

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.

DIVERSITY: get involved!

Our public meeting on diversity has 8 speakers about different aspects of diversity in getting about by bike, including...

- ◆ Age – low or high
- ◆ Fitness – or not
- ◆ Gender – whatever
- ◆ Ethnicity – whatever
- ◆ Income or wealth – low or high.

The world of bikes and bike accessibility is also widening to give more people new opportunities, including...

- ◆ Bike share/hire – the new Edinburgh *Just Eat* bikes
- ◆ E-bikes becoming more widespread
- ◆ Adaptive bikes becoming more widespread
- ◆ Cargo bikes becoming more widespread
- ◆ [slowly!] Segregated infra, offroad paths, car reduction

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...

Our speakers, and the organisations they represent, can give you opportunities to try out new cycling options as a user – or as a volunteer to help others. We list useful ideas & contacts here...

WEST LOTHIAN BIKE LIBRARY

www.wlbikelibrary.co.uk 07724 667321

Helping everyone use a bike – regardless of income, background or ability. Recycled bikes, e-bikes, adaptive bikes, rides, hire, bike maintenance, any other help to get people on bikes.

WOODLAND WHEELS

www.facebook.com/WoodlandWheel

Leisurely bike rides to Scottish woodlands, mostly off-road, mainly Edinburgh & Glasgow, particularly aimed at diverse and under-represented communities. Bikes provided if needed.

AGEING WELL, EDINBURGH LEISURE

edinburghleisure.co.uk/activities/be-active/ageing-well 0131 458 2260
Bike rides and cycling skills courses for 'older adults,' mainly offroad; bikes provided if needed.

YOUNG PEOPLE & SCHOOLS



www.sustrans.org.uk/scotland/i-bike 0131 346 1384

A Sustrans Scotland project to support pupils, parents and teachers to travel actively and safely to school – training, rides, fun events, helping schools work on local traffic safety issues.

www.cycling.scot/our-programmes/cycle-friendly/secondary-school
Cash to help school bike facilities, and a 'Cycle-Friendly School' Award scheme. Schemes for both secondary and primary schools.

EDINB & LOTHIAN REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCIL

www.elrec.org.uk/elrec-cycling-club 0131 556 0441

ELREC works to eliminate discrimination of all kinds. Activities include a bike club with social rides, bike loan, training etc. Also, you can pledge to use low carbon transport whenever possible.

BIKES FOR REFUGEES

www.bikesforrefugees.scot

Refurbishing & distributing bikes to refugees and asylum seekers across Scotland. It's not just recreation – they may have too little cash to bus from edge-of-town accommodation to essential services and to meet new friends.



ALL-ABILITY CYCLING, EDINBURGH

www.facebook.com/pg/EdinburghABC 07500 069357

Enabling a wide range of people to use bikes, whatever their age, background or ability. Has a wide range of adaptive bikes for people with physical problems or who need to ride with a buddy.

VIE VELO

www.facebook.com/VIEvelo.edinburgh 07500 069357

A tandem cycling club to enable people with visual impairments in Edinburgh and the Lothians to get cycling.

E-BIKES & CARGOBIKES

E-bikes: www.spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/e-bikes

Cargobikes: www.spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes

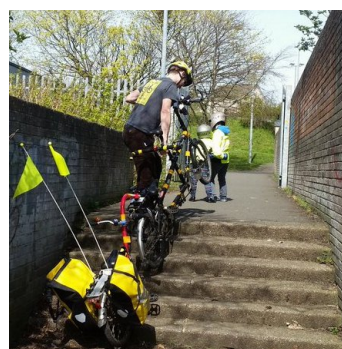
Plus see the [Spokes E-Bikes factsheet](#) [also in print], with info on grants, loans, local hiring/tryouts, repairs, cargo-bike delivery, etc.

EDINBURGH BIKE HIRE

edinburghcyclehire.com 0131 278 3000

Already 23 stations encompassing Portobello-Leith-Stockbridge-Mayfield, and continually expanding. E-bikes arrive Spring 2019. An effective and already-loved scheme, but with one inclusiveness barrier: it can only be used if you have a modern smartphone.

BIKE-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE



Bike-friendly infrastructure is a huge opportunity, but there is much needs done. There are many fantastic **offroad routes** in our area, but some are blighted by chicanes or other barriers which can physically prevent use by cargo-bike or adaptive bike. **Onroad** is often scary and sometimes dangerous – segregated provision is needed on main roads; and car restrictions would help hugely - speed limits, enforced parking restrictions, closure of rat-runs (with permeable bike access), etc, etc.

Speak to your councillors/MSPs about these issues. If you can offer an evening a month, join Spokes Planning Group.

IF YOU ARE AT THE NOV 15 PUBLIC MEETING

If tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg; If you make notes or blog, send us a link

Join Spokes at the membership stall – or see spokes.org.uk/membership

ACT NOW!!

SHERIFFHALL

Thanks to *major efforts* by Spokes and Gorebridge Community Development Trust, the plans for the new flyover/roundabout were changed to include what looks like quality cycling provision, crossing all the arms by convenient and fully segregated paths.

