

Spokes Action-Update 22 August 2022

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0. Finding your councillors

Find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [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. Tribute to Sandy Scotland

We are very sad to hear of Sandy Scotland's recent death, following illness. Sandy joined Spokes in the 1980s and was pivotal in our work for several decades, up to the present, being central to many projects and campaigns to achieve better conditions for getting about by bike in Edinburgh and the Lothians. He was a long-standing active member of Spokes Planning Group, eventually becoming its coordinator until stepping down in 2020.

We have published a full tribute on the Spokes website, which you can read here...

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/2022/08/sandy-scotland/>

For those on twitter, you can retweet here...

<https://twitter.com/SpokesLothian/status/1559170875806597120>

A further major tribute is to be published by Cycling Scotland – Sandy's many voluntary involvements included being a founding trustee of Cycling Scotland, a long-standing Board member and the Finance Committee chair.

At present we understand that the family is planning a small private funeral, but we will update the website and tweet/facebook if there are any changes.



Sandy in 2004 with then Transport Convener **Cllr Lesley Hinds** and **Council Leader Andrew Burns** at a Spokes Bike Breakfast [photo: DdF]

2. Spokes Summer Comp, Shopping by Bike – closes Sunday 4 Sept

Super prizes (Including 10 runner-up prizes) !!

- [ScotRail](#) Return ticket for 2 adults & up to 4 kids between any 2 ScotRail stations
- [Spokes](#) £750 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**
- [Edinburgh Filmhouse](#) Tickets for 2
- [Lanterne Rouge](#) (cyclists' favourite cafe, in Gifford) £20 voucher
- [Dowerhouse Cafe](#) Two £25 vouchers [one per prizewinner]
- [Edinburgh BikeCoop](#) £50 voucher
- [Camera Obscura & World of Illusions](#) Family ticket
- [Sustrans](#) £20 voucher for Sustrans online shop
- [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling](#) Free day hire of EdFoC Urban Arrow cargobike
- [Laidback Bikes](#) Electric or manual recumbent tour, solo or guided to Cramond OR one day free hire of Helios tandem/cargo bike
- [Spokes](#) 10 runners-up will each win 1 buff**

* This voucher may only be used for the purpose stated. It may only be used by the winner and is not transferable. It must be used at an Edinburgh or Lothians independent bike shop which is not one of the major national chains. We will pay the shop direct.

** Your buff will show a section of our Edinburgh or our Midlothian map (your choice)

Do you...

- ◆ love nipping down to the corner shop by bike for milk or a paper?
- ◆ have a great idea to help other people shop by bike?
- ◆ have a challenge you've overcome, an experience you'd rather forget, an amusing incident, or something you'd *not* recommend?
- ◆ use your trailer as a supermarket shopping trolley?
- ◆ transport furniture by cargobike?
- ◆ Has shopping by bike even changed your life somehow??

Whatever .. if it's **Shopping by Bike**, we want to hear from you! Note that it needn't be about equipment, though it could be.

Judges may like *useful* ideas, or *interesting* or *unusual* experiences. Words alone are fine, even just one superb sentence, but a picture often helps.

So - send us your ideas, experiences or handy hints.

It's easy to enter, but please carefully read the full rules on our website here:

www.spokes.org.uk/2022/06/spokescomp-shopping-by-bike

Most years at least half of all entrants get either a prize or a runner-up map!! Top prizewinner has first choice of prizes, and so on. If there are any changes to the details or prizes, the website will be fully updated.

Don't miss your chance to claim one of our superb prizes !!
Here are some previous prizewinners enjoying theirs!!



Photo 2: Me and my shopping on my bicycle. In this photo I am nine months pregnant, which shows that doing your shopping by bike does not require exceptional fitness or strength.



Helen Todd
@HelenRambler

What a treat - enjoyed a fab lunch today @milk_edinburgh, courtesy of a prize Malc won in @SpokesLothian competition. Great food & bike-friendly cafe - thanks and we'll be back!



Hart's Cyclery @harts_cyclery · Oct 25, 2018

Here's @SpokesLothian competition winner, Judith Stark, picking up her Gazelle for her free ebike trial. Have fun, Judith!



3. For your diary

- ◆ **Aug 27 Critical Mass** – Families of course welcome. Last Saturday of every month, and now attracting around 100 people. As **recommended by** Edinburgh's new Transport Convener, Cllr Scott Arthur.
- ◆ **Aug 28 Fairmilehead Cycling Event** 3pm, short ride for all ages & abilities, then entertainment.
- ◆ **Sept 3 Edinburgh Climate Festival** 12noon – 5pm, Leith Links. There will be a cargo-bike-based **Spokes stall** with maps and buffs at special stall prices. Also with our new cargo-bike-box (see below). *Please come along and say hello.* We would also welcome more stall helpers at this and other occasions, as we are having to turn down some stall opportunities due to too few available helpers.
- ◆ **Sept 4 Break the Cycle** sponsored ride **in support of Social Bite**, a remarkable initiative to break the cycle of homelessness. Sir Chris Hoy will be coming along to support the event. There are 3 rides, *Edinburgh-Glasgow* (60 miles); *Edinburgh-Linlithgow* (20 Miles) and *The Wee One* (3 miles, all offroad).
- ◆ **September (all) Love To Ride West Lothian** Workplace cycle challenge
- ◆ **Late September** We hope to have an in-person public meeting on Transport & Cycling policy under the new Council administration. Details to be announced on website & social media as soon as known.

