

Spokes Action-Update 3 March 2021

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0. Finding your councillors

Find your councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](#). If you already know your ward, [go here](#). Note that everyone has either 3 or 4 councillors, usually from assorted parties.

1. Spaces for People (SfP) consultation *please respond ends 21 March*

Edinburgh Council is consulting on making SfP schemes permanent – and, if so, how to improve them.

Please do respond ... this is not a vote, but the weight of opinion will matter to councillors. It's also a great opportunity to say *why* you do or don't like certain aspects, and how to improve them.

Whilst there have been some problems with Spaces for People schemes, overall they have brought remarkable and quite unanticipated changes in the space of less than a year. With schemes still being installed, there are expected to be...

- ◆ around 70 school road safety schemes, a number of which include road closures near the school, effectively creating local low traffic neighbourhoods
- ◆ over 30km of semi-segregated main-road cyclist routes
- ◆ wider footways in many town centres

See the Spokes [SfP page](#) for comprehensive details, including Spokes responses to the schemes.

The consultation is here...

consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/retainingspacesforpeopleconsultation

In the consultation you can select that you wish to keep 'all or most' schemes (our preference!) or none or you can nominate up to 5 individual schemes; and similarly if there are schemes you wish removed (we hope few or none!)

After each question there is a space for up to 60 words – you can use this space to explain how you would like schemes improved. Some of your ideas may be used to modify the existing temporary materials and others to be incorporated in future permanent infrastructure.

You can go backwards and forwards between pages of the questionnaire, and change your answers – you can even read through all the questions before you begin to answer any. You also have an option to be emailed a copy of your response.

Finally, once you have clicked 'submit response' you are finished and cannot go back any make more changes.

Also...

- ◆ Our [website article](#) tackles some of the myths around Spaces for People
- ◆ Please retweet [our tweet](#) about the consultation
- ◆ And like our [facebook](#) link to our SfP article



2. Spaces for People, the Future ... Spokes Public Meeting ... **Thu 18 March, 7.30pm**

Spokes is holding our first online public meeting on this highly topical and hugely important subject

Speakers...

- ◆ Cllr Lesley Macinnes, Edinburgh Council Transport Convener
- ◆ A council officer involved in SfP
- ◆ Two or three local Spokes members speaking briefly about SfP in their area

Full details of how to attend the meeting will be on our website closer to the date, and we will also do a short all-member email a few days in advance.

As we expect a big attendance we will be using webinar software, courtesy of Cycling UK Scotland. Being our first online public meeting we hope there will not be too many glitches!

3. 'Cycling through Covid' ... **Spokes competition**

We are planning a competition in the near future on the above topic – including anything based on SfP schemes, or traffic issues, good or bad experiences, or whatever. There will be some superb prizes including cash towards a cargo-bike or e-bike. Currently we expect to allow entries on any media – writing, graphics, video. Full details will be on our website and in a future circular, but get thinking now!!

4. Spaces for People - Businesses

The Council consultation on making SfP permanent has several aspects including a special survey form for businesses.

Whilst some businesses are concerned about losing car parking, others are finding SfP measures valuable - for example the Bagels shop in the page 1 picture benefits from the wider footway; and [Civernos Slice in Forrest Road](#) even refuses to serve car customers who park in the SfP cycle lane (they also offer a 10% discount if you arrive by bike!)

If you know – or if you are - a supportive local business, please ask them to complete the SfP survey for businesses, here...

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/retainingspacesforpeoplebusiness/>



5. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods 'Connections' consultations – **closing 5 March**

The Council is also consulting on Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposals in these 3 Edinburgh areas...

- ◆ [Leith](#) Spokes comments not yet complete
- ◆ [Corstorphine](#) [Spokes comments](#)
- ◆ [East Craigs](#) [Spokes comments](#)

These consultations are an early stage, to gather opinions about the area. They will be followed by consultation on specific designs later in the year.

Note that these proposals are nothing to do with Spaces for People and if they go ahead will be implemented from the outset under a normal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) or Experimental TRO.

6. New Maybury (West Craigs) Primary School + Health Centre – **closing 29 March**

Consultation --> <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cg/maybury/>

Cycle and public transport access is intended to be excellent (our Planning Group has not yet checked this out) and the school building ultra-low energy.

7. Parking Zones consultations – **closes 14 March**

The Council is planning to introduce parking controls in the areas shown below, where there have been complaints from residents about problems caused by non-residential parking. If you live, work or visit in one of the areas shown, please consider responding to the survey.

