

Spokes Action-Update 28 November 2021

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0. Finding your councillors

Find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](http://this.page) [or edinburgh.gov.uk : Council & Committees : Find your Councillor]. Note that everyone has either 3 or 4 councillors, usually from assorted parties.

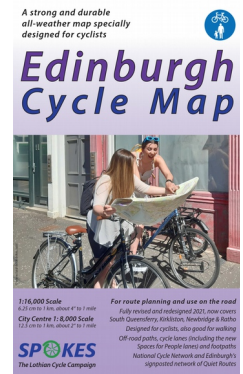
1. Spokes Edinburgh Map, edition 11

The 11th edition of our highly praised Edinburgh map is out!! The entire city was surveyed by Spokes volunteers, and the map then completely revised by Andy Follis, maps group cartographer. For the technically minded, Andy says, *"The new map is drawn from scratch, built off OS & OpenStreetMap data in GIS then transferred to a graphics package."*

The map had a photogenic launch with Council Leader Adam McVey and Deputy Leader Cammy Day, together with Spokes members, cargobikes and children handing over the maps.

For the story and pictures, see 26 Nov blog entry at spokes.org.uk.

Thank you everyone concerned with production, launch and distribution; it is a great product, building on our tradition of quality maps, and already getting many compliments!



Getting your map

a. **The map sells in local bike shops** at the excellent normal price of £6.95.

b. **Farmers Market**, Castle Terrace, Sat 4 December, 9.30-1.30 .. [Spokes Stall](http://SpokesStall) .. maps £5, buffs £5, or 2 maps + 1 buff for £10

c. **Special offer till 31 Dec 2021 for orders direct to Spokes..** Order by post with a cheque, or email office@spokes.org.uk. These orders are processed by a Spokes volunteer, so your order may not arrive immediately.



- **Map** – single copies (or up to 5 copies) £6 each including post
- Or, 6 maps for £27 – perfect to resell or for presents at your workplace, school, friends and relations
- **Bufs** – Only £3 each if included in a map order (normally £7). *If ordering buffs* please say if a [Midlothian buff](#) is ok. The Edinburgh buff is due mid December; if you want it we'd keep your whole order till then.
- **'My Favourite Bike Ride'** – We will send you one free copy of this excellent [booklet](#), based on results of a Spokes competition, with your order *if you request it* [one per order, not per map].



Extract from the new Edinburgh Spokes map

2. Spaces For People [now called by the Council, 'Travelling Safely']

- **Main Road cycle lanes**

The processes to convert the legal basis of these routes from 'temporary' to 'experimental' Traffic Orders, with a view to becoming permanent at the end of the experimental period, have begun. Initial consultation with organisations is now underway, and public consultation is expected in December, after which the the Experimental Orders go to the Transport Committee for final approval, probably in late January.

During the experimental period, the Council may change layouts, signage, etc as long as the scheme still conforms to the traffic conditions on waiting, loading, etc which are in the Order. They could even replace the 'defenders' (bollards) by kerbing, although this would be costly and is more likely at a future stage.

We expect that eventually all or most of the bollarded schemes will be replaced by proper segregated bike lanes, but generally that is likely to be a long-term gradual process, due to the costs, planning and legalities. First are likely to be Meadows to George Street and Old Dalkeith Road, hopefully both to start work in 2022, though MGS is unlikely to start during the next 9 months whilst the North Bridge closure is in place.

For more on the future (and past) of SfP schemes see the website page at [spokes.org.uk : documents : local : Edinburgh : Covid](https://spokes.org.uk/documents/local/Edinburgh/Covid).

Although the 39km of main-road cycle lanes are moving towards permanency, as above, most of the 'shopping street' and city centre pedestrian and cycle schemes have been removed. We are particularly concerned over the two below. Please contact your councillors if you agree with us.

