

May 2022

Dear Councillor

Congratulations on your recent election. We hope you enjoy your period of office and are able to contribute to making the city more inclusive, more sustainable and an even better place to live.

Given the results, no one party's manifesto has exclusive claim. However, in view of the climate crisis we urge you to maintain or improve on existing transport and environment policies, including...

- support for and close working with the [Edinburgh Climate Commission](#)
- the Council's commitment to [30% reduction in car-km by 2030](#) and to [Vision Zero](#)
- the policies and the infrastructure projects needed to achieve the above – and *implementing* them!
- the Council's UK-leading commitment to a minimum [10% of transport capital and revenue](#) budgets for cycling, given the current rudimentary cycle network; and increased funding for pedestrian/ wheeling - thus also pulling in hefty government match funds via Sustrans Scotland.

Spokes and its activities

Spokes campaigns for safer and pleasanter conditions for daily travel by bike, and we do this firmly in a context of strong support for walking, wheeling and public transport. We have around 1200 members of all ages, and local groups in Portobello, South Edinburgh and (in Midlothian) Dalkeith.

Although as a councillor you may hear from us mainly regarding road, traffic and planning proposals, we also do a great deal to encourage cycle use, including...

- [Highly praised cycle maps](#) of Edinburgh and the Lothians council areas, also useful for walking and wheeling – over 140,000 sold, with the Edinburgh map updated in 2021 to its 11th edition
- **Stalls** at community events, [Public Meetings](#) on relevant topics
- [Factsheets](#), for example, [e-bikes](#), [workplace cycling](#), [bikes in tenements](#)
- **Grants to community organisations** including help to purchase a [cargo bike](#), or to support a group such as [InfraSisters](#). Funding is primarily by donations from our 1200 members
- **Bi-annual traffic counts** in the city centre (and now in Porty) the most recent count being this month, May 2022, [reported here](#) and [tweeted here](#)

Joining Spokes

Several councillors are Spokes members, including from four of the parties represented on the Council, and if you support our aims and activities you may wish to do the same. As a member you would receive an email roughly monthly with current issues, events and activities. Past circulars are [here](#).

Spokes has always operated on the principle of free membership, i.e. no membership fee, so no one is excluded. Of course, we welcome any donations that members can afford and feel appropriate.

To join, please see our website membership page [here](#).

Councillors (and candidates) who are Spokes members are mentioned on our website at election times, though of course we never suggest how people should vote.

Keep in touch

We are of course happy to answer any questions. Please do email us [spokes@spokes.org.uk] at any time when useful. You can also follow us on twitter [@SpokesLothian](https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian), [@SpokesPorty](https://twitter.com/SpokesPorty) and [Facebook](#).