

Spokes Action-Update 23 October 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. Shopping by Bike: Spokes Competition results

We had a great set of entries, which give lots of ideas for shopping by bike. There is a full report on our website [here](#). It's also [tweeted](#) (retweets welcome!)

Some main themes which emerged from entries were...

- Shopping *with* a [cargobike](#) or trailer
- Shopping *without* a cargobike or trailer
- Shopping with kids
- Shopping for large items

Whichever of these categories interests you, the entries are full of examples of how to go about it!

We had several entries from the Lothians, outside Edinburgh, and indeed the top prizewinner was Eve Boyle from Bonnyrigg. Whilst cargobikes are increasingly common in the city, Eve has been intriguing Midlothian residents with this method of transport.

Interestingly, our top 5 prizewinners (judged anonymously) comprised 4 women and one child. Female success is something we have also seen in previous competitions, despite roughly equal numbers of male and female entrants. It must mean something!

We also had a great set of prizes – see the report above for details. **If you were a prizewinner, please send us a photo or two of you enjoying your prize: it makes great publicity for us, for the prize-giving business and for the competition.**

Rupe Nash, 6th prizewinner, has sent us the [lovely photos](#) attached of the family enjoying their Civerinos pizza prize. We like Civerinos for other reasons too – see [here](#)!

Many thanks to all who helped organise the competition, to our prize donors – and, of course, to you if you entered!

Next, we'll have to think of a great topic for our 2023 competition – **ideas welcome!!** We ideally need a topic which everyone can enter. So, for example, whilst school cycling is a really important issue it would not be an ideal topic for the competition.



Enjoying their competition prize



Returning home after pizza!

2. Alec Mann, 1951-2022

We were hugely saddened to hear of Alec's unexpected death.

Alec was a great contributor to Spokes Planning Group from the 1980s right up to the present, with his unparalleled knowledge of the city - invaluable when we were preparing submissions to the Council. Also helping Spokes in many other ways such as at mailouts, deliveries to outer parts of the city, traffic counts and many other ways. We will miss him greatly.

Alec was also actively involved in other related organisations and activities, including Friends of the Meadows ([FOMBL](#)), 20-miler bike rides, CTC Lothians, Mellow Velo and others, who will miss his contribution and presence.

On an individual basis we also know of him 'chumming' people by bike when they were new to the city; and of course he was a lesson to all in successfully overcoming his speech impediment.

There are tributes to Alec at these links from [Edinburgh 20-Milers](#) and from [St Peter's Church](#).

Alec's funeral will be at Mortonhall Crematorium, Main Chapel, Howdenhall Road, Edinburgh EH16 6TX, on Thurs 27 October at 2.00 pm.

No flowers, please. Instead there will be a retiring collection in aid of Bethany Christian Trust.



Alec (on left) helping Meadows tree planting with Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links

3. CargoBike grants for organisations & Spokes member households

Spokes is keen to see more cargobikes in the city and the Lothians, and we now run the following grant schemes to assist cargobike purchase...

Organisations

Thanks to dedicated financial support from the [Galashan Trust](#), Spokes now offers grants up to £2000 to local community organisations, or micro-businesses with a community purpose, towards the cost of a cargo bike.

Most recent grant was to the Dower House Cafe in Corstorphine, who say *"it has completely revolutionised the way we live and work."*

Spokes member households

If you buy or publicise our excellent [Spokes Maps](#), thank you!! because..*

Thanks to a useful surplus on the Spokes maps account, we now re-instate our grant offer to Spokes member households towards the cost of a cargobike. There are a limited number of grants available, up to £1500 maximum each. The picture is from our previous (trust-funded) scheme.

*Why not organise a bulk map order at your workplace? See what other Spokes members have done, [here](#). And for Christmas??

Applying for a cargobike grant

Organisations should use the information sheet and application form on our [cargobike website page](#). **Spokes member households**, please email Spokes explaining why you need a cargobike and how it will be used – generally grants will be first-come, first-served.



Dower House Cafe
Tern cargobike supported by Spokes



2020: £1500, Josie & family Urban Arrow cargobike [\[report\]](#)

4. For your diary

- ◆ Nov 4, 7.15pm [Infrasisters ride](#) “riding for night-time cycle infra that’s safe for women and girls”



- ◆ Nov 11, 4pm [Bike Station birthday](#) short ride, then social to celebrate their 20th birthday
- ◆ Nov 12, midday [Climate protest Edinburgh](#) – and across the UK
- ◆ Nov 17, 7.30pm [Leith Tram, CRAIG talk](#) – speaker Chris Wilson from Trams to Newhaven
- ◆ Dec 10, 10am-2pm (to be confirmed) Spokes stall at [Farmers Mkt](#)

5. Public meeting report: transport policy in new Edinburgh Council

The *Climate Crisis* and, within transport, the Council's 30% *car-km reduction target* – Transport Convener [Cllr Scott Arthur](#) told [the meeting](#) that these are top issues for the new Council. To meet them, he said, will need big changes in parking management and bus priorities, together with a congestion charge, regional cooperation and faster implementation of active travel infrastructure. The Q&A then covered many topics, but a consistent theme was the slowness of previous councils to translate great *ambition* on active travel and on wider transport into *action* and to do so timeously – and will the new Council be different??