- **Morningside Road, uphill cycle lane**

This was removed on the grounds that the road is too narrow for a segregated lane. And yet when cars park there the road is narrowed even more than did the cycle lane (picture). The result also is that cyclists, if they dare, have to move out into the main traffic lane whilst cycling slowly up the steep incline, with motorists behind who may or not be patient. Removal of the lane caused huge outcry on social media, with over 500 'likes' on [one tweet](#).

Please ask your councillors for this protected lane to be re-instated as part of the above Experimental Orders now being prepared.



Steve
@Lollercake

Thank god the SfP lanes have gone at the top of Morningside Road, so there's no longer anything blocking the road.



John Robson @johnrobson87 · Nov 20

Journey up The Mound today showing how the questionable removal of segregation at "pinch points" allows car drivers to cross the solid white line cycle lane. Whilst buses seem to be able negotiate fine, SfP defender units



KWhitson
@kwhitson

Replying to @johnrobson87 @edd1e_h and 2 others

Yes as expected. Over a year of being protected at the corner on the way up the mound and almost wiped out by a Lothian bus tonight. Then squeezed at the approach to Bristo place just after chambers street as short section of lane removed. Well done Edinburgh

- **The Mound**

The good news is that the former bollards, which had removeable wands, have been replaced by the more permanent 'defenders' which have fixed wands.

The (very) bad news is that the bollards/ defenders at the most dangerous locations, the tight corners on the Mound and Bank Street have been removed altogether. This is nothing to do with Spaces for People policies – it is to ease traffic flow for the 9 months of the North Bridge closure. However since traffic was capable of using the road with the defenders in place, we do not see why they should now be removed. And even if there is some benefit (to traffic) does that outweigh the added danger and deterrence to people wanting or needing to travel by bike?

Please ask your councillors for the defenders to be re-instated at these danger points, to provide a complete protected route up the Mound and Bank Street.

A new Traffic Order should not be needed in this case.

3. Forthcoming events

- Nov 30, 10-11.30am [Transport & Climate](#) Free webinar by Napier Transport Research Institute, with TRI experts and speakers from Scotland's Climate Assembly
- Dec 4, 9.30-1.30 [Spokes Stall](#) at **Farmers Market**, Castle Ter ... maps £5, buffs £5, 2 maps + 1 buff for £10
- Dec 10, 7.30-8.45pm [Light Up the Night cycle ride](#) – calling for night-time infrastructure safe for women.
- January **Spokes public meeting** (provisional) We are planning a public meeting on the Scottish Government plans to [cut car-km 20% by 2030](#), and the more recent City Council plans for a 30% cut. These targets are incredibly ambitious and it will be vital to maintain continuous pressure and reminders. Our public meeting will be one step in that process.

4. Happened recently

- **Pedal on COP26** A remarkable 200/300 people cycled through from Edinburgh to Glasgow, in far from clement weather, to join the big 6 Nov COP26 march. Congrats to all who participated and the organisers, notably [Alex Robertson](#) and [Edinburgh Critical Mass](#). And to [Pedal on Parliament](#) & [Cycling UK Scotland](#) for the whole event, with over 1000 people arriving by bike in 20+ [feeder rides](#). We've a report, with pictures, at [spokes.org.uk](#) – see [Nov 6 blog](#)
- **Comiston Road Bus Lane** The Council had planned to replace a section of the defenders on Comiston Road with a peak-period only bus lane. Given that Lothian Buses were clear that there were significant bus delays here, Spokes accepted the concept of a bus lane, but [only if it was 24/7](#), rather than peak-only. At the Transport Committee, Green [councillor Clair Miller](#) put forward a successful amendment to make the bus lane 24/7, with double-yellows [Green amendment 7.1 [here](#)] – and the amendment was accepted. This is a great result, not just for Comiston Road, but as a step towards our [long-standing campaign](#) that bus lanes should all (or virtually all) operate 7-7-7 or ideally 24/7.
- **Low Emission Zone** At the 26 November Transport Cttee, the [Council LEZ plans were defeated](#) when opposition parties voted tactically for a Green amendment which seeks a wider boundary and a shorter period of grace before penalties are applied. Officers now have to produce new proposals.



