

How Spokes groups relate to each other

For many years Spokes operated solely with central groups, i.e. which cover the whole of our geographical area - Edinburgh and the Lothians. Some groups have come and gone, but the main longstanding ones are Resources, Planning (PG) and Maps. For what they do, see links here...
www.spokes.org.uk/documents/internal-documents/

Since year 2018, three local area-based groups have been set up (as at Sept 2020), inspired in each case by a very dedicated local member who then called a meeting of other members in the area. They are Porty, South Edinburgh and Dalkeith. There's a Local Groups info sheet here...
www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/1812-28-Local-Spokes-Groups-info-sheet.pdf

Since the advent of local groups, when there are planning or other cycle-related issues which are in an area covered by a local group, generally the local group will do all or most of the work. Sometimes local groups will also create local campaigns or initiatives covering local concerns or opportunities (e.g. [Spokes Porty videos](#)).

Obviously coordination is needed, to avoid overlap and to ensure a consistent message from Spokes as a whole. For example, we should only make one submission to any council consultation, whether the submission is prepared & signed by a local group, the central PG, or both jointly.

Each case is decided individually - for example in 3 recent east Edinburgh schools covid-streets consultations the submissions were signed from Spokes Porty alone as all the input came from there, and the schools are very local. However the A1 covid-streets submission will be signed jointly, with input from Porty & PG, because it has a big inner-city and cross-city relevance as well as a Porty relevance.

Incidentally, we don't make a big effort to set up new local groups - it only happens if there is a really enthusiastic local member who will ensure that momentum and initiatives continue, as we don't have the central volunteer capacity to foster and support new groups - as well as providing the necessary coordination once groups have been set up. With a large number of local groups this would become even more tricky since there would be overlap between local groups as well as with the central groups. If several more local groups do appear, this is an issue that may have to be addressed with some new form of central structure/support, if the 'staffing' can be found.

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