livingston** on water-resistant, tear-resistant paper. £6.95 in shops.
- ♦ **Midlothian** £5.95 in shops
- ♦ **Special price** for orders *by post* to Spokes: Ed,EL,WL £5 each; ML £4; **Plus** £1 p&p **per order**. Cheques to 'Spokes.'
- ♦ **Free with orders by post:** one copy *per order* (not per map) of *Favourite Cycle Rides* or *Favourite Cycling Recipes*. Please say which, or none will be sent.
- ♦ **Users say...** a joy to use, wonderful, superb, among the finest, We have one on our office wall - it's often used.
- ♦ **More details** at [spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps](http://spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps)

## THANK YOU, JUDY & TIM

Two of the most long-standing and hard-working Spokes volunteers are stepping down after major contributions of time and effort over many years - indeed decades!

**Judy Cantley**, our 'office manager,' has not only ensured we have a well-functioning (and well decorated!) base, but also played a vital role in many campaigns and projects - not to mention her other capacities such as a Midlothian Sustrans ranger. **Anne Douglas**, who helped coordinate volunteer surveyors for our new West Lothian map, is stepping into Judy's shoes.. oops, onto her pedals.

Spokes fortunately has many members who are happy and keen to do *one-off* volunteer tasks. Offering *regular ongoing commitment* is a tougher ask - but without that crucial foundation there'd be no one-off opportunities.

**Tim Smith** has done the artwork for our Lothians maps from the very first (Midlothian) in 1997 right up to the new West Lothian 4<sup>th</sup> edition. The 'Feedback' section at [spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps](http://spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps) displays the wide, impressive praise for his innovative designs. For example...

*"Your maps are superb and I use them regularly in my work as a cycle writer,"* Fergal MacErlean, journalist.

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pedal of the way*

# NATIONAL ... and PLANETARY

*If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your MSPs. See p8 or use writetothem.com.*

## CLIMATE CHANGE 2018

For many people 2018 is the year when climate change became a tangible reality, with an unending litany of wildfires, flood, storm, unseasonable heat and frequent breaking of weather records. In Europe the July Greece wildfire cost nearly 100 lives, floods killed over 1000 in India alone and pre-storm evacuations of 100,000s are increasingly common, not least in the USA.



Warnings from experts get ever stronger. **Lord Deben**, Chair of the *UK Climate Change Committee* (which also advises the Scottish Government) says that we and politicians will be harshly judged in the future ... *"We are responsible - and if we don't take on that responsibility we are shoving it onto our children."* [Guardian 16.7.18]

### SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government has succeeded in lowering emissions from power generation, waste management and industry. However they fail badly on **transport**: emissions have risen for the last 3 years and are now Scotland's **largest source of greenhouse gas emissions**.

The **£9bn trunk-road programme** means more motor traffic, piling yet more congestion and pollution into potholed cash-strapped towns, and using precious funds which could instead go to boost public and active travel.

Meanwhile the Scottish Government, supported only by the Conservatives, still plans a **£300m annual boost** to the fastest growing transport emissions area, **aviation**, by ending Air Passenger Duty. [[transformscotland.org.uk](http://transformscotland.org.uk)]

Whilst the government did boost active travel funding significantly in 2016, it remains far below roads cash. And whilst the entire A9 is being dualled, the parallel

railway stays single-track, with modal shift of goods traffic *from rail to road* expected as a direct result.

**Substantial modal shift of transport users will only be achieved through modal shift of transport cash.** Walking, cycling and public transport must become progressively more attractive *as compared to motoring* – the opposite of policy actions now and in recent decades, where measures which encourage car are predominant.

### SILO THINKING .. OR E-MOBILITY?

The Scottish Government rightly is putting substantial effort into encouraging a shift away from fossil vehicles (FVs). There are also [p3] some welcome separate limited schemes to encourage e-bike use (including e-cargobike). Unfortunately these policies are largely in separate silos.

For some people in towns and cities, replacing the FV by a mix of e-bike, car club, bus and/or cargobike would work really well, as seen in Europe - and save them cash. For government too this would be a big win, since the manufacture and running costs of EVs in terms of emissions/congestion are way above e-bike/cargobike.