5. Spokes news

- **Traffic Count** Our regular biannual traffic count was held on 2 Nov, and found peak-period bike numbers up by a welcome 18% over the previous November. However, car numbers had also risen, so bikes as a % of all traffic only rose slightly. The pandemic means that numbers outside rush hour are becoming more significant, so we have started a lunchtime count also. Spokes Porty also does counts at the same time. There's a comprehensive article, and links to the full data, in the 4 November blog entry at [spokes.org.uk](#)
- **Champion Award** Dave du Feu of Spokes was given the 'visionary champion' award for 2021 at Cycling Scotland's annual conference. Edinburgh also won another of the [six 'champion' awards](#), with Business Champion going to the innovative Farrou Deliveries cargobike company. There's a report in the November 4 blog entry at [spokes.org.uk](#).

6. Membership renewals

- We recently informed all members whether they were due to renew – thanks if you have now done so; and if not, please do! Your renewal will count for the whole year 2022. We want to continue keeping you in touch with developments, and how you can help make Edinburgh and Lothians more bike-friendly. Adjacent are some of the lovely comments sent in with recent renewals, much appreciated!

Keep up the great work you do.
Many thanks for your hard work
Congratulations on everything you achieve
Thank you all for your great work
Thanks and keep up the good work
Thanks for so the good work you do, and keep it up!
Thanks for all your efforts
Thanks and keep up the good work
Thank you SO MUCH for working so thoroughly to ensure
and funding it needs.
Keep up the good work!
Many thanks for all the good work you do
Thanks so much for all your great work!
Many thanks, as always.
Thank you for all the good work that you do.
Thanks for all your work supporting cycling
I have just made a bank transfer to support your excellent w
Keep up the good work.
Keep up the good work
Thanks to all the volunteers for all the work that continues
With best wishes for your work

7. Cargo-bike family/household grant available

Thanks to a recent donation for this purpose, Spokes is able to offer £1500 to one Spokes member household towards the cost of buying a cargobike. This time the donation is in fact a very kind refund from recipients of one of our earlier grants, who have now come into the money by selling their car!!

Note that this is a one-off offer, and is quite separate from our ongoing offer of cargobike support grants for [community organisations](#).

Here's how the offer will work....

1. If you are seriously interested in taking up the offer, please email us your expression of serious interest, by **December 30th**. spokes@spokes.org.uk When you email you must state that you agree to conditions (a)-(c) below.
2. If more than one person applies by 30 December, we will select at random from applications that meet the criteria. We will keep a waiting list in case the chosen person drops out.
3. If we offer you a grant we will in early January send you a form to complete and return to us along with a copy of your invoice from the shop. We will then put you in touch with the Spokes treasurer to claim your grant.
 - (a) The cargobike must be bought from a local business in Edinburgh or Lothian (not mail order and not a major chain store)
 - (b) Your choice of model must be OK'd either by Naomi Arnold of [CargoBikeMovement](#) or by David Gardiner of [Laidback Bikes](#) as being suitable for the purpose in question [but you can buy from any local shop].
It is fine to email us your expression of serious interest now, before you make a final decision.
 - (c) Within 3 months of the purchase you will send us 2 or 3 photos and a few paragraphs about your use of the cargobike (including any problems as well as the positives).

8. Planning Proposals

Several major developments in the city are at the 'PAN' stage (Proposal of Application Notice). This is a legal requirement for large developments – the public must be consulted via a PAN exhibition, online or in person, before the developer is allowed to submit a full planning application (PA). The planning application is then supposed to take account of the PAN consultation, hopefully to reduce the number of objections at PA stage.

Details of the exhibition are meant to be publicised by the developer, but they are not always obvious. Some consultations are just online exhibitions open for a few weeks, whilst others also include one or more days with the developer available to answer questions interactively and possibly to give a presentation.