However routes linking the roundabout to important destinations such as Dalkeith, Edinburgh, the Infirmary, Shawfair etc, are largely main roads. So we have launched a new campaign, to get decent links built at the same time as the roundabout and avoid *"an oasis of cycling excellence in a desert of underprovision."*

The obvious way to achieve this, and perhaps the only way in a reasonable timescale, is through the '*City/Region Deal*,' which is a £1bn+ sum to boost the economy of the Edinburgh City Region. The flyover/ roundabout itself is being funded entirely through the Deal, so we are asking that it also funds and builds the connecting cyclistoutes at the same time, as one integrated project.

The City/Region Deal is controlled by Councils in the region, so we have written to the leaders of the two relevant Councils, **Edinburgh** (Cllr Adam McVey) & **Midlothian** (Cllr Derek Milligan) asking that the Sheriffhall project is expanded to include the cyclistoute connections. Our letter is [here](#). We have already achieved some *good press coverage*.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you live in Midlothian, or if you live in Edinburgh and cycle to/from Midlothian (or would like to) please email as below in support of our proposal, *explaining why it is important to you*. **Send us a copy of any useful replies.** Normally we would not suggest emailing the Council Leader, but it is relevant in this case as they play a major role in controlling the City/Region Deal

◆ *If you live in Midlothian* email derek.milligan@midlothian.gov.uk, and send a copy to your own ward councillors. Find them at midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Councillors.aspx.

◆ *If you live in Edinburgh* email adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk and send a copy to your own ward councillors. Find them at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors.

◆ Emailing as above is vital and there is also a *petition* – also at spokes.org.uk: documents: local: edinburgh: south edinburgh: para 1810.

20MPH BILL

The Scottish Parliament Committee dealing with transport is consulting on the above bill by Green MSP Mark Ruskell. The Bill would make 20mph (instead of 30mph) the default speed limit in all Scottish urban areas. As at present, Councils would have power to specify different limits for particular streets. Please help...

- ◆ *Parliament survey* www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/20mphBill
- ◆ *And/or email* Restricted.Roads20MPHBill@parliament.scot

WESTERN GENERAL

How should the Western General Hospital develop in future?

- ◆ *Online survey* www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NHCOMP9
- ◆ *Twitter* tweet to @WGHLothian with hashtag #MySayWGH
- ◆ *Drop-in* Wed 28 Nov, 3-7pm, St Ninians Church, EH4 1AG

CLIMATE

- ◆ Even before the Californian wildfires, we had a major feature, with Scottish transport relevancies, in *Bulletin 132* (p5) ... *"an unending litany of wildfires, floods, storms..."* Also tweeted [here](#).
- ◆ Please support the campaign to toughen the Climate Bill currently in the Scottish Parliament. FOE and SCCS have created a web action at act.foe.scot/SCCS-climate-change-act

GEORGE STREET

The seemingly unending George St saga continues, with *"initial concept designs"* out for consultation. Please do note that these are 'initial concepts' not a hard-and-fast plan - so they are short on detail, and what detail *is* shown may well change.



Spokes has not yet prepared a response, but issues you might like to consider for your own response include...

- ◆ The Council's *West-East cyclistoute* (CCWEL, Roseburn/ Leith) must be well catered for – positively, this 'concept' is built in.
- ◆ We normally favour **with-flow cyclistoutes** on both sides rather than a bidirectional route, but here there are arguments for and against - and it appears unlikely this design element will change as a wide 'sunny side' footway is wanted, for outdoor cafes, etc.
- ◆ There will officially be no car parking, but **cars will be allowed** in (though turns in from Hanover Street may be banned) and bus routes will remain. Should cars be banned entirely? Note that the artist impressions in the consultation drawings probably show many fewer cars than there would be with this 'concept.'
- ◆ What will be the **cyclieroute details**? We are unhappy with the existing Leith Walk stretch in that it separates the footway using grooved tactile slabs rather than (angled) kerbs. We believe Living Streets agrees, from the pedestrian perspective.
- ◆ How will the cyclistroute link to the rest of CCWEL at each end, and to the **Meadows-George Street** route?

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Details & link to consultation ... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/firstnewtown
Please respond [by 25 Jan] and if possible **send us your thoughts**.

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 responses asap, so we can take them into account in official Spokes responses.*
- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **Edinburgh** Edinburgh traffic orders
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ **Midlothian** www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open
- ◆ **West Lothian** www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** consult.gov.scot
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** www.transport.gov.scot/consultations
- ◆ **Just in case...** transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts
Check the Transform link in case there's anything important that doesn't appear in the earlier website addresses (there often is!).

HELP SPOKES

- ◆ Take Spokes Bulletins to leaflet bikes at your work, shops, etc. Either one-off for this bulletin or regularly (3 times a year).
- ◆ Like our [facebook](#) posts and RT our tweets [[@SpokesLothian](#)]. Check our twitter 'likes' for important or interesting tweets. Very recent tweets also appear on our website in the RH col.

TRAFFIC COUNT NEWS

Our Nov 13 peak-period count found bikes forming 16.8% of all vehicles totalled over our 4 usual count points - the highest November % ever, albeit due mainly to a welcome continuing fall in car use. Full details in a [website blog](#) and [tweet](#) (please RT!).
Thanks to organiser Barbara, and all who helped in the count.