

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.

PUBLIC MTG, MARCH 20

There is a great deal of interest in our meeting, with the ever-rising awareness of climate issues and their relation to transport – and other climate actions such as the worldwide *Fridays for the Future* [fridaysforfuture.org] school pupil strikes for climate (including in Edinburgh, Glasgow and a number of other Scottish towns).

Our meeting will now include...

From 6.45 till 7.30 (and briefly after 9.30), stalls from...

- **Fridays for Future** [[#YouthStrike4Climate](https://twitter.com/YouthStrike4Climate)]
- **2050 Climate Group** [2050.scot]
- **FOE Scotland** [foe.scot] + StopClimateChaos.scot
- **Edin Uni Dept of Social Responsibility & Sustainability** [www.ed.ac.uk/about/sustainability]
- **Spokes Stall** – [info](#), [map sales](#), [join/renew membership](#)

In Inverness...

- The VeloCity community bike/cafe [velocitylove.co.uk] is to run a live stream of our meeting.
- For anyone wishing to do the same the live feed should be on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/spokesvideos.

More about the meeting...

- See news item & downloadable poster at www.spokes.org.uk.

Spring Public Meeting : all welcome : Weds 20 March

Climate, Transport and Cycling

- ◆ “If we don’t take action the collapse of our civilisations is on the horizon”
Sir David Attenborough, 3.12.18
- ◆ Transport now accounts for 37% of Scotland’s climate emissions; that figure is rising, with road transport the main source and aviation the fastest-rising.
UK Committee on Climate Change, Sept 2018
- ◆ Only 3% of work journeys, 1.5% of all journeys and 1% of school journeys in Scotland are by bike.
Transport & Travel in Scotland, 2017

Hear and debate the issues with the experts ...

Claudia Beamish MSP <i>Parliamentary perspective</i>	Co-convenor of Scottish Parliament cross-party group on cycling, walking and buses Labour Environment & Climate spokesperson
Alex Luetchford <i>Young person’s perspective</i>	2050 Climate Group Co-Chair of the Policy Sub-Group
Dave Gorman <i>Edinburgh University example</i>	Head of Edinburgh University Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability
Caroline Rance <i>Climate Bill & related actions</i>	Friends of the Earth Scotland Climate Campaigner

Audience QA & panel discussion ...
chaired by **Elizabeth Bomberg**
Professor of Environmental Politics,
University of Edinburgh



For meeting tweeting use hashtag #SpokesMtg

STARTS 7.30PM, DOORS OPEN 6.45, ENDS 9.30
Edinburgh University, Appleton Tower, 11 Crichton Street

☘ 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 (Anaphone)
www.spokes.org.uk Twitter: @SpokesLothian

MORE FOR YOUR DIARY

[* with Spokes stall - extra helpers welcome!]

Mar 17 **Bike maintenance session** at Fountainbridge [Just Eat Cycles station](#). Also March 24 at Canonmills station..

*Mar 31, **Bike Fair** Out of the Blue, 36 Dalmeny St, midday-5pm. Bike films, jumble, try-outs, food ... www.outoftheblue.org.uk

Apr 26-28 **Pedal On Parliament** pedalonparliament.org

- This year there’s not a mass PoP, but lots of little pop-up PoPs to highlight places where cycling conditions could/should be better.
- **Spokes Party** will highlight problems for kids on the school run. Planning mtg 26 Mar, 7.15pm, Skylark cafe, 241 PB High St.
- Put on your own event!! pedalonparliament.org/2019-pop-up-pops

*Apr 27/*May 25 **Farmers’ Market**, Castle Terrace, 9am-2pm. www.edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk

May 5/June 2/July 7 **Open Streets** The first 3 Council days of streets closed to all motor traffic and fully open for walk/cycle. This initial area is expected to be Lawnmarket down to Holyrood roundabout, plus various side streets and Cockburn Street. The Council hopes people/groups will come and enjoy the experience, and put on lots of activity – if successful the area will be extended from Sept onwards. More info in [March 9 Edinburgh Reporter](#).

June 6-16 **Festival of Cycling** – contact EdFoC now if you can put on an event or know any source of sponsorship edfoc.org.uk. To get an event in the **printed** programme, contact by 16 March.

*June 12 [provisional date] **Spokes Bike Breakfast** – details later

*June 13 **Spokes Public Meeting** – City Centre Transformation

ASTLEY-AINSLIE CONSULTATION DATES

The huge Astley-Ainslie site will be redeveloped when the hospital moves in a few years, and locals, supported by Grange Assn [gaedin.co.uk/wp] are organising to fight for development which is environmentally responsible and meets the needs of local people. One factor is the many quiet routes through the site [Spokes Edinburgh map, squares JK6] – will these be preserved?

If you are concerned or have ideas, attend these consultations...

Mar 23, 10am-4pm, Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road

Mar 31, 2-4pm, Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.

TRANSFORMATION

As we hoped [Spokes 133], the City Centre Transformation public consultation came out strongly for radical change, and the Council Transport Cttee agreed to preparation of a draft Delivery Plan to go to the May Committee. The report is paper 7.2 at 28 Feb Transport Committee. Edinburgh.gov.uk : *Minutes : Transport & Environment*.