We try to list major current PANs on the website – go to [spokes.org.uk – consultns – planning proposal consultns](#)

Below are 4 current PANs, with email addresses included so you can find out more. Apologies that the notes are so brief, but we have not had the time to do anything more extensive, and Spokes may or may not have the capacity to respond to all of them. ***If you submit comments, please send us a copy.***

Notes: Approval of a PAN on the Council's [Planning Portal](#) merely means that the developer has permission to go ahead with a public consultation, *not* with the development! To see this approval, and contacts for more info about the PAN, type in the full reference below in the search line at the Planning Portal.

21/06125/PAN Cameron Toll shopping centre redevelopment, to include residential, hotel, ped/cycle routes; exhib'n in Cameron Toll Dec/Jan; **event December, details tbc**; LibertyOne communications, or Montagu Evans, email ally.campbell@montagu-evans.co.uk

21/05960/PAN Granton Phase 4, N of Waterfront Ave, large 'boomerang' around Saltire Sq, with access corridor n'wards to West Shore Rd. **Online event, 15 Dec., 3-7pm**, no ref given. NB the 4 phases of the Council's Granton development are mapped in a report to [Policy & Sustainability Committee 5.10.21](#), pages 60-64.

21/05023/PAN Ratho, Newbridge mixed use development comprising mixed residential housing, private and affordable dwellings, retirement living apartments, care home, community hub including retail/village hall/library and tourism lodges. Land 60m south of 69 Baird Road. Huge area, bounded by canal to south, Baird Rd to east, M8 to north, and EICA to west. Online exhibition December, including **provisional interactive 6-8pm Dec 1st**. Yeoman McAllister Architects, Email info@ym-architects.com

21/05661/PAN Elgin House, 20 Haymarket Yards mixed-use – hotel, office, cafe; active travel links, cycle and car parking. Site bounded by Haymarket Yards south and east; by existing buildings to north and west. Website dates 23 Nov – 14 Dec. **Interactive online, 1st Dec., time tbc**. Scott Hobbs Planning Ltd, jf@scotthobbsplanning.com

9. Edinburgh/Lothians area consultations [see also spokes.org.uk/consultns]

Please respond to any of the consultations below which cover areas where you live, work or visit. If you respond by email, please send us a copy; otherwise please let us know of any main concerns or thoughts which you'd like considered for possible inclusion in official Spokes responses. You could also send your points to your local councillors (section 0 above) and ask them to support you in their own comments.

9.1 Edinburgh City Plan – **ends 20 December** [Consultation website](#)

This is a massive document, formerly called the Local Development Plan, outlining future land use (including future transport developments). It sets out locations for new homes and businesses, where new infrastructure and facilities are required and how to protect places of value. Its policies will be used to determine future planning applications. Spokes hopes to make a major response, and we'd appreciate seeing your comments.

9.2 EV charging locations, TRO/21/24 – **ends 10 December** [Traffic Order website](#)

Spokes has not had the time to scrutinise this Order, but if anyone is interested and has the time, please do so! Hopefully these locations are not occupying spaces important for bike movement or parking, or for pedestrians.

10. Scottish Government consultations

Please do respond to all that concern you, and send us a copy of your response

10.1 Aviation Strategy – **ends 21 Jan 2022** [Consultation page](#)

How compatible will the strategy be with environmental imperatives, especially given that [aviation](#) is the fastest growing source of transport emissions?

10.2 National Planning Framework 4 – **ends 31 March 2022** [Consultation page](#)

A massive consultation on Scottish planning and development policies, while moving to net zero. It also has 18 proposed 'National Developments,' including a National Walking, Wheeling, Cycling network; Tram projects; and Edinburgh Waterfront. Spokes hopes to make a major response, and we'd appreciate seeing your comments.

11. More & future consultations – **Check council, government, other consultations**

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **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!)

