

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.

ACT NOW!!

Two Important Consultations

To respond, go to consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk and use the Q/A, or use the email addresses below.

Don't feel you have to make a lengthy or time-consuming response. It is vital to express general support (assuming you agree!) as there is significant opposition to both proposals.

Bus Lane hours by 22 Nov

We are delighted that the Council is consulting on extending all bus lane hours to 7-7-7, 7am-7pm 7 days a week. Spokes members may recall how, with Living Streets, we fought unsuccessfully for this (or for 24/7) some years ago when the Council inexplicably scrapped Saturday bus lanes and cut others to peak-time only, in contradiction to their policies on active and public transport.

Of course, we argue for segregated cyclist route on arterial roads, but, until that is widespread, car-free bus lanes are of considerable value to people on bikes as well as people using bus or on foot.

We support the proposals because...

- ◆ An effective bus service is vital to reducing traffic on our roads
- ◆ Car-free bus/cycle lanes are much friendlier for cycling than general traffic lanes with lorries, cars and buses. There's a great video example in the official Spokes response – see below.
- ◆ Bus drivers from Lothian Buses have cycle-awareness training
- ◆ For pedestrians it's pleasanter and less polluting to have the lane next to the footway free of nearly all motor traffic.
- ◆ For drivers, the general traffic lane is rarely congested offpeak, so why not leave the bus lane to benefit bike, walk and bus?

For further information, there is a detailed Spokes response at spokes.org.uk : documents : public transport : bus.

But you don't need to emulate that - a brief response at the Consultation Hub above is fine, or you can email a short or a long reply to buslane.hoursconsultation@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Cameron Toll to Bioquarter by 25 Nov

This is the first lengthy arterial segregated route proposal from the Council – i.e. a route leading from the central area (albeit not right from the city centre) to a major out-of-centre location. Again there is much history, Spokes having battled hard for the kerbside double-yellowed lanes, at a time when roadspace reallocation to allow full segregation had no chance of political acceptability.

There are a few issues which Spokes will raise, for example a better Kings Buildings connection, but it is vital that the project gets as much general support as possible, so please do respond.

One big worry is that there is heavy lobbying for the Lady Road section to be dropped, to retain all existing car lanes. This would be a major blow to the scheme - a safe east-west route here is vital, though it could be provided in a different way to that proposed.

Our official response is not yet ready, but please do respond at Consultation Hub or email barry.clarke@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Public Meeting, 15 November

New Cycling Solutions for Edinburgh

Don't own a bike? Nowhere to store one? Limited carrying capacity? Many of the restrictions which used to limit bike travel and transport are starting to fade, thanks to new innovations and opportunities ...



Find out what's happening from the people delivering the new solutions; then a 1-hour panel discussion & Q/A, to voice your thoughts, chaired by Dr Caroline Brown, Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University

Richard Armitage

- ◆ European Cycle Logistics Federation - Executive Director
- ◆ Last Mile Manchester - Director
- ◆ Manchester Bike Hire - Director

Cllr Lesley Macinnes

- ◆ City of Edinburgh – Transport & Environment Convener

Katherine Soane

- ◆ Edinburgh Cycle Hire, Transport for Edinburgh

Gavin Rimmer

- ◆ Cyclehoop – business development manager

Ed Cycle Hire needs your help!

This is a condensed version of a [blog](#) by Ed Cycle Hire.

In recent weeks we've noticed a spike in theft and vandalism of our fleet. As a first priority we are working with Police Scotland, but in order to protect our scheme, we need **your** support.

The vandalism and theft occurs all over the network. We have completed the following actions to try and ensure that it is limited:

- ◆ Reviewed all stations to ensure bikes are located in areas with good lighting, lots of passing traffic and CCTV where possible.
- ◆ Hired roving security patrols at times when vandalism peaks
- ◆ Increased operational staff to manage bike collections and attending to stations more regularly.

Despite these actions, theft and vandalism continues — especially by young teenagers. This affects the number of bikes available and the performance of the scheme for end-users. At worst, it could affect the viability of the scheme. It could also affect the appetite for the scheme to continue to grow at the pace it has been.

How you can help

1. **Call the Police on 101** if you see any of the following...
 - ◆ Someone stealing or vandalising a bike
 - ◆ Someone riding a bike with flashing blue and red front lights
 - ◆ Someone riding a bike with no lights on
2. **Take photos and/or videos** as well as calling the police.
3. **If you see a bike dumped** or somewhere inappropriate, please contact support@edinburghcyclehire.com or 0131 278 3000 with the as much of the following information as possible...

Name & Number of Bike ... Picture of Bike ... Location

We will collect the bike and take it to our workshop for some TLC.

IF YOU ARE AT THE 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

ELECTION 2019

With most cycling-related policy now a Scotland rather than UK responsibility we are not asking candidates for statements or holding a Spokes hustings for the General Election. However, as always, we tell you which candidates are Spokes members and we give links to useful further information.

There is a fuller blog article at spokes.org.uk which we will update as more information becomes available.

Please email Spokes with details of any election hustings in Edinburgh/Lothian, including a link to the relevant website or facebook page, and we will add these to our blog.