ROAD DEATHS

The Scottish Sentencing Council is reviewing sentencing in cases of death caused by driving. The researchers would like to speak to affected families who have been through the criminal justice system and where the offender has been sentenced (or not). Since few fatal cases are in fact prosecuted it is really valuable for affected families to give their views through this research.

If you are affected and can help, email SCID@blueyond.co.uk
Please also tell any friends or colleagues who are affected.

SPOKES MAPS FUTURE ?

Spokes maps have for years been a crucial part of our presence and our efforts to encourage people to cycle and councils to do more. They are hugely appreciated: see spokes.org.uk : maps : feedback.

Now sadly we are in a difficult position and indeed the very future of Spokes maps is at risk. Ideally at this time we would already be working on a new Midlothian edition and starting to think about the next Edinburgh version, but neither is happening.

- Our long-standing main map graphic designer, the meticulous and dedicated Tim Smith, has retired from further map work
- We are not proactive in selling bulk copies, though we respond quickly when bike or other shops get in touch to request maps
- Most problematic, we don't have anyone to take an overall lead in coordinating, managing, encouraging, keeping tabs, thinking about marketing, etc. A kind-of maps group coordinator.

On the other hand, there are many strengths

- Our recent new W.Loithian edition pioneered a new method of surveying for updates, using local members to survey every map square. This worked really well, and we are pretty confident we have local members who'd do the same for all our maps.
- The artwork for the existing maps is still there on Tim's computer, though it is in an old format needing conversion.
- We have a member who is likely to be able to do the artwork and graphic design, though is a very busy and hard-working person.
- The maps have a great reputation and, after an initial sales dip when digital maps became widespread, there remains strong demand. The move to waterproof paper has also helped.

What do we need?

- Perhaps most important, an **overall coordinating/ supporting/ managing role** – do we have a member with that type of business experience/ability, some spare time and interest in Spokes maps?
- One or two people with time/interest to help proactive bulk sales – e.g. visit all bike shops 2 or 3 times a year and/or make contacts with businesses who might buy maps for their green travel plan.
- Possibly an additional competent maps graphics designer.
- We *don't* yet need volunteers for surveying. If and when we start on new editions we will contact members in the relevant area.
- In the past we have paid our graphics designer, as this was part of his professional life, but other roles have been voluntary.

What next?

If you may be able to help, or have suggestions, please email spokes@spokes.org.uk. We may then hold a meeting of everyone involved in Spokes maps to discuss the way forward – if it exists!!

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). The Bulletin is one of our main means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, current cycling developments and how people can help.
- ◆ Like our **facebook** posts RT our **tweets** [[@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian)] and check out our **website** spokes.org.uk.

BIKE/RAIL

We should soon have a thorough update on current developments in Scotland from our bike/rail rep, Ewan Jeffrey, on the website, at spokes.org.uk : documents : public transport : rail.

There are several good things happening, including...

- Greater bike space (and better marked, thanks to our input) on the new **Edinburgh/Glasgow Class 385 electric trains** – also soon coming to routes to Dunblane and Alloa.
- Dedicated Class 153 coaches for bikes (& sports equipment) on the West Highland Line and, later, probably, the Far North Line.

But there is one huge disappointment - and you can help – the new Edinburgh/Glasgow-Aberdeen/Inverness HST trains.

- These Inter-City 125 trains greatly improve passenger capacity and comfort, compared to existing 3-coach Class 170 diesels.
- The original promise, in a presentation at Parliament, said they would carry *"at least 20 cycles."*
- **BUT** this has been gradually watered down, and the first trains have **just 8 spaces**, all of which use **wheel-hanger storage**
- **AND** only 2 of the spaces can be used at **intermediate stations**, even stations like Dundee, Perth, Stirling. It's even worse where there are no alternative local trains, e.g Aviemore, Pitlochry.



The 2-hanger space for intermediate stations

- **A few improvements are likely to be implemented...**
 - A second 2-bike-hanger space for intermediate stations
 - The 6 terminus-only hanger spaces (which are in the power car) may get changed to non-hanger (horizontal) storage.

However, even if these mini-improvements happen, the overall provision is hugely disappointing, far worse than expected, and significantly worse even than existing facilities on the 3-coach diesels (unless you are going terminus to terminus).

It is particularly disappointing for families and groups wanting to visit areas not at the termini, for example Speyside. Also many people are unhappy about lifting bikes onto high-up hooks!

If you are concerned please email or speak to your MSPs and ask them to raise your concerns with the Transport Minister, Michael Matheson. Find MSPs at www.parliament.scot

MIDLOTHIAN A701

Midlothian Council is planning an A701 Relief Road. Spokes is against this, as it is likely to further increase traffic, including at the already difficult and dangerous (for cycling) Straiton junction.

If, as seems likely, the road is built, the Council intends for the existing A701 to become a "sustainable transport corridor" (between Gowkley Moss roundabout and Straiton junction). We believe this will only be effective if the road space is reallocated to walking, cycling and public transport. To prevent traffic building up again, we have also suggested that the road is closed to through traffic (policed by automatic number recognition camera).

If you have views on this please email Jodie.Allan@arup.com and copy to david.j.french88@gmail.com [Spokes planning group].