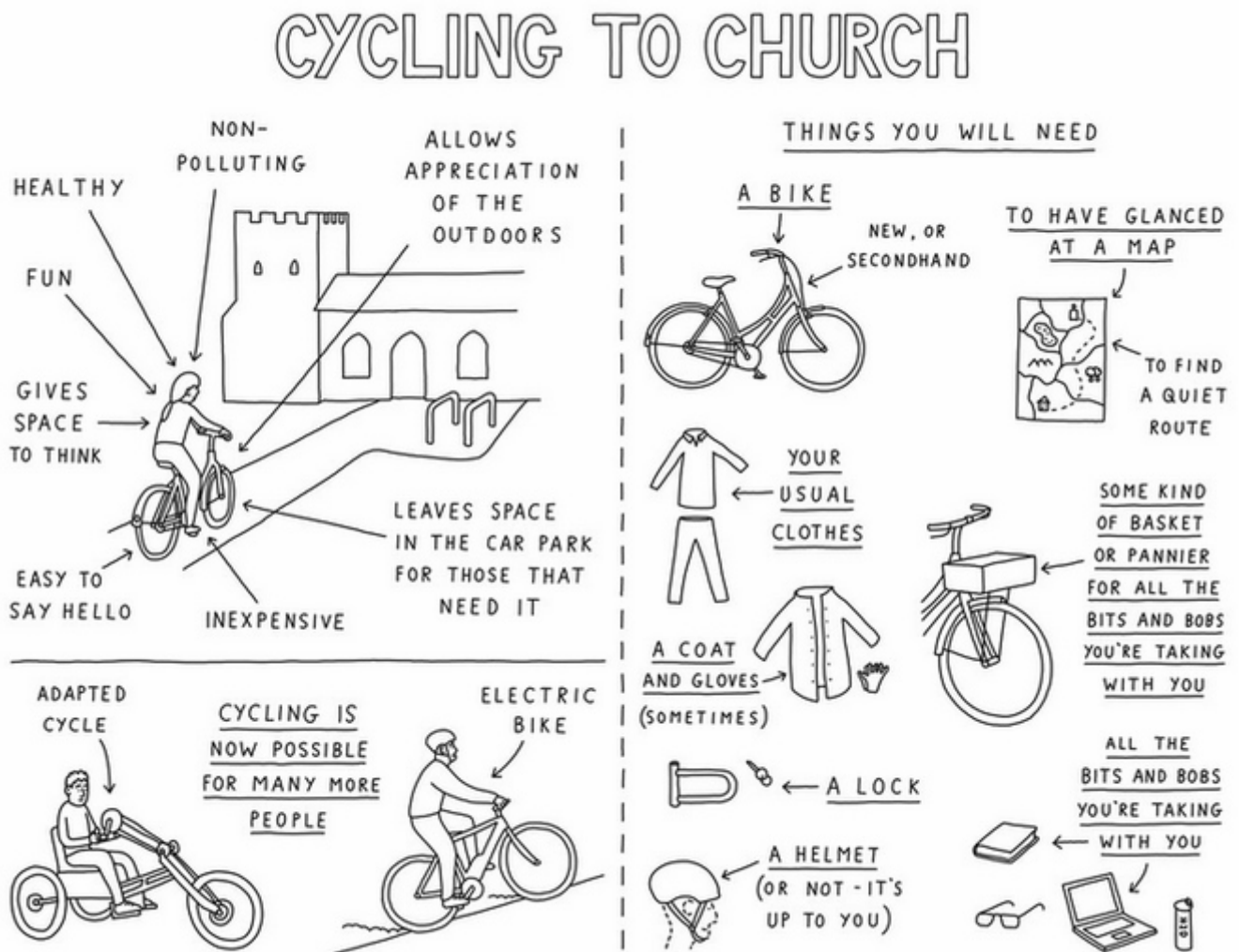
12. Finally...

Thought it worth printing this great cartoon / infographic

Equally applicable whether you are travelling to the shops, work, school, friends, or wherever!

Cartoon is by Dave Walker davewalker.com

Also worth checking out his new cartoon book, [From A to B](#) – cycling as a way to get around.



13. 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.