

Spokes Action-Update 1 July 2020

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1. James Harrison memorial event - 8:45 am, Thurs 2 July

As you may have heard, James Harrison, a husband and father, was killed last week whilst cycling to his work as a research nurse at the Royal Infirmary. A memorial event has been organised by people from the [City Cycling Edinburgh online forum](#). You are invited to attend. The announcement is here...

Another tragic and needless death on Edinburgh's roads. There will be a minute's silence at the junction of Mount Vernon Road and Gilmerton Road at 8:45 am on Thursday 2nd July. Please come to respectfully observe with appropriate social distancing a minute's silence for the tragic passing of much loved father, husband and volunteer ICU nurse James Harrison ... The signals will be overridden and all on red at that time and we will mark a minute's silence and lay flowers.

There is a facebook link here <https://www.facebook.com/events/618581315418954>

To find a route there, use your Spokes Edinburgh map, or use CycleStreets here, where (after clicking through) you can choose a fast or a quiet route...

<https://www.cyclestreets.net/journey/to/55.91729,-3.15257/55.917278%2C+-3.152556%2C+Coordinates+as+lat%2Clon/>

A tweet about the death from one of the local councillors, with police details should you have any information, is here...

<https://twitter.com/lezleymarion/status/1277713436793864193>

And an Evening News article about James Harrison here...

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/tributes-paid-much-loved-hero-covid-19-nurse-killed-after-bike-and-van-collide-edinburgh-2898290>

2. Car danger to pedestrians and cyclists seems to be growing

In the last week or so Edinburgh has seen...

- ◆ [James Harrison's death](#)
- ◆ [A 3-year old boy killed](#), and his mother injured, by a car mounting Morningside Road footway
- ◆ [A cyclist taken to hospital](#) after being hit by a vehicle in East Preston Street
- ◆ [A 7-year-old with serious injuries](#) having been hit by a car Portobello

Whilst we cannot know if this cluster of death and serious injury is a sad coincidence, the [average number of road deaths per year in Edinburgh](#) is around 1 for cyclists and 4 for pedestrians, which makes this recent set of crashes very concerning, falling within a small number of days.

Furthermore, there is strong evidence that [in British cities](#), and indeed [other countries](#), motorist speeds and the severity of crashes have risen during the Covid lockdown.

3. Streets for People – and lessons for the future

As you will know, Edinburgh, along with other councils, is introducing 'emergency' 'temporary' measures to assist social distancing and provide safer and more comfortable conditions for cycling and walking.

Council page.. www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spaces-people-1

Spokes page.. www.spokes.org.uk/documents/members-campaigning/edinburgh/edinburgh-covid-schemes

Although we need more, and faster, these schemes have been introduced at a speed traditionally unheard of in Scotland or the UK, where we are used to consultations often lasting literally years and years.

There is a major article on our website, looking at the relative speed of these covid schemes, the interminable delays in traditional projects, and how Councils and the government could learn lessons and develop new procedures. We suggest fewer consultations, combined with 'Try then Modify' experiments using simple and cheap materials, rather like the current Streets for People schemes. The article is here... <http://www.spokes.org.uk/2020/06/spaces-for-people/>

If you like the ideas – ask your councillors to consider this approach for all existing and future active travel projects. The benefits could include...

- many of the benefits of the final scheme come far earlier, through an experimental scheme
- more realistic feedback, by experiment, than purely by paper, computer modelling and public opinion exercises
- ensuring that all affected people are aware of the project (because they experience the experimental scheme) and so have an opportunity to comment – at present many people are unaware of paper or online consultations
- identifying problems at a stage when they can be remedied/tested cheaply rather than after a costly 'final' implementation
- in most cases, the permanent solution being in place far earlier
- saving significant amounts of government and council cash.

We've also tweeted the article – please retweet!

<https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1276250732434423808>

4. Streets for People – suggested actions

If you would like to suggest further rapid actions the Council should take under the Covid19 Streets for People initiative, please contact your councillors and ask them to take up your points. Find your councillors at writetothem.com or www.edinburgh.gov.uk/council-democracy.

Here are two suggestions about which we feel particularly strongly...

- ◆ **Main/arterial roads** – the Council has already installed 'temporary' segregation on [Old Dalkeith Road](#). Safer cycling conditions on such main roads are vital as they are usually the most direct and least hilly routes from A to B. Tell your councillors which roads that **you** use need this treatment



Old Dalkeith Road

photo by @EdinNightRide [twitter]

- ◆ **Leith Street** – the Council is considering removing one of the uphill traffic lanes. We have long argued for an uphill cycle lane right to the junction at the East End, and this is [the perfect opportunity](#) for an uphill lane and a widened footway.

5. Consultations – *Check council, government & some other consultations here*

- ◆ 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... Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... 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!)

6. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often 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.