Yet the government has separate EV / e-bike policies, instead of an integrated e-mobility policy. Motorists thinking of changing FV->EV are not shown *at that point in time* the option and the potential of changing mode – a wasted opportunity, casting doubt on the government's supposed desire for *substantial* modal shift.

### CLIMATE BILL

New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Iceland have already committed to reaching a net zero greenhouse emissions target by 2050 at the latest. The European Parliament has recommended that the EU also reaches this. Nonetheless, and despite Scotland's 'world leading' claims, the Climate Bill now being considered in the Scottish Parliament proposes only 90% reduction rather than 100%.

However, **to reach 100% would need tougher action in areas such as transport**. Instead of the government's current intent to achieve transport reductions largely by FV->EV, they would have to take modal shift seriously!!

*For Climate Bill info & actions, see [stopclimatechaos.org](http://stopclimatechaos.org)*

## ROUNABOUT SHERIFFHALL

The planned new roundabout looks set to be *"an oasis of cycling excellence in a desert of underprovision."*

Thanks to tireless work by *Gorebridge Community Trust* and *Spokes*, including speaking at the Scottish Parliament, the Sheriffhall plans now include exemplary cycle/walk provision at the roundabout itself. [Spokes 129]

But Transport Scotland's silo mentality means that, as with their Bathgate-Airdrie rail project some years ago, connecting cyclist routes are wholly up to the councils as and when they can find the cash – possibly years later. **So much for integrated transport policy thinking!!**

Spokes has now written asking the Transport Minister and leaders of Edinburgh and Midlothian Councils to set up a joint project, funded by the City Deal which is building the roundabout, so that its cycle facilities are connected by quality routes to major destinations such as **Dalkeith**, the **Infirmity**, the **BioQuarter** and **Shawfair**.

## TRANSPORT MINISTER



We congratulate **Humza Yousaf MSP** on his promotion, but are sorry to lose him as Transport Minister. He was much more than 'business as usual,' really understood cycling as transport and was strong and pro-active.

We were impressed early on by his leadership in publicly criticising SNP councils, his own party, who ripped out an Ayr segregated cycle route and scrapped phase 2 of the Bear's Way in East Dunbarton [Spokes 127]. Later, he persuaded the Finance Secretary to **double cycle cash** to £80m p.a., took bold bike/rail steps [p8] and created the **Active Nation Commissioner** post.

We welcome new Minister **Michael Matheson MSP**, but he will have his time cut out to impress equally!



# EDINBURGH DEVELOPMENTS

*If anything on this page concerns or encourages you, contact your councillors. See p8 or [edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors)*

## TRANSFORMATION

**Consultation on the City Centre Transformation principles ends on 12 Nov**, with 3 main approaches, from *Business As Usual* to *Transformational Change*. In early 2019 we will start to see how these *principles* play out in actual road and traffic *proposals*. How radical the proposals are will depend in part on the response to the consultation. The more strongly *you* support bold ideas, the stronger the plans are likely to be!

**If you've not yet responded** search for *transforming* at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk). **If the consultation has closed**, tell your Councillors what you hope to see.

## TRAM EXTENSION

The initial **Leith Walk** tram extension plan was not just unpleasant but literally dangerous, and with the shocking safety record of the first tramlines we were astonished [Spokes 131]. Now all has changed, with **fully segregated cycle lanes promised!** Thanks if *you* were one of the many who contacted the consultation or your councillors.

**GoBike** cycle campaign, and a local support group, have just won a similar victory in **Glasgow Byres Road**, with segregation now promised instead of advisory lanes. Could we be at a turning point in traffic planning?!

**However, many severe tram extension problems do remain**, and we continue pushing these, including...

- ◆ the junction at Foot of the Walk, and on to Newhaven
- ◆ the Leith Walk segregated section ending at Calton Road
- ◆ no Leith Walk cyclistroute during 1½ years of construction.

## OTHER MAJOR NEWS

**MEADOWS TO CANAL** At long last, thanks to the improved Council staffing, this hugely delayed project is again moving – further improvements have been added, consultation is imminent and, once traffic orders are through, the work is expected in 2019. In the interim, Home Street is to be resurfaced and will incorporate the cable ducts needed for the Meadows-Canal project.