An articulate 80-strong audience attended this, our first in-person public meeting since Nov 2019, with 15 more watching online. Discussion continued right up to the premises 9.30 deadline, with many points still to be raised. Detailed report and video of the meeting on our [website](#).



6. Educate your councillors

Spokes Planning Group convener [David French](#) invited his new councillor [Martha Mattos-Coelho](#) to a cycle round her ward area, to see what improvements are needed to encourage more people to get about by bike – and what is already going well.

It's a great idea! **Please consider inviting your own councillors for a similar ride.** To find them, see section 0 at the start of this Action-Update. We may be able to find one or two other people from Spokes Planning Group and/or from your own local area to join in, so contact us if this would be useful.

A short briefing note can be a useful addition, though not essential.



7. Consultations – Local

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

7.1 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

7.2 Thriving Green Spaces – ends 15 November

- Council policy document on parks and greenspaces. Details and online QA here-->[Consultation page](#)
- Please also send us a copy of your submission or thoughts so we can consider including them in the official spokes response

7.3 Coillesdene area Traffic Calming – ends 1 November

- *“A traffic management trial was implemented by the City of Edinburgh Council in February 2022 in the Brunstane Road and Coillesdene area through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order. The trial includes the closure of Brunstane Road at the railway bridge in conjunction with measures at various locations in the Coillesdene area to reduce unnecessary through traffic.”*
- The Council is [consulting](#) on whether to make this permanent or alter it. If you use the area, please take part – there is some opposition, so support is important. And, send us a copy of your submission, thanks.

7.4 East Lothian - waiting restrictions – ends 16 November

- The Council has advertised a number of Traffic Regulation Orders to prohibit waiting at various locations. If you support this, or wish to suggest changes, please [submit your comments](#) to the address shown, legal@eastlothian.gov.uk. There will certainly be opposition to some, so support is very valuable
- The affected roads include:
 - Musselburgh – Downie Place & Inveresk Road
 - Tranet – Glennie Gardens
 - Macmerry Industrial Estate
 - Drem – Newhouses
 - Gifford – Station Road
 - Cockenzie & Port Seton – various roads (ends 2 December)

7.5 West Lothian - future policy & budget to 2028 – ends 20 November

- The Council is facing serious cutbacks. What policies need to change?
- Read the background [here](#). Give your views [here](#).

8. Consultations – National

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

8.1 National Parks in Scotland, the future – ends 30 November

- Seeking “views on the role of National Parks in protecting and restoring nature, tackling climate change, managing facilities and access for visitors and developing sustainable communities” [Consultation website](#)

8.2 Cycling Framework & Delivery Plan for Active Travel – ends 19 December

- Consulting on “strategic priorities and shared actions to maximise cycling’s contribution in realising the Scottish Government’s long term vision that Scotland’s communities are shaped around people, with walking and cycling the most popular choice for everyday short journeys” [Consultation website](#)
- Being directly on cycling policy we are particularly keen to get your views for the spokes response. Anyone interested in doing a draft Spokes response would also be welcome, as we are always tight for volunteers for consultation responses – especially national ones.

9. Tramline safety measures

Tramline safety has been prominent again recently.

A [FOI request](#) by [Tim Kerby](#) revealed that the Council has paid out £1.2m to cyclists injured on Edinburgh's tramlines, with many cases still to be resolved, and new claims arising.

Crash reports from victims to Spokes have shown that there are **two main types of crash**. One is where the cyclist needs to cross the tramlines, most often at junctions. These locations become blackspots, with repeated crashes. Most of these blackspots were identified years ago, and remedial measures promised in a ['Phase 3' improvements](#) plan. Of these, **Dalry Rd to Grosvenor St** has just been completed, **South Charlotte St** is underway, **South St David Street** is not expected until March/April (it requires traffic signalling staff, who are in very short supply) and **Haymarket Station** is due at an unknown date. A video showing the type of crash which will be prevented by the first of these is [here](#).

One very serious blackspot where no solution could be found was **Haymarket Yards** where the cycling space between kerb and tramlines (and on a hill) defies all safety standards. However, we were recently delighted to find that an adjacent planning proposal (['Elgin House'](#)) is to provide an alternative to *part of* this danger zone, with a separate path along much of the uphill side. The application also states that the Planning Department is to coordinate with future adjacent developments to extend the route – we are not yet clear what this means, but we *hope* it will eventually bring a complete alternative. It is encouraging that the Council planners saw this opportunity, told the developers to include the path, and saw it as a basis for future path continuation.

Sadly, however, blackspots [are only half the story](#), and many crashes are of a second type: at random locations when the cyclist is not needing to cross the tramlines, but forced or encouraged into them by traffic pressures, or using the tram space for a traffic-free ride. Some minor safety steps have been taken on this type of crash, such as the 'Give Cyclists Space' signs - for which the Council had to get special government permission! as they are not standard signs. However, there are no real solutions here other than the unrealistically costly measures of redesigning the tramline layout. Unfortunately our arguments for a safer basic layout (such as tramlines on one side of the road and a segregated cycle route on the other side) were rejected when the tram was being planned. **Please be very aware of this danger when on tramlined roads.**



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

- ◆ **Edinburgh** consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk
- ◆ **Edinburgh** [Edinburgh traffic orders](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/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** <https://petitions.parliament.scot/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!)

11. 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.