

# Spokes Action-Update 29 May 2020

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First, we hope you are keeping safe and well. Thank you if you are supporting the pandemic efforts in whatever way, particularly if you are a key-worker, whether employed or voluntary. Section 2 below tells you what Spokes and other bike organisations have done or are doing locally.

## 1. Covid-19 - urgent need to reallocate roadspace – *please help*

A great deal has happened in the last few weeks, with the Scottish Government trebling its £10m fund ([as we predicted!](#)) for Councils to install rapid 'temporary' measures to assist walking and cycling social distancing and to provide safer traffic-free or traffic-reduced conditions. The original £10m fund was very rapidly oversubscribed and many councils are still to submit a bid.

**Edinburgh** was one of the first Councils to bid and has won £5m of the now £30m fund total. We believe the 3 **Lothians Councils** are also bidding.

We think that many bids to the fund are for 'indicative' proposals – in other words not a final hard and fast list of projects, but a general approach, with example and likely schemes, but which can be modified in the light of further information and feedback.

*Early Edinburgh schemes now in place include road closures as follows [note the number of tweet 'likes']...*

- ◆ [Braid Road](#) (plus measures in Braidburn Terrace)
- ◆ [Cammo Walk](#)
- ◆ [Silverknowes Road](#)
- ◆ [Links Gardens](#)
- ◆ [Stanley Street](#)/ Hope Lane – partial closure
- ◆ Warriston Road

*Imminently expected are...*

- ◆ Segregated cycle lane Cameron Toll to Infirmary
- ◆ Crewe Road South measures to assist walk/cycle to WG hospital [the initial plan is unsegregated – we are urging segregated, and for rapid attention to the roundabouts at each end]

The up-to-date position should be on this Council web page...

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roads-travel-parking/emergency-measures-pedestrians-cyclists-coronavirus> and this Sustrans page...

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/space-to-move>

Spokes has emailed **Edinburgh Council** with a set of suggested priorities, including, amongst other priorities, one major initial scheme for each quarter of the city...

- ◆ **City Centre** – Lothian Road segregated lanes
- ◆ **North** – uphill segregated lane, Canonmills and Broughton Street
- ◆ **South** – A702 segregated lanes, in from Frogston
- ◆ **East** – Brighton Place traffic calming; Duddingston Road/ DR West segregated lanes
- ◆ **West** – A8 segregated lanes, Haymarket->Corstorphine->Maybury

**Our letter is here...**

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2005-28-Spaces-for-People-Spokes-response.pdf>

Finally, whilst Edinburgh and Glasgow were first off the mark in Scotland, progress in London is faster and more ambitious, recognising the threat of massive traffic growth with people scared to use public transport. For the Transport for London policies and actions, see here-->

1. <https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/streetspace-for-london>

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/18/a-new-normal-how-coronavirus-will-transform-transport-in-britains-cities>

## ROADSPACE REALLOCATION - WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ◆ **Edinburgh -email your councillors** – support the points in our above letter which concern you, and/or make your own suggestions. Many councillors are collating ideas for their area. Spokes member [Cllr Scott Arthur](#) has been particularly assiduous with a survey followed by [this report](#) on his Colinton/ Fairmilehead ward.

Also submit suggestions to [spacesforpeople@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:spacesforpeople@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Stop press!! - interactive reporting map - ends June 29.** Just as this circular was completed, Edinburgh Council + Sustrans launched an interactive map where you can suggest schemes and agree with or comment on other suggestions (you have to give your email address in order to leave feedback). Find the map here... <https://edinburghspacesforpeople.commonplace.is/>

- ◆ **Retweet the tweet about our letter** - <https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1265999672558133248>
- ◆ **East Lothian** – online survey <https://elothianspacesforpeople.commonplace.is/about>
- ◆ **West Lothian** – an online survey was briefly open but is now closed. Email your councillors <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy>
- ◆ **Midlothian** – Email your councillors <https://midlothian.cmis.uk.com/live/Councillors.aspx>
- ◆ **Keep using your bike** – and encourage friends and neighbours. Show them our [Cycling Inspiration factsheet!](#)

## 2. Covid-19 – advice, info and support for key workers

Thanks to the kind annual donations from Spokes members (plus the fact that we have no employees!) Spokes has been able to donate £1000 each to the Bike Station and to [Bridge8Hub/BikesForRefugees](#) who are both running schemes to donate or loan bikes to key workers who need them. On a smaller scale we also have a [cheap map offer](#) for key workers.

Bridge8Hub/BfR have set up [a website scheme](#) where individuals can loan or donate a bike to a key worker. The [Bike Station Hero Bikes scheme](#) is up and running too, offering free refurbished bikes, and was recently featured in [The Guardian](#).

Through these schemes, we reckon that literally hundreds of bikes have already been loaned or donated to key workers.

Additionally several local bike businesses have special deals for key workers. *These include:* [Edinburgh Bicycle](#), [Belhaven Bikes](#) and [West Lothian Bike Library](#).

Full list in our website article [Covid-19 Bike Support for Key Workers](#).

## 3. Help needed – Spokes maps distribution

For many years, Spokes has produced fantastic cycle maps of Edinburgh and the Lothians. [The praise we receive](#) for the maps is almost embarrassing! However we've been less good at ensuring that maps are in as many bike shops as possible. Distribution just seems less sexy than design!

However, we have now set up a new system where we hope local volunteers will cover shops in their local area of Edinburgh, or Lothians town, to check 3 or 4 times a year whether more stocks are needed. In most cases Spokes centrally would organise delivery of the maps, so you would not be handling maps or money, just chatting to the shop staff.