**BUS LANES 7-7-7** Despite fierce opposition from Spokes, Living Streets and 150 written objections, the previous Council scrapped Saturday bus lanes and cut back weekdays to peak-only [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 30.10.16]. Now, just 2 years later, thanks to a successful amendment by **Cllr Chas Booth**, the new Council is to consult on 7am-7pm, 7 days a week – supported by Lothian Buses, and exactly what we argued for throughout 2014-2016!

**ON-STREET STORAGE** Again, new Council staffing is bringing action, and indeed Edinburgh is going out to tender for an expanded scheme. As we had urged, there will be a single contractor for installation and operation, like the excellent London system [[www.cyclehoop.rentals](http://www.cyclehoop.rentals)]. Unfortunately given the IT work and need for traffic orders it may be well into 2019 before installation.

**CYCLE ADVANCE TRAFFIC LIGHTS** The Leith Walk trial has been deemed successful, and advance lights are now an official tool in Edinburgh's armoury. We expect to see them at tramline danger junctions and at some soon-to-be resurfaced Lothian Road junctions.

## THREE WISE WOMEN



photo: John Lauder

**Daisy Narayanan**, Sustrans Scotland's Deputy Director, has been seconded for a year as head of Edinburgh City Council's Transformation. This is no small task, given the city's innate conservatism – but her focussed energy, inclusivity and commitment is great cause for hope!

Cllrs **Lesley Macinnes** and **Anna Richardson** are, respectively, Transport chairs in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Whilst both inherited plans for initial segregated bike routes, they appear to be not just strongly committed but pro-actively pushing the boundaries and their officers.

## LONDON INSPIRATION

At Daisy Narayanan's instigation, **Cllr Macinnes** and her transport deputy **Cllr Karen Doran** visited London cycle developments, notably Waltham Forest Council's *Mini-Holland*. They were hugely impressed, and the intention to create a more people-friendly Edinburgh was strongly reinforced by this on-the-ground UK evidence.



Waltham Forest Mini-Holland

Since 2015 the Mini-Holland has brought 37 road closures (bikes excepted), 22km of segregated cycle lane, 104 improved pedestrian crossings, 250 onstreet bike storage units, a cargo-bike service, 15 mini-parks, 660 trees and promotional programmes. As is common, there was huge protest at the plans from some sectors; but others created an impressive support group - [wesupportmh.wordpress.com](http://wesupportmh.wordpress.com).

Work on the scheme continues, but its growing success and popularity is already clear. A study by Kings College [[walthamforest.gov.uk/news](http://walthamforest.gov.uk/news), 2 August] has found air quality improving, people walking and cycling more and life expectancy rising. And the formerly anti local paper has published a supportive article, with quotes such as,

*"I never used to cycle as I was too scared ... I now feel safe to cycle locally and have bought my first bike."*

*"A few years ago I would never have dreamed my children could cycle there, but now it's really safe."*

## EDINBURGH LOCALITIES

Edinburgh Council has devolved some decision-making powers and related staff, including aspects of transport, to four **Localities** – NE, NW, SE, SW. Each comprises several Council wards and is run by a Committee of all councillors from those wards. We have already seen new **benefits** and new **problems** from the Localities setup.

Find Localities info at: [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : links : council links

**Positively..** there is scope for **local decision-making**, not delayed by central staffing issues or priorities – there are two valuable examples below. Also the Localities have been tasked with assessing the small **local project ideas** from our 2017 competition, 'Low-cost ideas to boost cycle use' [[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 11.9.17]. Finally all four Localities in 2018 held **bike/walk mini-festivals** - a good start, with Spokes stalls, though the weather varied!

**Negatively..** Spokes is often **not consulted** on Locality projects - for example those below. *Secondly*, Spokes in the past only had to keep tabs on the Transport Cttee, but transport projects may now also arise at the four **Locality Committees** and we don't have capacity to attend or adequately monitor these [it would be great to have an activist for each area!] *Finally*, **Council standards** seem sometimes not to be known or followed in local schemes.

