

# Spokes Action Update 07.08.19

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... 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.**

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## 1. Spokes Summer Competition – *closes 31 August*

- ◆ Our summer competition has a wide range of fantastic prizes. Please enter **and** tell friends!!
- ◆ We want to hear what inspired you to start using a bike **OR** how you inspired someone else to start using a bike. We are also happy with entries which explain what changed you from an occasional cyclist to a regular/everyday one, or how you inspired someone else to make that change.
- ◆ Full details of the competition, and how to enter, here... [www.spokes.org.uk/2019/07/spokescomp-my-cycling-inspiration](http://www.spokes.org.uk/2019/07/spokescomp-my-cycling-inspiration)
- ◆ Our competitions are not just a chance for you to win a prize, but also to give us a wide range of ideas and experiences. 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 – there really is something for everyone! **Top prize winner has first choice, and so on.**
  - **ScotRail**: Return standard class ticket for 2 adults + 4 kids between any 2 Scottish stations
  - **Edinburgh Bike Coop**: Edinburgh Bicycle £50 voucher
  - **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 lunch-for-2 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
  - **Boardwalkbeachclub**: £25 voucher
  - **Cafe Milk**: Lunch voucher for 2
  - **Lanterne Rouge cafe** [Gifford]: £10 voucher
  - **Spokes**: **£500 voucher** towards a cargo-bike purchase (thanks to a kind anonymous donor). Conditions apply for this prize – see entry form for details
  - **Runners-up** ... we may also give up to 10 Spokes map prizes, depending on quality of entries.

## 2. For your diary

- ◆ We hope to have a **Spokes stall** at all these events (with maps at special stall prices). Please come along and say hello – or even offer to help! Unlike last summer, Edinburgh Council Locality teams are not putting on local bike festivals, so we had the capacity for two trips to Linlithgow! Please do notify us of any local festivals/events where a good number of people are expected, in case we can manage a stall.
- ◆ *Aug 18* [Linlithgow Canal Fun Day](#) midday-4pm – **Spokes stall**.
- ◆ *Aug 31* [Linlithgow Active Travel Festival](#) 10am-3pm – **Spokes stall**.
- ◆ *Sep 28 & Oct 26* [Edinburgh Farmers' Market](#) 10am-2pm, Castle Terrace – **Spokes stall**.
- ◆ *November 15 [Friday]* – **Spokes autumn public meeting**. "*New Cycling Solutions for Edinburgh*" Main speaker will be **Richard Armitage** a founding director of the European Cycle Logistics Federation, and involved in cargo bike and bike-hire operations in Manchester. We are also inviting speakers from Edinburgh Council (on **cargo-bike initiatives**), [Edinburgh Bike Hire](#), and [Cyclehoop](#) (who have been appointed to install and manage Edinburgh's secure onstreet bike storage).

### 3. Consultations [see also para 11 below, to search for more consultations]

- ◆ **National Transport Strategy (Scotland) – closes 23 October**  
[consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-transport-strategy](https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-transport-strategy)  
This consultation has only just begun, but Spokes is likely to urge a major rethink, with transfer of resources from expanding the road network to cycling, walking, public transport and ensuring that new development is only allowed where it is well served in these ways. **Please make your own response, and send us your thoughts.**
- ◆ **Linlithgow Station access survey – closes 31 August** [llbcc.org.uk/your-views-needed](http://llbcc.org.uk/your-views-needed)  
The Community Council has obtained funds to prepare a strategy for improved access to the station, especially by sustainable means. The strategy could then be used to apply for funding for construction or other initiatives. If you have ideas to improve cycle access too, please let us know.
- ◆ **Edinburgh Council Budget 2019/2020 – closes 30 September**  
[consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/change-engagement](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/change-engagement)  
How would you spend £1 billion? The consultation is in the form of discussion sessions in venues across the city – please sign in at the link above.
  - Mon 12 August @ 6pm. Venue: Connect room, Wester Hailes Library, 1 Westside Plaza, EH14 2ST
  - Wed 14 August @ 6pm. Venue: Meggetland Sports Complex, 4 Meggetland Wynd, EH14 1XN
  - Thur 15 August @ 2pm. Venue: Northfield Community Centre, 10 Northfield Road, EH8 7PP
  - Wed 21 August @ 6pm. Venue: Craigroyston Community High School, 67 Pennywell Road, EH4 4NL
  - Thu 22 August @ 6pm. Venue: Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 11-15 Moredunvale Pl, EH17 7LB
  - Mon 26 August @ 2pm. Venue: North East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DS
  - Tue 27 August @ 2pm. Venue: Main Council Chamber, City Chambers, 253 High Street