*To volunteer for your local area, please email... [office@spokes.org.uk](mailto:office@spokes.org.uk).*

## 4. Help needed – Spokes family cycling factsheet

Spokes has separate [factsheets](#) on cycling with young children, and on getting bikes for older children. Both are now rather out of date, and we intend to produce a new combined 8-page A5 factsheet. We have someone to do the layout but welcome help with the factual content, particularly from anyone with current experience of transporting children and/or helping them to transport themselves!

*If you can offer help, please email... [office@spokes.org.uk](mailto:office@spokes.org.uk).*

## 5. Cargobike Spokes offers

Thanks to a large anonymous donation, Spokes was able to grant up to £1500 to several members to assist purchase of a family cargo bike, as advertised in our [member circular of 22 April](#) and previously. Some are still on order, but we've had lovely reports from a couple of member families already, as below.

Quite separate from the offer for members, our offer for **local community groups** is ongoing. For details (and pictures from some groups we've helped) see [spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes](http://spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes).

We are using our new cargo bike every day, and all four of us love it! Journeys that took half an hour on foot with a buggy and a kid's bike now take less than 10 minutes. Having this cargobike means we get around a lot more easily, to a wider variety of places.

The only tricky thing for us has been turning round the bike in a tight space like our small garden. This requires some lifting but hasn't hindered use!

**Thanks so much SPOKES for your grant towards this!**

Veronica and Casey

Model – Urban Arrow Performance CX



I have received the **Christiana cargo bike** and I absolutely love it. Thank you so much for the grant that helped to pay for it. I remember clearly the day that I received the email from Spokes saying that we'd been awarded the grant. It was such a happy moment because our old cargo bike was falling to bits and I used it every day with my children, so I was delighted that I could now buy the cargo bike I wanted as it is such an essential piece of kit to us.

I have two small children and I live in central Edinburgh and getting around by cargo bike has always made complete sense to me. Our old cargo bike was brilliant and I'd used it since the children were babies, although it was in the autumn of its years and I'd been thinking of replacing it when I saw the Spokes cargo bike grant being advertised. **It is such a treat having the new one... it is a pleasure to ride, has loads of lovely components, a spacious box for growing children plus shopping and swimming kits, and the snazzy yellow colour always makes us smile.**

I mostly use the cargo bike on cycle paths, although I use it on roads too and have never had any problems. It's brilliant with small children because I never have to stress about parking or catching a bus, so even when getting out the door is unpredictable, **I know that once we're away on the cargo bike everything else is predictable. It is faster and more fun than walking, I never bother with a buggy, I can chat to the children and I never run out of shopping space even if I see something really good in a charity shop.**

We really do go everywhere on it in central Edinburgh... toddler cinema, classes, friends' houses, swimming lessons, parks and shopping. I can fit so much more into my day by whizzing about on the cargo bike and we go further and are able to do more interesting things.

**A cargo bike has been part of my life with the children for four years now. It's nice that so often people wave and smile at us, even from cars. I'd love to see more people using them, especially to transport children, it makes so much sense and they really love it. It's the best decision I've made after having kids.**

Joanna, April 2020



## 6. Spokes Midlothian map

Our new **Midlothian map** is nearly complete and we expect to publish it in the next couple of months. Many thanks to all the local members who helped over the winter with a complete survey of the area, to Andy our mapping expert, and everyone else in our maps group who has helped with organising. There's a special advance-purchase offer. Details in section 3 [here](#).

## 7. Current consultations

Please respond to any of these consultations which concern you - and Spokes would welcome a copy of your thoughts. Click the titles below to go to the consultations. Note that there is a Spokes website consultation page which will take you to selected consultations (not necessarily all those below) and to our responses when available - click the [consultations tab](#) at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk).

- ◆ **[Duddingston Road 'safety improvements'](#)** – **now extended to 17 June**. Our response (by Spokes Party) is [here](#) – basically the proposals for Duddingston Road are far far too timid. Note however that our submission was before the Council commenced its programme of rapid 'temporary' measures such as road closures and 'pop-up' cycle lanes in response to the Covid crisis and government funding for such measures. Spokes Party [is now arguing for](#) immediate segregated cycling in Duddingston Road and Duddingston Road West, as well as traffic calming in Brighton Place – these roads containing several schools and forming a major artery connecting Portobello with South Edinburgh and the city centre. When you respond to the consultation, please consider covering this new immediate situation, not just the long-term proposals.
- ◆ **[New Filmhouse on Festival Square](#)** – **ends 3 June**. The official Spokes response has been submitted and is linked from our website [consultations page](#).
- ◆ **[Edinburgh Park South, planning application 20/02068/FUL](#)** – **ends 26 June**. *“Edinburgh's largest single site development proposal for more than a decade”* ... 1,737 homes (434 affordable), 43,667 m<sup>2</sup> office space, 10,017 m<sup>2</sup> apart-hotel (170 bedrooms), 2,286 m<sup>2</sup> retail & F&B space, 701 m<sup>2</sup> workshop & gallery space, 519 m<sup>2</sup> leisure space (3 screen arts cinema), 2 multi-storey car parks (some permissions granted previously). Whilst it is good to develop on brownfield land, near good public transport, and parking provision has been reduced from their original proposal, the development still looks much too car-dominated, bringing yet more cars onto surrounding streets. We have only just seen the plans, but one specific cycling issue at an earlier stage was that cycle access to the site from the underpass of the railway at Edin Park Station was very poor.

## 8. 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!)

## 9. Keeping in touch

- ★ 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 ReTweet tweets that you support. Recent tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ★ If you use **Facebook**, please like, share, etc the [Spokes Facebook page](#).
- ★ To campaign effectively Spokes needs as many supporters as possible. If you are not already a member and you like what we do, go to [www.spokes.org.uk/membership](http://www.spokes.org.uk/membership).