### NIDDRIE MAINS ROAD

The NE Locality is reviewing public and active travel in this congested route, near which a new school is also planned. We understand they may apply for Sustrans *Community Links* funding – which is a hopeful sign, though we have not seen details or been consulted.

### FEATHERHALL AVENUE

The NW Locality transport team ran a 6-week low-cost trial in Featherhall Avenue rat-run - removing car parking and installing one-way traffic with a contra-flow cycle lane. There are complaints about lost car spaces, but the

scheme has been praised by walkers as well as cyclists, "Crossing this road used to be frightening with cars speeding at you in 3 directions – so much safer now!" The Locality Committee will now debate the future.

The big point here is that this hugely valuable low-cost trial only happened thanks to the Locality. **If you see a similar opportunity in your area, try to persuade your councillors to raise it at your Locality Committee.**



Featherhall Avenue trial

Henry Whaley

## LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

It is great to see local campaigning growing across the city – usually with Spokes members involved, but not necessarily as Spokes, and with structures varying with the individuals involved. [Contacts below are at twitter]

**Roseburn Cycle Route** [[@RoseburnCycle](https://twitter.com/RoseburnCycle)] was created to support (and improve) the Council's segregated route plans, when controversy was at its peak [[Spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), 16.12.2016] and continues its vital support/scrutiny role.

**West Edinburgh** Whilst there isn't a group as such here there are hugely impressive efforts by two individuals @harts\_cyclery and, particularly, @hank\_chief.

**South Edinburgh** [[@Cyclesouthedin](https://twitter.com/Cyclesouthedin)] *Safe Cycling South Edinburgh* covers south of Grange out to the Bypass. They held a well-attended recent public meeting and are drawing up cyclistroute proposals based on the outcome.

**Portobello** Spokes member @KirstyLewin is organising a public meeting to set up a 'Spokes cell' and put together local ideas, particularly on the non-Prom areas.

# Just Eat Cycles

**From only £1.50 a ride**

**Explore Edinburgh with Just Eat Cycles.**

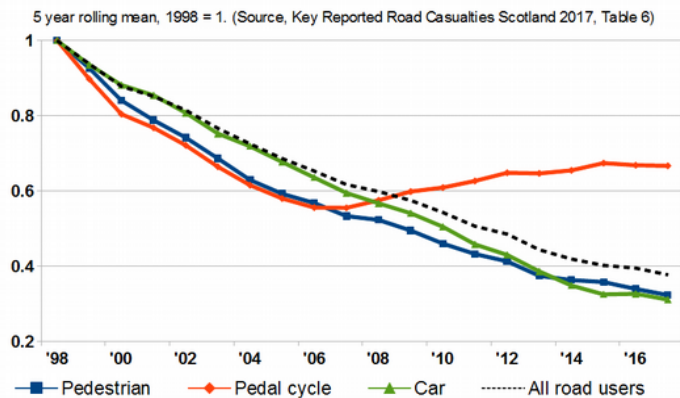
**Download the app and get pedaling!**

[edinburghcyclehire.com](http://edinburghcyclehire.com)

 Transport for Edinburgh



## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MID 2000s?



**Scottish Road Deaths & Serious Injuries 1998-2017**  
supplied by AndyArthur

## POLICING

### AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Scotland's first urban ASCs, in Old Dalkeith Rd, have been a huge and heart-warming success. Previously 60% of drivers broke the speed limit; now it is a tiny minority, with on average only 2 offences a day recorded. In the first year of cameras there have been zero injury crashes, compared to 6 in the 3 previous years, including a death – and local residents say the difference living near the road is “fantastic.” [BBC Scotland website, 2.9.18]

The cameras may be 'average' but the results are superb and would be hugely welcomed on similar urban roads.

### #OPCLOSEPASS [Spokes 128 & 129]

Police Scotland's highly praised operation to boost road safety and reduce scary and dangerous close passes won *Most Effective Road Safety* award at the 2018 *Scottish Transport Awards* [RDRF.org.uk 4.7.18]. By June 2018 there had been 41 #OpClosePass actions in Scotland, though bike groups in a few areas (notably Aberdeen) have said their local force is not doing enough.