CANDIDATES WHO ARE SPOKES MEMBERS

At the 2017 election only two candidates were Spokes members, and it's good to see four this time. As always, we only list candidates who were members at the time the election was called, not anyone joining at the last minute for a bit of extra publicity!

Please note: we do not endorse candidates. The choice is yours.

Edinburgh East [Sheila Gilmore](#) Scottish Labour

[Claire Miller](#) Scottish Green Party

Edinburgh North and Leith [Gordon Munro](#) Scottish Labour

Edinburgh South [Ian Murray](#) Scottish Labour

REGISTER TO VOTE

Registering usually takes about 5 minutes.

See www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Registration to vote closes at 11.59pm on 26 November.

Registration for a postal vote closes at 5pm on 26 November.



ELECTION PAGES FROM LOCAL COUNCILS

These pages will include full lists of local candidates, important dates, links for registering to vote, etc, etc....

Edinburgh www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20033/elections_and_voting

East Lothian www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210600/elections_and_voting

Midlothian www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting

West Lothian www.westlothian.gov.uk/aboutmyvote

CLIMATE ELECTION

◆ **Greenpeace has a petition** (over 100,000 signatures so far!) seeking a party leaders' climate debate. All main parties other than the Conservatives have now agreed. Please help add to the pressure by signing secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/hold-a-televised-election-debate-on-climate-change

◆ **Edinburgh FOE** and 10 other local groups are organising a 'vigil for climate justice' in the general election, with speeches outside the Usher Hall at 5.30 on 6 Dec, then a human chain at the West End. www.facebook.com/events/737986893342928

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 the official Spokes response.*

◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk, includes...

Bus lane hours *by 22 Nov. Also see overleaf.*

Cameron Toll to Bioquarter *by 25 Nov. Also overleaf.*

◆ **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!).

CARGO & E-BIKE OFFERS

Thanks to a very kind and large anonymous donation, Spokes makes the following 3 offers...

Community Groups in Edinburgh or Lothian

◆ Spokes will consider assisting with the cost of a **cargo bike** or **bike trailer**. We offer up to 50% of the cost, or £1500, whichever is least. Further details, and an application form, at [spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : cargobikes](http://spokes.org.uk:documents:advice:cargobikes).

◆ If you know groups that might be interested, please pass this on.

Spokes Members needing a cargo bike

◆ Spokes offers £1000 or 50% of the cost, whichever is least, towards a cargo bike (for example for child transport) for two Spokes member households. If there are more than two applications we will choose two at random.

◆ *The following conditions will apply...*

a) The cargobike must be bought from a local bike shop in Edinburgh/Lothian (not mail order or a major chain store)

b) Our grant will be paid to the shop, not to you

c) Your choice of model must be OK'd by David Gardiner of Laidback Bikes as being suitable for the purpose you wish to use it for [but you need not buy from his shop]

d) Within 3 months of the purchase you will send us 2 or 3 photos and a few paragraphs about your use of the machine.

◆ *To apply, email spokes@spokes.org.uk stating that you accept these conditions. Closing date 30 Nov 2019.*

Anyone needing an e-bike and supported by a Spokes member

◆ Spokes offers £500 or 50% of the cost, whichever is least, towards an e-bike for two people who currently cycle very little or not at all, but would cycle regularly if they had an ebike. Ideally applications will be on behalf of people who might find it difficult to afford the full cost, but that is at your discretion. If there are over two applications we will choose two at random.

◆ *The following conditions will apply...*

a) The application must be by a Spokes member (the 'sponsor') on behalf of a non- or occasional cyclist (the 'beneficiary').

b) The sponsor must be confident that the beneficiary will be able to use an e-bike and is likely to do so regularly.

c) The beneficiary must try an ebike at least twice before the purchase. For example, on the sponsor's e-bike (if any), or at Edinburgh Cycle Hire e-bike events. Or hire an e-bike; details in our factsheet below.

d) The ebike must be bought from a local Edinburgh or Lothian bike shop (not mail order and not a major chain store).

e) Our grant will be paid to the shop, not to the buyer.

f) The beneficiary should join Spokes

g) Within 3 months of purchase the sponsor will send us 2 or 3 photos and some text about the beneficiary's experience.

◆ *To apply, email spokes@spokes.org.uk stating that you accept these conditions. Closing date 30 Nov 2019.*

SPOKES FACTSHEET – WHY E-BIKE?

For more about e-bikes, see our factsheet *Why E-Bike?* which is at [spokes.org.uk : documents : advice : ebikes](http://spokes.org.uk:documents:advice:ebikes). The back page of the factsheet lists local e-bike hire in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

HELP SPOKES!!

◆ We have plenty copies of new [Spokes Bulletin 135](#). Could you take some to leaflet bikes at your work, shops, etc? Either one-off for this bulletin or regularly (3 times a year). This is a vital means of spreading knowledge of Spokes, of what is happening in cycling policy, and how people can help.

◆ Like our [facebook](#) posts and RT our tweets [[@SpokesLothian](#)]. Check our twitter 'favourites' for important or interesting tweets. Very recent tweets also appear on our website in the RH col..

◆ Check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk.