

Spokes Action-Update 10 April 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. Spokes Holyrood 2021 Election Hustings **Thursday 15 April, 7.30**

Spokes is holding an online election hustings for the Scottish Parliament election, Edinburgh and Lothians area, to discuss transport with particular reference to cycling. Please join in – just listen, or ask the candidates a testing question!!

We have speakers from the 5 main parties currently represented at Holyrood, all of whom are candidates for an Edinburgh/Lothians seat or for the Lothians List...



- ◆ *Con* – [Damian Timson](#) [Almond Valley & Lothians List candidate, Conservative group leader on West Lothian Council]
- ◆ *Green* – [Chas Booth](#) [Lothians List candidate, councillor, Spokes member]
- ◆ *Lab* – [Sarah Boyack](#) [Lothians List candidate, previous MSP, Spokes member]
- ◆ *LibDem* – [Jill Reilly](#) [Edinburgh Eastern & Lothians List candidate]
- ◆ *SNP* – [Ash Denham](#) [Edinburgh Eastern & Lothians List candidate, previous MSP]
- ◆ QA chair – [Dr Caroline Brown](#) of [The Urban Institute, Heriot-Watt University](#)

Each candidate will have up to 5 minutes to set out their party's position on transport, with particular reference to cycling. The meeting will then open for Q&A, for the remaining hour. At the end, the speakers will be asked to briefly sum up what they have learned from the meeting.

Due to the expected large attendance we will use the same GoToWebinar system as at our recent [#SpacesForPeople public meeting](#), courtesy of Cycling UK Scotland, with the audience muted.

DETAILED PROGRAMME

- ◆ 7.30 Welcome and how the webinar works – Martin McDonnell
- ◆ 7.35 Introduction – Dave du Feu
- ◆ 7.40 Candidate 5-minute presentations
- ◆ 8.05 Spokes Announcements
- ◆ 8.10 Q&A
- ◆ 9.00 Candidates "what I have learned from the meeting"
- ◆ 9.10 Summing up and close – Chair & Martin

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Register now** for the meeting by clicking [here](#). Attendance is free, so disregard the sentence about credit cards
- **To submit a question in advance**, email spokes@spokes.org.uk with the subject line *hustings question*. Questions can also be submitted during the meeting using the "Questions" option in GoToWebinar (you will only see the question you have submitted, not other people's)
- **Help publicise the meeting** by retweeting our [tweet](#), liking our facebook post and passing on the [link](#) for our website article to friends and relations.
- **Speak to your own candidates** about the issues that concern you – see next page.

2. Holyrood 2021 election ...

In addition to the Spokes hustings, we've published [this article](#) with loads of background info and links around the election. Here are the article sub-headings...

- ◆ [Top 'asks' + difficult questions](#)
- ◆ [Candidates who are Spokes members](#)
- ◆ [Election pages from local councils](#)
- ◆ [Manifestos + Candidate views](#)
- ◆ [What you can do](#)
- ◆ [Other hustings – *please go along and ask questions*](#)
- ◆ [Other useful sites](#)

We hope also soon to publish suggestions about how to use the 2-part voting system to best effect.



As explained in our website article, Spokes is a member of [Walk Wheel Cycle Vote](#). Wherever you live in Scotland, you can use their website to locate and find contact details for your own Constituency and List candidates. Please use this if you want to ask them any difficult questions – or to point out if they have not yet replied to the WWCV questions.

3. 'Cycling in the Pandemic' ... *Spokes competition, closes 2 May*

What happened to you and your bike during the pandemic? It might be ongoing changes or it might be a particular event that sticks in your mind. Here are just a few examples...

- ◆ Did you take your children on streets that had less motor traffic, and how did changing traffic levels affect this?
- ◆ Did you switch to cycling to free up spaces on buses?
- ◆ Did you donate a much-loved spare bike to a scheme to assist key workers – or did you receive one?
- ◆ Did a Spaces for People scheme make a big difference for you? Have you corresponded with your councillor about improving it and making it permanent?

You can enter in text, verse, pictures or video! For full details and rules see our [website article](#).

The prizes are ... amazing!

- [Harts Cyclery](#) 'Classic' bike service worth £80 and up to £20 of parts
- [Edinburgh BikeCoop](#) £60 voucher
- [Laidback Bikes](#) One day free hire of Circe Helios tandem/cargo bike
- [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling](#) One day free hire of the EdFoC Urban Arrow cargobike
- [Bikecraft, Ocean Terminal](#) Outdoor Tech Wireless Bluetooth headphones (2 prizes)
- [Sustrans](#) Sustrans shop e-gift card up to the value of £20, so the winner can select maps of their choice and get them delivered to their door
- [Spokes](#) £500 voucher* towards purchase of a cargo-bike
- [Spokes](#) £100 voucher* towards purchase of an e-bike
- [Spokes](#) Full set of 4 Spokes maps plus 2 buffs**
- [Spokes](#) 10 **runners-up** will each win 1 buff**

* See [competition article](#) for conditions applying to this voucher

** Spokes map buff – see below

4. Spokes map buff - it's back!

Some years ago Spokes sold a buff/snood printed with a section of our Edinburgh cycle map and we've often been asked to do so again. Now it's here! - this time with the section of our 2020 Midlothian map incorporating very roughly the Porty-Prestonpans-Dalkeith triangle, i.e. parts of Midlothian, East Lothian and Edinburgh City!

We have not received them yet but are expecting delivery any day, so orders now are welcome but delivery date cannot be guaranteed – and Covid restrictions aren't helping our volunteers either!

To order – please email office@spokes.org.uk for details (preferably to pay by BACS). Prices are...

- ◆ One buff, £7 including postage; plus £3 for each additional buff
- ◆ If ordering one or more [Spokes maps](#) (£6.95 each) you can include buffs in the order at £3 each.

Please note – this is a buff/snood, not a medical mask

5. Reporting things to the council

We have many times pestered the Council to set up a standardised method for reporting **abandoned bikes** on the public bike racks; and for easier ways to report **illegally parked vehicles**. Now they have responded, with clear instructions on what to do.

Both issues are now covered on the Council's [Report It](#) page. See the section called *Roads, travel, parking*.

The direct links are here...

- ◆ [Abandoned bikes](#)
- ◆ [Incorrectly parked vehicles](#) Note that the Council only has the powers to tackle certain types of illegal parking, whereas other types must be reported to the police. The page explains which is which, although it is still missing various situations such as zig-zag white lines.

Of course, reporting does not necessarily mean action, and we'd be interested to hear how you get on if you use these pages.

6. Spaces for People (SfP) - making successful schemes permanent

- ◆ We had a great public webinar, with over 150 people online for most of the meeting! There is a [detailed report](#) on our website, including a link to a full recording of the meeting
- ◆ Of course, there are many detailed issues with the temporary infrastructure, but each scheme that is made permanent would be fully assessed and redesigned with permanent materials, on the basis of experience and of a full Road Order consultation. Spokes made a major submission to the Council's recent general consultation on this, covering many of these issues – see it [here](#).
- ◆ Making permanent will require a lot of cash, so please raise this with your Holyrood election candidates (sections 1 and 2 above) – the cash will need to come from the government (as did the SfP cash). Spokes and Living Streets have [written jointly](#) to the government about this.
- ◆ Locally, although many people welcome the SfP projects, there is also opposition. **It is therefore important for councillors to know if it helps your journeys.** If a particular scheme is helping you, please email your councillors (find them in section 0 at the top of this circular) and/or post a picture and/or comment on social media [e.g. [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)] – tagging your councillors if possible. When posting pictures *try always to include someone using the scheme*, not just an empty street.

7. 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>



◆ Pedal on Parliament - 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/>

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

Note – there are very few consultations at present due to the pre-election 'purdah' period

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
 - Includes [by 21 May] [Redesign of Currie Community High School](#)
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ **East Lothian** www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk
- ◆ **Midlothian** <https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/directory/33/consultations>
- ◆ **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!)

9. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often www.spokes.org.uk
- ★ We are active on **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/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.