

Spokes Action-Update 18 September 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. Cycling & Transport Policy in the new Edinburgh Council

*Our first post-lockdown in-person Spokes public meeting!! .. **Friday 23 Sept***

New Transport Convener [Cllr Scott Arthur](#) will speak and answer questions at our first in-person public meeting since covid restrictions ended...

- **Where** [Augustine United Church](#) 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL
- **Date** Friday 23 September
- **Time** Starts 7.30, Ends 9.30. Doors open 6.45 for coffee, stalls and chat
- **Online** We are hoping to live-stream and video-record the meeting: details later
- **Queries & Questions** Queries, or questions for the speaker, can be emailed to spokes@spokes.org.uk
- **Climate Fringe Festival** Our meeting is part of the [Climate Fringe Festival](#)

Following the May Council elections, councillors unexpectedly voted in a [minority Labour administration](#), replacing the previous SNP/Labour coalition, and the Labour group then chose Cllr Scott Arthur as new Transport Convener.

We've asked Cllr Arthur to speak to our public meeting about the transport policies of the new administration, with particular reference to cycling and active travel.

At the first full-council meeting Cllr Arthur [stated](#) that the objective of the administration is to implement the [manifesto](#) on which Labour was elected, whilst recognising that working with other parties is essential.

At the first Transport Committee, Cllr Arthur said that his top personal motivations as Convener are...

- The [#NetZero2030](#) policy
- The policy to [reduce car-km 30% by 2030](#)
- Cleaning the city, not just the [#CityCentre](#)
- The wellbeing of Council staff

Our meeting gives *you* the chance to question Cllr Arthur on administration policy and his intentions as convener – and how realistic this is, given that the administration is a minority one. This is discussed in our [website article](#).

After Cllr Arthur's presentation, there will be a full opportunity for questions and discussion, hosted by [Kirsty Lewin](#) of [Spokes Party](#). For example, you could ask...

- Will the Spaces for People protected cycle lanes become permanent? ... and be upgraded?
- How will the Council achieve its exceedingly tough target to reduce car-km 30% by 2030?
- What will the administration do when it is outvoted by other parties? (as has already happened on the Workplace Parking Levy and some aspects of Spaces for People)
- Is the Council planning to use cargo-bikes for any of its services, e.g. in parks?
- When will we see an Edinburgh bike-hire again, and how will it differ from the failed one?

Please help publicise the meeting by passing on [the website link](#), liking on [facebook](#) and retweeting [here](#). If you tweet before, during or after the meeting please include hashtag [#SpokesMtg](#).



2. Sept 23 public meeting - continued!

2.1 Join Spokes, or check/renew your membership

- As usual we hope to have a membership stall at the start and end of the meeting
- Check if you are up-to-date for 2022 (we expect to start renewals for 2023 in November)
- Please bring along a friend to the meeting – and ask them to join!

2.2 Public meeting – help needed

- To reduce the pressure on our Resources Group volunteers, we would appreciate a volunteer, who is good as paperwork/admin, to staff the above membership stall. Instructions would be given on the night. You would need to arrive by 6.45, and stay at the end until 9.45 if the meeting lasts the full 2 hours.
- We will be live streaming the meeting using the venue's own equipment that is all set up and has been used successfully by lots of community groups already. They have built a "mixing/control" desk - a few boxes and a screen on a table near the front of the room. 2 fixed cameras have been set up with pre-set "scenes" - e.g. one zoomed into the lectern where the speaker will stand, another to the front of stage where the Q&A Chair and speaker will sit for the QA. There's also a sound mixing desk.
- It would be good if a couple of people with interest in this learned how to operate the equipment as Martin, who is running it this time, may not always be able to, and may also need help on the night. It should just be a case of switching between the 2 different scenes once the speaker (Cllr Scott Arthur) has finished his presentation and turning up the volume on the microphones when needed.
- Possibly the same person or somebody else to monitor the twitter hashtag #SpokesMtg to keep an eye out for questions from the online audience to feed to the Q&A Chair, Kirsty Lewin.
- **If interested in any of the above** contact Martin McDonnell, mcdbristol116@gmail.com 07884 265071

3. For your diary

- ◆ Sept 22 [World CarFree Day](#) incl. 10am-7pm [events at Waverley Bridge](#), including try ebikes & cargobikes
- ◆ Sept 23 **Spokes Public Meeting** – see page 1 above
- ◆ Sept 24 [Critical Mass](#) – Families of course welcome. Last Saturday of every month, 2pm, now attracting around 100 people. This Saturday will be [Kiddical Mass](#) – specially for kids, parents (& everyone else)
- ◆ Sept 24 **Astley Ainslie site public meeting** in support of a sustainable future for this major south-central Edinburgh location. Lots of potential for safe bike & walk routes and a low-car future.
- ◆ Sept 26, 7.30 **Parking & Traffic in Portobello Public Meeting** by Porty Community Council at Porty Baptist Church, 189 Portobello High Street. Discussing Council proposals “to address parking pressures.”

- ◆ Sept 29, 11am-2pm **Drop-in at Edinburgh BioQuarter** re improvements and extension to Quiet Route 61, Roslin to Portobello. **HELP!!** - we'd love to have a spokes stall here, selling maps etc, but none of our usual stall volunteers can help. Please contact spokes@spokes.org.uk if you could run this stall, or help run it.