4. Other Spokes News

4.1 Website updates

- Spokes Party video [Maisie's Cycling Happiness](#)
- Minutes of [Resources](#) and [Planning](#) Groups [please get involved!!]
- Submissions on consultations in [Lochend/ Easter Road](#), [Cammie Road](#), [Corstorphine](#), [Queensferry](#), [Leith](#)

4.2 Cargo-bike-box

We have been donated by [Rhino Berlin](#) this top of the range cargo-bike-box, which can attach to various cargo-bikes.

Thanks also to David Gardiner of [Laidback Bikes](#), an Edinburgh cargo-bike specialist, for help with post-Brexit import paperwork hassles and delays.

Big thanks too to [CargoBikeMovement](#), who are storing the box in their Tollcross premises and lending us a cargobike whenever needed for Spokes stalls.



4.3 Cargo-bike grants

Thanks to dedicated support from the Galashan Trust, Spokes will be able to offer grants up to £2000, rather than the present £1500, to [voluntary groups or micro-businesses](#) in Edinburgh or Lothians towards the purchase of a cargo bike. More details in next few weeks [on our website](#) and on social media.

Sadly we currently have no grants available to families or households; only organisations. However there is one £750 voucher prize for families or individuals towards a cargo bike in our summer competition – see (2) above.

4.4 Old edition Edinburgh Spokes maps, free to good homes

We still have around 200 copies of the previous (2016, with 2019 updates) edition. They are free to any community or educational organisation that can make use of them. Obviously they are not for resale, and we hope they will go to people who cannot easily afford one or would not buy one, or for educational purposes.

Already we have donated to Bikes for Refugees, to a community library, a college and a primary school.

We also have a [factsheet showing potential uses in schools](#).

If you are involved in or know of a relevant organisation, please email office@spokes.org.uk saying how many copies you could use, and how. As we are all volunteers, please contact relevant organisations yourself in the first place, to be sure that they would potentially use the maps, and how many, before emailing us.

5. Consultations – Local schemes

There are remarkably few consultations this time – perhaps due to summer, or the change of Council!

Please respond to all that concern you. Also copy to Spokes for possible use in the Spokes response

5.1 Inch Park Masterplan – **ends 28 Sept**

- Details & online QA here-->consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/inch-park-masterplan or by email to thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk
- The plan covers many aspects of this huge parkland between Gilmerton Road and Old Dalkeith Road, including paths and entrances. However Spokes would like to see much more attention to paths within and through the park and, equally important, links to it. We hope to put out our draft response on social media later this month, but here are some thoughts already sent to us by members and others. Please consider these points for your own response to the Council...
 - A toucan crossing is needed at the entrance leading from Old Dalkeith Road to Peffermill
 - The existing road humps on the approach to Inch House from Gilmerton Road are terrible on a bike
 - The new path along the south side of the Park would be an improvement on the above existing weaving and severely humped path, and would give a more direct road crossing than the current staggered one
 - Too little thought has been given to the design of paths in relation to pedestrian/cyclist issues, particularly those routes which are main accesses to facilities, or through routes
 - There is no reference to the Council's planned improved [Cameron Toll to BioQuarter](#) route
 - If more people cycle through the park, they will see the facilities and grow the patronage for the cafe

Illustrative Masterplan



5.2 North Berwick High Street – ends 28 August

- East Lothian Council is consulting on the future of the High Street...
[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/13882/north_berwick_high_street - community engagement](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/news/article/13882/north_berwick_high_street_-_community_engagement)
- There is also an [online survey form](#) (till 28 Aug)
- The stated aims are... *to create a safer, more accessible, and more attractive High Street that meets the needs of all users and businesses by providing quality infrastructure and placemaking. The final solution should provide benefits by prioritising walking, wheeling (wheelchairs, prams etc.) and cycling for everyday journeys and leisure trips, retaining access to the businesses on High Street, allowing for loading and servicing and creating a more pleasant environment.*



North Berwick High Street, narrow section

- One issue not mentioned in the consultation document is allowing 2-way cycling in this 1-way street. There are several ways of doing this, even where space makes a contraflow lane infeasible, and Edinburgh Council has described some options in [this factsheet](#).
- Local group **Cycleforth** (contact mark.holling @ btinternet.com) will be responding to the consultation, possibly jointly with Spokes Planning Group
- However, please do make your own personal submission if you live in, work or visit the town (and say that you do). There appear to be strong views in different directions about how far the Council should go in reducing or limiting car access, so it is important that everyone supporting “a more pleasant environment” responds to the consultation.

6. Consultations outside our area

6.1. A Modern & Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland – ends 26 August

A Scottish Parliament Inquiry by the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

[Consultation page](#) [Draft Spokes response](#) - please use these ideas in your own response if you agree!

Comments on the Spokes draft response also welcome – by 24 August. Send to johnrobson87 @ gmail.com

6.2 Glasgow City Centre Transformation – ends 12 September

If you visit or work in Glasgow, you might like to respond to this consultation, which aims “to create a more successful, vibrant, people-focused and liveable core to Scotland’s largest city and metropolitan area.”

[Background and documents](#) [Online response form](#)

7. Rogue Emails

Several people have reported receiving spam emails purportedly from some active Spokes members. If you are ever suspicious, hover the mouse over the sender's email address and see if the address is their genuine address. If not, delete it or report it to report@phishing.gov.uk.

8. 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 consultations yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation_finder
- ◆ Scottish Parliament petitions parliament.scot/get-involved/petitions
- ◆ 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](#). 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.