

# SPOKESWORKER 02.03.20 updated 17.3.20

## The Action-Update of Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign

St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JG 0131.313.2114 [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk) [spokesATspokes.org.uk](mailto:spokesATspokes.org.uk) Twitter @SpokesLothian

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 only 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.**

## Mobility Plan & City Plan 2030 ... act now!!

Edinburgh City Council has published for consultation its draft [City Mobility Plan](#) (basically the future of transport till 2030) and draft [City Plan 2030](#) (basically the future of land use till 2030). Alongside the already approved City Centre Transformation approved last year, these proposals represent a big moment in the future of the City. It is vital that there are plenty responses to the consultations from people concerned about sustainability and active travel – there will certainly also be opposition.

Spokes responses to both consultations are at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk). Click the [consultations tab](#), then the relevant *Spokes Pages* entry. For the **Mobility Plan** we especially emphasise doing more on car restrictions within the city and on high quality arterial bike routes. For **City Plan 2030** we especially emphasise the need for compact towns and cities and use of brownfield land before greenfield.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ Submit your own response – either by email or via the Council's online site. All details at.. [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk)
  - [Mobility Plan](#) – closes 27 March
  - [City Plan 2030](#) – closes 31 March
- ◆ Don't feel you have to make a lengthy or time-consuming response. **It is important to express general support** (assuming you agree!) as there is also opposition to both proposals.
- ◆ The Council is holding staffed drop-ins. Do try to get to one of these. The remaining sessions are...
  - Wed 4 Mar, 4-7pm, **Blackhall** Library 56 Hillhouse Rd EH4 5EG
  - Thu 12 Mar, 4-7.30, **Ratho** Comm Centre, 1 School Wynd, EH28 8TT
  - Mon 16 Mar, 4-7pm, **Currie** Library, 210 Lanark Rd West EH14 5NX
  - Thu 19 Mar, 1-8.30pm, St Brides Centre, 10 Orwell Terr EH11 2DZ.

## CARGOBIKE OFFERS

**Thanks to a kind, large, anonymous donation we have another offer to Spokes members needing a cargobike; as well as continuing our ongoing grant offer to local Community Groups.**

### Community Groups in Edinburgh or Lothian

- ◆ Spokes offers the least of £1500 or 50% of the cost, towards a **cargo bike** or **bike trailer**, subject to various conditions. Full info and application form, at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) : [documents](#) : [advice](#) : [cargobikes](#).
- ◆ This offer remains open until further notice
- ◆ Please pass this to any possibly interested groups
- ◆ In East Lothian, you might get extra help: see over.



*Spokes-supported Nihola cargobike for The Green Team - environmental work and education with young people*

## Public Meeting **cancelled**

Our [March 23 public meeting](#) on Local Bike Campaigning has been cancelled. due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

But - don't let this put you off local campaigning, some of which can be done online! Our [Local Bike Campaigning factsheet](#) is full of the stories of people who do their bit in a multitude of ways. The factsheet was printed as a pullout in [Spokes Bulletin 136](#). and you can find links to both under the [Bulletin tab](#) at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

## LOCAL BIKE CAMPAIGNING

**More and more people want decent conditions for getting about by bike – for the environment and climate, for health, for towns and cities not dominated by the car and for a happier life.**

A Sustrans ICM survey found that 80% of Edinburgh residents “support protected cycle lanes even if this means less space for other road traffic.”

It's not surprising then that many people are motivated to try and improve things. Everyone is different, and this factsheet illustrates and celebrates the multifarious ways in which people do just that. The opportunities – your opportunities! – are endless.

