

# Spokes Maps Group meeting 10.4.19

This is not intended to be a minute, but notes on possible ways forward as discussed at the meeting, plus further background.

## Present

1. **KT** Katharine Taylor [Considerable map experience when working with Sustrans and liaised with Tim on some early Spokes maps]
2. **DL** David Langworth [Cartographer for the more recent Spokes Edinburgh maps]
3. Peter Hawkins [Worked with Tim on producing the Lothians maps; currently handles requests for bulk sales of existing maps]
4. **MM** Martin McDonnell [Some experience of bike maps via Bristol cycle campaign]
5. **DdF** Dave du Feu [Involved periodically in Spokes map issues, and trying to ensure continuity and progress]

## Apologies

1. **AD** Anne Douglas [office manager and 2018 joint coordinator for W Lothian map surveying] ... would be pleased to be involved in helping coordinate surveying for future maps, particularly Midlothian.
2. **DG** David Gardiner [Vantage Creative, and having done some work on previous maps, including updating the Edinburgh 2017 reprint] ... interested in doing updates and artwork for future map updates, and also converting Tim's existing Lothians maps software if that proves possible. [NB – we have always paid the cartographer/artwork person, at a fair rate, and would expect to do so again]
3. **SM** Simon Marsden [Former Ed Uni Deputy VP for Information Services] Interested in contributing to map group coordination but is often away.
4. **DP** Davie Park ... Interested in liaison with bike shops for bulk sales
5. **IM** Ian Maxwell [Former coordinator for our Edinburgh and Glasgow maps] Happy to contribute ideas/comments but now too busy with employment to be regularly involved.

## The Future

- **Sales** Despite a significant fall in sales when digital mapping became ubiquitous, sales have subsequently continued on an encouraging, albeit lower, plateau, both from individuals and bike shops. A significant market for big paper maps seems to remain. We have also received several unprompted large bulk purchases from Councils, businesses and other organisations, suggesting an expanded market here were we to pursue it pro-actively.
- **Digital** Whilst we might consider a digital option of some sort in future, our maps are fairly different in style, content and probably in usage to online mapping. If digitising entailed significant work, it is arguable whether that is worthwhile given the continually updated online mapping already available e.g. Open Streets and Sustrans. It would also be very important to avoid compromising the existing mapping standards which have been built up particularly by TS - which are highly praised and may well contribute to sales. See Feedback at [www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps/#Feedback](http://www.spokes.org.uk/spokes-maps/#Feedback).
- **KT** is happy to take on the maps group coordinating role – at least to see how it goes and be sure it is not too onerous. The points below were felt to be the current priorities.

### Midlothian map

- This is the top priority. Existing map long in the tooth, and is our only map not yet on water/tear-resistant paper. Existing stocks likely to run out by end of 2019. Ideally we have a new edition for early 2020 (or xmas 2019??)
- **Artwork/cartography** – KT will arrange liaison between DG and TS (Tim Smith) to see if the existing artwork can be transferred and converted into current software (currently in very outdated Macromedia Freehand) and if DG willing & able to do the ML map update. Else look for alternative cartographer – ideally a firm or person based locally [MM has a suggestion – a map company he spoke to at a Cycling Scotland conference].
- **Surveying** – assuming the cartography side is feasible, surveying is then needed. We will need to email ML members seeking volunteers and AD is happy to be involved in helping coordinate them so that all map squares get surveyed, all as for the WL 2018 map update.
- **Finance** – once clear that the map is feasible, seek grants to cover ideally 50%+ of the cost, especially ML Council and SEStran – possibly also Paths for All. Although we could probably cover the entire cost, everything becomes much more straightforward with grants.
- **Meeting** – possibly hold an early meeting for everyone potentially involved in this map.

### Edinburgh map

- Next priority after Midlothian, though can be worked on in parallel.
- **Top issue is the base map** – whether to try using the existing one yet again, though very long in the tooth and also problematic technically(?) Also, transferring all the material to a new base map, if we do that, likely to be a major task.
- Joe Taylor had suggested the Ed Uni MESH project which aimed to provide “online atlas and mapping tools which will be freely available.” DdF has investigated online – it uses Open Street Map, but project may be ended as I could find nothing post-2017. Also it looks geared to mapping of places and boundaries, but not routes (though I'm not an expert on this!) [www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/research/research-projects/mapping-edinburgh-s-social-history](http://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/research/research-projects/mapping-edinburgh-s-social-history)
- Did MM suggest another base map??
- DL to investigate best way to go ahead technically.

### Glasgow map

- This map had been almost entirely handled by IM, working with GoBike (campaign group) in Glasgow. Cartography done by XYZ (who we understand have lost their expert cartographer). It had been funded by Glasgow City Council, who had distributed it free (we had sold it) and supplies have run out.
- Cllr Anna Richardson, Glasgow Transport Chair, told Mies (at Spokes public mtg in June 2018) that she is keen to see a new edition; but with IM now v busy we had been unable to do anything. However, KT will speak to IM to discuss if we could revive this.

### Note

- There has always been a distinct split between the Edinburgh & the Lothians maps.
- **Edinburgh** largely managed/produced (inc cartography) by IM & DL, and map funding incorporated in main Spokes account. DG rather than DL did the updates for 2017 map. **Glasgow map** also managed by IM, though cartography by XYZ. I think the funding was handled by Glasgow Council, with a payment made to Spokes.
- **Lothians** maps largely managed/produced by TS & PH, and use separate bank account (original rationale for this was to do with reclaiming VAT).