### 4. Volunteers needed

- ◆ We are needing one or more volunteers for a couple of tasks which require a fair amount of interest, commitment and relevant knowledge/skills. Either role might also help your CV! Please get in touch to discuss if you can help – but due to holidays it may be a couple of weeks before we get back to you.
- ◆ **Family/Child Cycling Factsheet.** Spokes has a [series of factsheets](#) on a range of topics, which we use at stalls and to answer queries. This includes [two factsheets on cycling with children/ family cycling](#), one geared to younger children, one for older. These two factsheets are very old and our supply is running down. We would like to combine them into one new factsheet, and also change the format from folded A3 to an 8-page A5 booklet, similar format to our new [Flat-Dwellers factsheet](#). Additionally, there will doubtless be new material to include and old material to drop.

Obviously therefore a fair bit of work is needed to update the content and organisation of the factsheet, and this would ideally be done by someone with practical experience of child and/or family cycling. Note that we have a graphics person who can do the layout, so your role would be working on the content and structure of the factsheet - but you would not need any technical computing/layout expertise. You would also be liaising with our Resources Group who can comment on ideas, drafts, etc. There is not a pressurised timescale, but ideally this would be complete say by the end of the year.

- ◆ **Maps sales and promotion.** Our refreshed maps group, with Katharine Taylor as new coordinator, is now working hard on a complete revision of the Midlothian map, which we hope will be out in early 2020. Stocks of the Edinburgh map are running low and we are hoping to do a reprint soon, to avoid running out – we will attempt to add new cycle facilities, but a completely revised edition will be worked on following the Midlothian map.

However at present our maps group people are primarily interested in producing great quality maps, but not so much on the sales side. We respond efficiently to requests for maps (individual and bulk orders) but there is a huge amount that could be done to promote sales through bike shops (many shops are not good at re-ordering), through businesses (e.g. we have received orders for anything from 10 to 80 maps at bulk prices from businesses where there is an active spokes member) and in other ways.

## 5. Myreside Road – *a.s.a.p.*

- ◆ As mentioned in an earlier Action Update, we have received several comments during the last year or two about cycling conditions on Myreside Road, particularly during school drop-off/pick-up times, which is when many commuter cyclists are using the road. Nor are conditions for school kids good on foot, let alone by bike. The advisory cycle lanes are routinely occupied by parked cars just at these times when they would be most useful for their intended purpose, and they are often totally car-free at the times when they are least useful! Ironically, this is the opposite situation to many main road cycle routes which tend to be largely car-free during rush hours (due to the peak-time yellow line restrictions) but are often jammed with parked cars off-peak.
- ◆ The corner at the new west entrance to the Royal Ed Hospital is also difficult, as is access to and from the new path there.
- ◆ We understand that Cllr Neil Ross has raised some of these issues, thanks to a constituent contacting him, and the council is now considering single-yellow daytime prohibition of parking between the REH entrance and the Craighouse Gardens junction.
- ◆ **If these issues affect your journeys, please email your councillors with your suggestions.** Find them at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councillors).
- ◆ The [Spokes South Edinburgh Group](#) is also chasing this up. If you do contact your councillors, please let them know. Email stellathomson @ blueyonder.co.uk.

## 6. Edinburgh University

- ◆ The University already [does a great deal](#) to make cycling an easier choice for commuting and travel between campuses. However two staff members, Lisa and Lauren, who met through the University's *Be Sustainable* Advanced course have now decided to set up a Staff Cycle Community where interested staff members can get together. *For more info*, email [sc@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sc@ed.ac.uk).
- ◆ **Thursday 8 Aug** – if by any chance you read this in time their [first get together](#) is a drop-in, 12-1, at the [Chrystal Macmillan Building](#) Cafe Space in George Square.
- ◆ We've suggested that our [Workplace Cycling](#) leaflet and web page may be of interest.

## 7. Other consultations – *Check council, government & some other consultations here...*

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk)
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)
- ◆ **Midlothian** [www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/open)
- ◆ **West Lothian** [www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations)
- ◆ **Scottish Govt** [consult.gov.scot](http://consult.gov.scot)
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** [www.transport.gov.scot/consultations](http://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](http://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 (there often is!)

## 8. Finally

- ◆ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://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](mailto:spokes.org.uk).