### Varieties of campaigning...

- ◆ join a wide-ranging campaign group, like [Spokes](#)
- ◆ join a local-area subgroup, such as [Spokes Portobello](#)
- ◆ join a project-support group, like [Roseburn Cycle](#)
- ◆ join your [Community Council](#)
- ◆ create your own campaign on an issue that bugs you
- ◆ set up a school-based initiative, like a bike bus
- ◆ join a one-off time-limited protest, such as [Pop-up PoP](#)
- ◆ join a wider cycling or environment group which has campaigning aspects, e.g. [Festival of Cycling](#), [CCE online forum](#), [All-Ability Cycling](#), [Sustrans](#), [Friends of the Earth](#), [The Bike Station](#), [Transform Scotland](#), [CyclingUK](#), [WL Bike Library](#).
- ◆ as an individual, contact your councillors and/or MSPs.

## \* Stop Press consultations \*

**FILMHOUSE** is consulting on a new building, on Festival Square. See [www.filmhousecinema.com/location-0](http://www.filmhousecinema.com/location-0). Good cycling conditions from the canal/Exchange/West-End route through Festival Sq to Lothian Rd, and its future crossing, are vital. From the picture, space will be far less – and there will be more walkers - so the case for a segregated route is strong. Please respond at [www.filmhousecinema.com/future](http://www.filmhousecinema.com/future) [also drop-ins, April 1 & 28].

**WATER OF LEITH MANAGEMENT PLAN** [ends 26 Mar] Details, drop-ins and response form at [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk). There is a long section on active travel in the draft Plan. We have not yet had time to consider it, but it seems short on cycling.

## Spokes Members needing a cargo bike

- ◆ Spokes offers £1500 or 50% of the cost, whichever is least, towards a cargo bike (e.g. child transport) for up to 3 Spokes member households. If more apply we will select at random. This is a *time-limited opportunity* - applications close 10 April.
- ◆ *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 purchasing you send us 2 or 3 photos and a few paragraphs about your use of the machine.
- ◆ **To apply**, email [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk) stating that you accept these conditions. **Closing date 10 April 2020.**
- ◆ You don't need to tell us make, model, costs etc at this stage, but please only apply if you are definite about wanting this.

## SPOKES MAP OPPORTUNITIES

### FOR YOUR WORKPLACE, CLUB OR GROUP OF FRIENDS

**Did you know?** - you can buy Spokes maps at a big discount if you order 6 or more of the same map direct from Spokes! Then you can...

- ♦ Sell them on to friends/colleagues at a cheap price, or
- ♦ Sell them on at full price and use the profit to support a local cause close to your heart.

Several members have collected orders at their workplace, either through a Bicycle User Group, or just chatting to colleagues, and then bulk ordering. One large workplace even ordered **70 copies** thanks to a Spokes member in their Bicycle User Group, whilst members in smaller workplaces, or for a friends group, have ordered say 6 or 10.

**For details** see [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), [Spokes Maps tab](#), section C (bulk orders).

### EDINBURGH SPOKES MAP

Due to stocks selling out, we ordered a reprint in autumn 2019, but added the new big cyclerroutes at Granton and Shawfair plus many smaller corrections. This revised 10th edition should now be in the shops and will be sent when you order direct from Spokes. We hope to re-survey the city for a completely new edition in 2021.

### NEW MIDLOTHIAN MAP - SPOKES OFFER

Midlothian is our oldest map, and the only one not yet on tear- and water-resistant paper. Spokes volunteers have now entirely resurveyed Midlothian and we hope to publish in late Spring or early Summer.

If you pre-order the new map from Spokes for £7 (includes postage) we will *now* send you the existing map *and* we will send you the new map as soon as published. **This offer only applies for orders sent to Spokes by post or at Spokes stalls, including at our March 23 public meeting.**

### MIDLOTHIAN SPOKES MAP PHOTO COMPETITION

We need a superb picture for the front cover, giving the message *cycling is for everyone*. Could it be your photo?

#### REWARDS

Your reward will be having your name acknowledged on the map, 2 free copies of the map, and the pleasure of seeing your picture every time you go into a local bike shop which sells the maps!

We only need one superb photo, but if there are several really good, we will send a free map to up to 3 runners-up.

**For details of exactly what we need, and how to enter**, go to [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk), click the *Spokes Maps* tab, then see section G (special offers).