QuietRoute 61 – Roslin to Portobello

Route improvement and extension launch event

- Date Thursday 29 September 2022
- Time 11am – 2pm
- Place Edinburgh BioQuarter (where [QR61](#) crosses [Little France Drive](#) at [Robin Mitchell Way](#))

Come along and find out more about the recent improvements for people walking, wheeling and cycling on [QuietRoute 61](#), which is now signed all the way from Roslin to Portobello.

Talk to the project team, grab some freebies and find out about other future improvements to the network. Dr Bike will also be there so bring your bike if you can for some free running repairs and advice!

For more information

Feel free to share this invitation and if you have any questions please contact Brendan Forrester at brendan.forrester@edinburgh.gov.uk

4. Other Spokes News

4.1 Website updates

- New Edinburgh Council – how the new ‘minority’ Council is working, and what are its aims on active travel? – see addendum to [public meeting article](#)
- Minutes of [Resources](#) and [Planning](#) Groups [please get involved!!]
- Submission on consultation in [North Berwick](#)

4.2 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.

We currently have no grants available to Spokes member families or households, only organisations, but this is likely to change soon – if so, details will be in a future Action-Update.

4.3 [Shopping by bike](#) – summer competition

Thanks if you entered!!



We had a great collection of entries covering themes such as shopping with kids, carry bulky shopping, how shopping by bike is becoming more ‘normal,’ tips for shopping by bike – and many entries from budding photographers and budding poets!

Judging is taking place soon; prizewinners will be notified and a full report will appear on our website.

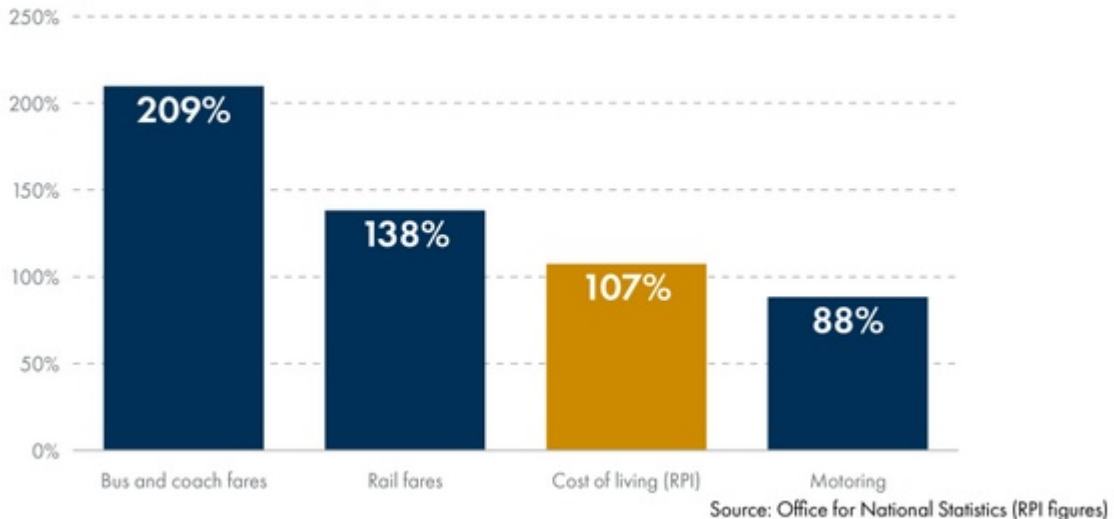
4.4 Accountant wanted!

[Sandy Scotland](#), who sadly died recently, was our accountant, and did our annual tax return free of charge. We are now looking for a new accountant to submit the annual tax return. Note that we are not seeking a treasurer, just the accountant for tax return purposes – we already have an excellent treasurer. If you may be able to help, please email spokes@spokes.org.uk.

5. Snippets

- ♦ **War on the Motorist!!** A useful antidote to media hype can be found in [a new blog](#) from the Scottish Parliament's independent advice service, [SPICe](#).

Increase in transport costs by mode between May 1999 and July 2022



- ♦ **Tramline Safety Measures** Work is now underway or starting soon on the final schemes in the Council's **'Phase 3' blackspot safety measures**, **South Charlotte St, Dalry Rd to Grosvenor St**, and **South St David Street**, though work on the latter may still not start for a few weeks or months due to time pressures on the Council's signalling staff. We greatly welcome these (very belated) measures, though of course blackspots **are only half the story**, and many crashes are at random locations and often due to traffic pressures. Sadly, our arguments for a safer basic layout (such as tramlines on one side of the road and a segregated cyclistroute on the other side) were rejected when the tram was being planned.
- ♦ **Glasgow Buchanan Galleries to scrap 2000 parking spaces.** "Edinburgh St James .. will be the last" of its kind, says the Glasgow developer.
- ♦ **NHS Scotland Climate Emergency & Sustainability Strategy** Important new document, which includes transport issues - *"Reducing the number or length of journeys, especially by car, can benefit the health of our patients, staff and the environment"*
- ♦ **Climate Crisis** **World on the brink of five 'disastrous climate tipping points**. For regular climate crisis info (including signs of hope where available!) subscribe to the free weekly Guardian Eco newsletter, "Down to Earth". Email downtoearth@theguardian.com

6. Consultations – Local schemes

There are again 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

6.1 Inch Park Masterplan – **ends 31 October**

- 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. Here is our [draft response](#). Please consider these points for your own response to the Council

6.2 Powderhall Junction – **ends 25 Sept**

- The Council is planning [a major revamp](#) of the junction of Broughton Road, McDonald Road and St Mark's Path. There is an online survey [here](#).

7. 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!)

8. 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.