### BE BIKE ALERT

We are proud that the Spokes *Be Bike Alert* leaflet is used in the above operations, and at police road safety events - we donated 15,000 copies. As in recent years, we have also used the leaflet - and video - in the Young Driver events held by local councils [spokes.org.uk : videos]

## RAIL-BIKE CARRIAGES

ScotRail's dramatic plan [Spokes 130] for bike carriages attached to rural Highland trains is progressing, with two expected on the Oban line in 2019, and three more later for Mallaig and/or the Far North. The Class 153 coaches are expected to be part-seating with some 20 bike spaces.

**Spokes can claim significant credit for the carriages.** Back in 2016 ScotRail planned to replace the Oban Class 156 trains by 158s, which would have cut bookable bike spaces from six to just two. Spokes publicised this widely [spokes.org.uk, 18.3.16] and the resulting concern and outrage was incredible. Our tweet had over 170 retweets, our highest ever by far, and there were endless follow-up tweets, emails and articles by individuals, the tourist industry, the press and concerned Scottish celebrities such as Lesley Riddoch and Cameron McNeish.

#BikeRail space to be cut. Pls help!--> [spokes.org.uk/2016/03/cuts-c...](https://spokes.org.uk/2016/03/cuts-c...) Ed-Glasg down & slash from 6 to 2 bookable for #Oban



2:43 PM - 9 Mar 2016

172 Retweets 33 Likes

Without this outcry, the loss of spaces would certainly have slipped through – though it also took a bold and innovative Minister, **Humza Yousaf MSP** [p5] to respond to the outcry in such a radical (for Scotland) manner.

*Postscript:* the 156/158 train swap was later abandoned for technical reasons, so the 6 original spaces remain too!

Our website will later report on other rolling stock changes, including the Aberdeen/Inverness HST 125s.

## SPOKES BULLETIN INFORMATION

**Editor** Dave du Feu **Printer** Barr Printers **Print run** 13,000+  
Bulletin text may be used freely, if you credit us and give our website  
**Created with** Openoffice.org **Next Issue** Feb 2019.

## HOW TO CONTACT POLITICIANS

1. Simplest - find them all at [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Or...
  2. MSPs – you have one constituency MSP and several Regional MSPs. Find them at [scottish.parliament.uk/msps](http://scottish.parliament.uk/msps)
  3. Councillors web+phone below **Who runs the council?**
- |  |               |                    |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| <a href="http://edinburgh.gov.uk">edinburgh.gov.uk</a>     | 0131.529.3186 | SNP/Lab (minority) |
| <a href="http://eastlothian.gov.uk">eastlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01620.827827  | Lab (minority)     |
| <a href="http://midlothian.gov.uk">midlothian.gov.uk</a>   | 0131.270.7500 | Lab (minority)     |
| <a href="http://westlothian.gov.uk">westlothian.gov.uk</a> | 01506.775000  | Lab (minority)     |

### A PERSONAL VISIT??

Many people email their MSP/councillor, but why not visit their surgery for a chat on issues that concerns you: it could make an even bigger impact! Ask them for time/place.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Suggest bike parking sites:** [activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
**Adult cycle training:** 668.1996 [info@thebikestation.org.uk](mailto:info@thebikestation.org.uk)  
**Bikes on rail, bus and ferry:** [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com):  
**Potholes, glass on paths, broken lights, in Edinb/Lothian:**  
 [Use lamp-post numbers to report location]. 0800.232323  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/clarence). Or [www.fillthathole.org.uk](http://www.fillthathole.org.uk).  
**Bad glass/dumping [Ed only]** Rapid Response 0808 100 3366  
**Taxi issues:** [licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk) [try taxi firm first]  
**Lothian Buses:** [mail@lothianbuses.com](mailto:mail@lothianbuses.com) 554 4494.  
**Dangerous drivers, mobile use, drink-driving, speeding, other road crime:** see [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) : links : reporting  
**Emotional/practical victim support:** RoadPeace 0208964102

**Help Spokes, other cyclists and yourself by joining us!**

**Download a membership form at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)**