**It is important to follow the rules, or your photo may have to be eliminated.**

**Closing date – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020**

A strong and durable all-weather map specially designed for cyclists



## Midlothian Cycle Map



1:30,000 (approx)  
3.3 cm to 1 Km  
2 inches to 1 mile

For route planning and use on the road  
For experienced cyclists and those just starting

Off-road paths  
Suggested quieter roads  
Places of Interest  
Cyclists street plans of the main towns

This is a **DRAFT** of the front cover of the new map - but it would use your picture

## POLICE DROP-INS

The Edinburgh Police Division is divided into 4 Community Policing Teams, with the same areas as Edinburgh Council's 4 'Localities.'

At [www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/edinburgh](http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/edinburgh) you can find your area (and your council ward) by clicking on a map, and also get info, contact details and twitter account for each team.

All the teams have drop-ins where you can meet local police to talk about local issues that concern you. Unfortunately it's often hard to find advance dates; they are usually advertised on team twitter accounts, some at short notice. Here are some we've seen:

[@EdinPolSE](#) Police Surgery - Morrisons at Gilmerton 4.30-7, Mar 12, Apr 23, May 14, Jun 25

[@EdinPolNE](#) Coffee with a Copper – occasional times/places

[@EdinPolNW](#) Police Drop-In - Granton Library 2-3pm, Mar 16, Apr 6, Apr 27; Newhaven Cafe, 7 Craighall Rd, 11-12am, Mar 11, Apr 28, May 14

[@EdinPolSW](#) Coffee with a Cop – Currie Corner Cafe 10.30-11.30, first Monday of each month

## BIKE PARKING/ACCESS/INFO

### ... volunteer(s) needed

Bike trips are often frustrated by poor access or parking at destinations, and no or inadequate info on *How to Get Here* web pages. Our planning group has recently written to Murrayfield where all three aspects are pretty pathetic - but the same could be said of many public buildings, supermarkets, NHS sites, etc.

There is now a possibility of a major project to tackle this, prepare advice material and engage with site managers.

**Changeworks** has applied for a huge lottery grant to work with community groups to reduce Edinburgh's carbon emissions, and their application has reached the final shortlist. The grant would support many projects, probably including a Spokes one on this topic. There could be cash for consultants to do the donkey work, surveying sites and engaging with employers, but we need a group of 3 or 4 people to run the project. Already one person from Spokes Planning Group and one from Resources Group have volunteered. **If you could offer time and enthusiasm for this very important topic**, please email [spokes@spokes.org.uk](mailto:spokes@spokes.org.uk).

## JUST E(AT)-BIKES

Edinburgh Cycle Hire has launched its e-bikes, with some great reviews from those who have tried them [see some of the retweets at [twitter.com/cyclehire\\_edj](https://twitter.com/cyclehire_edj)]. There is a 10p per minute charge in addition to the usual £1.50 unlocking charge, but until 16 March there will be no per-minute charge for the first hour.

More info in the Feb 25 article at [www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk).

## EAST LOTHIAN GRANTS

Grants up to £8000 are available for small sustainable transport projects in East Lothian, from a local community Interest company *SpareWheels*. For more info, contact Spokes member Christine Dora via [ccd.sparewheels@gmail.com](mailto:ccd.sparewheels@gmail.com).

## CONSULTATIONS

- ♦ **Check the websites below for current (and past) consultations. Please 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](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...** [transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts](http://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!!

- ♦ We have plenty copies of new [Spokes Bulletin 136](#). 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. Recent tweets are also on our website in the RH col.
- ♦ Check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)
- ♦ To campaign effectively Spokes needs as many supporters as possible. If you like what we do, and to keep in touch with developments, join Spokes! See [www.spokes.org.uk/membership](http://www.spokes.org.uk/membership).
- ♦ **Local Community Events** – if you hear of a local festival or other event likely to attract a good number of people, please let us know in case we are able to organise a Spokes stall – and if at all possible also volunteer to help at the stall!!!