Details here... <https://consultprojectcentre.co.uk/parkingph2>

Click the 'Have Your Say' button at the above link for the main survey form, or go direct here..

https://consultprojectcentre.co.uk/parkingph2/survey_tools/cpzphase2survey

The survey includes options (Q11) saying you'd like (more) onstreet bike storage, or changes to car parking arrangements so as to improve safety for walking or cycling

As well as the above main survey, if you click one of the areas below you can click on a map and suggest something about that specific location.

- [Easter Road](#)
- [West Leith](#)
- [Bonnington](#)
- [Willowbrae North](#)
- [Murrayfield](#)
- [Saughtonhall](#)
- [Corstorphine](#)
- [Roseburn](#)

8. George Street consultation – **closes 26 March**

Of all the above consultations, this is the shortest and easiest!

The Council has created a new website for the latest proposals... www.edinburgh.gov.uk/georgestreet

They no longer include the former bidirectional cycle route, but now have a 'cycling zone' with similarities to some European Cycle Streets. The only motor vehicles allowed would be blue badge holders and, at restricted times, deliveries. Delivery times are not yet decided, but would probably be similar to Princes Street, which are mid-evening to early morning. Enforcement is intended to be by automatic electronic means (including number plate recognition) and, failing that, by bollards.

Spokes has provisionally agreed to this, provided restrictions and enforcement are both strict. Nothing will be finalised until the Traffic Orders are published, which won't be for some time, and we will be able to object at that time if things look as if they are going the wrong way. For more on the Spokes position, and the background see [here](#). There are more links in paras 2102 and 2011 [here](#).

Please complete the Council survey here... consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/d76708f1

We suggest you use the blank spaces in Q4 or Q5 to express your view about what motor traffic should be permitted when; and the necessity for automatic enforcement - manual enforcement is usually ineffective.

9. Airport, new access road – planning app 21/00217/FUL – **closes 14 March**

A planning application is in for a new access road to the airport. Spokes opposes this at a time of climate crisis – not to mention the fact that levels of flying are likely to be reduced for years to come, due to the dangers of spreading viruses and virus mutations.

Furthermore, although a parallel cycle route is included, the design is very poor, with unsegregated pedestrian/cycle design, motor priority at all side roads and dubious connections at Gogar roundabout.

The application is here... citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=QN4EJ4EWKTZ00

10. Events from partner organisations

◆ Climate – Time for Action

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is lobbying the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment to toughen up the final version of its Climate Change Plan Update, which will be a major Scotland position paper at the COP26 International Climate Conference in Glasgow. **Please take part in their simple online action** here... <https://www.stopclimatechaos.scot/campaign/climatechangeplan/>

Incidentally, the Spokes response to the earlier consultation on the draft Plan is here... <http://www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2101-CCPu-spokes-response-final.pdf>



◆ Shine a Light on Active Travel – **Sat 24 April**

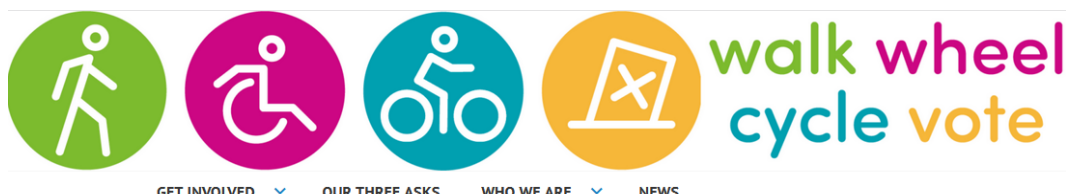
Pedal on Parliament can't organise its usual mass rides this Spring, for obvious reasons, so it is asking supporters to literally shine a light on active travel – and highlight its role as part of the solution to the climate crisis. **Find out how to take part here...**

<https://pedalonparliament.org/shine-a-light-how-to-take-part-in-pop-this-year/>

◆ Walk Wheel Cycle Vote to the Holyrood election

WWCV is an umbrella organisation which has argued for greater attention to active travel during Holyrood and Council elections in recent years. Spokes election activities (e.g. holding and publicising hustings) usually relate largely to our local area of Edinburgh and the Lothians, and we are very happy to support WWCV at the all-Scotland level. **Find out more**, including the 3 WWCV 'asks' and also the [actions you can take](https://walkwheelcyclevote.scot), here... walkwheelcyclevote.scot.

Right now, make sure you are [registered to vote](#), and [request a postal vote](#) if you might want that.



11. Consultations – *Check council, government & 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 Government consult.gov.scot
- ◆ Transport Scotland www.transport.gov.scot/consultations
- ◆ Scottish Parliament yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation_finder
- ◆ **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!)

12. 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.