

# Spokes Action-Update 19.02.23

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## 0. Finding your councillors

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

## 1. Spokes Public Meeting (was Fri 24 Feb) – postponed

Edinburgh Council Transport Committee has approved a new draft *Active Travel Action Plan* (ATAP) and a slew of other draft transport policy documents, which will go to public consultation during the Spring – first to ‘stakeholders’ (such as Spokes) and then to full public consultation (probably April-June).

Our planned Feb 24 meeting to discuss the policies has been postponed – a new date is likely in May. The forthcoming public consultation is promised to contain a lot more detail on specific options than in the policy documents, and so it feels more productive to hold the public meeting once public consultation is underway.

Meanwhile you can see Spokes initial thoughts on the policy documents, particularly the Active Travel Action Plan, in this [Spokes submission to the Feb 2 Transport Committee](#). [Also [tweeted](#), please retweet]. The full set of policy documents is listed and linked here...

- [Active Travel Action Plan 2023](#) ATAP
- [Public Transport Action Plan 2023](#) PTAP
- [Parking Action Plan](#)
- [Road Safety Action Plan](#)
- [Air Quality Action Plan](#) AQAP
- [Circulation Plan](#) [under development – 2210 below] [Feb 2023 update](#)

## 2. Tramline crash reporting tool

Spokes has developed a new [online reporting tool](#) for tramline crashes, largely comprising multiple choice questions and mainly optional text boxes for additional information which does not fit the multiple choice or expands on those answers.

Up to now, Spokes relied on email reports of crashes. These yielded some valuable and perhaps unexpected insights, and we used this to guide the design of the new reporting tool, so we can hopefully get a clearer idea of prevalence. For example...

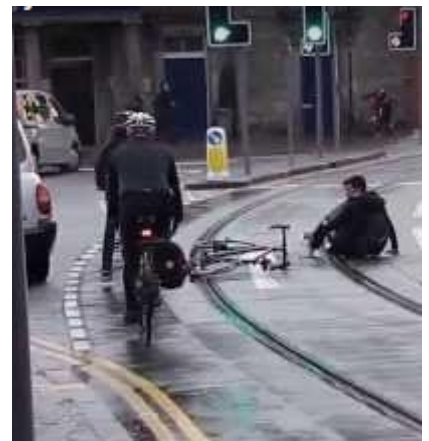
- ◆ Many tramline crashes happen to experienced cyclists
- ◆ Many tramline crashes result from skidding on the metal rather than getting a wheel trapped
- ◆ Many crashes are to people cycling in the same direction as the tramlines, not wishing to cross all the rails, and not at crash ‘blackspots’

### What you can do

- ◆ If you have had a tramline crash, even if some time ago, please enter the details in the [reporting tool](#)
- ◆ Pass this on to anyone else you know who has had a crash
- ◆ We may get posters to publicise the reporting tool. Contact us if you could get posters pinned up in useful locations (such as A&E!! or doctor surgeries in areas near tramlines)
- ◆ Retweet [our tweet](#) to publicise the reporting page further.

### Reducing your chances of a tramline crash

We are finalising a document on this, and it will soon appear on our [tramlines web page](#).



### 3. For your diary

- ◆ Feb 25 2pm [Edinburgh Critical Mass](#) ride. Meet Meadows 2pm
- ◆ March 8 [Infrasisters ride](#) for International Women's Day – details still to be announced
- ◆ April 1-16 [Science Festival](#) – lots of environmental events, including Portobello seafront display
- ◆ April 22 [Pedal on Parliament](#)
- ◆ May (date to be confirmed) **Spokes public meeting** – see page 1
- ◆ June 13 (Tue) 8-10am (to be confirmed) [Spokes Bike Breakfast](#) – save the date!!

### 4. Spokes news

#### 4.1 Renewals for 2023

Members who have a standing order (or repeated paypal) and those who joined or renewed recently have been automatically renewed for the whole of 2023.

In mid March we plan to send out our annual data check, to confirm we have your correct membership details. If you are not yet renewed, you will also be able to renew then, either by email or by post, whichever you prefer. Full instructions will be sent.

#### 4.2 Spokes Bulletin – can you distribute??

Due to covid, and the continuing move to electronic communication, we have sadly stopped producing the former 3-a-year 12-page Bulletin. However, there is still a need for a less frequent printed publication for bike leafleting and for people to pick up in bike shops and libraries. We therefore plan to produce a bulletin (with fewer pages) once or possibly twice a year. ***If you would like a supply to leaflet bikes at shops, workplace, etc please email Spokes asap, and say how many you could use.*** Please note that you must contact us ***even if*** you asked for extra bulletins on your membership form, as many of those numbers are now likely to be out of date, given the changes to working from home etc, so we will not be using them until this renewal period is complete.

#### 4.3 Spokes Online Meetup – 31 January

The experimental [online meetup for members](#) in January was friendly, useful and enjoyable, with both new and longstanding members, so a very good mixture - though we were a bit disappointed that more people did not come along. We split into small groups of 4 people 4 times during the hour, to discuss anything at all of mutual interest to those in the group – everything from ideas for local improvements, how to comment on the bollarded main road routes, cargobike opportunities, maps, air quality monitoring near schools, etc, etc. Using the chat function in zoom we were able to record some of the ideas that came forward.

We are hoping to run similar meetings again, perhaps 3 or 4 times a year. If you would like to join in, but found a weekday 7.30-8.30 difficult, let us know what times would suit better. Incidentally, two of the January participants joined in whilst tackling child bedtime routines at the same time!

#### 4.4 East Lothian photo needed for Spokes map

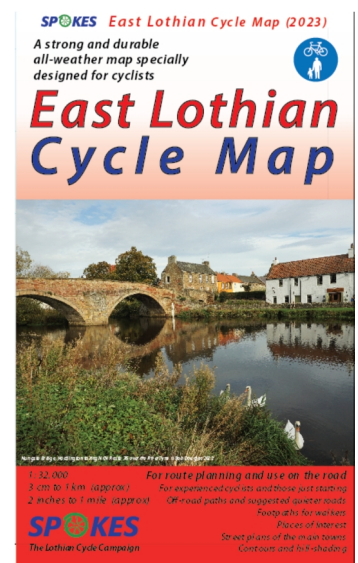
The new Spokes East Lothian map is due for publication late April. We have a great photo for the cover but it doesn't include a cyclist. Do you have an image you think would make a good cover photo? The brief is simple:

- An attractive scene, recognisably East Lothian, with one or more 'everyday' cyclists visible but not dominant. In other words, a scenic photo that includes one or more cyclists, rather than a photo of cyclists that just happens to have a bit of E Lothian in the background – unless it's stunning of course. An 'everyday' cyclist is someone enjoying themselves in ordinary clothes, not someone head down in lycra!
- Landscape format approx. 12.75cm x 10 cm. Needs to be min 300 DPI for printing, so minimum approx. 1800 by 1200 pixels.

No promises, and no prizes, except for a credit on the map (unless you want to be anonymous) and free East Lothian map

#### 4.5 Spokes Competition 2023

We are hoping to run our usual annual competition, so please send us ideas for a topic! We had some great entries last year for our [Shopping by Bike](#) comp. You can see more previous topics and competition reports [here](#). We want a topic that most people can enter so, for example, a school-related topic is not ideal.



provisional cover

## 5. 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.

A 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 have re-instated 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.

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

### 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.



2022: £2000, [Dower House Cafe](#), Tern Quikhaul cargobike [\[report\]](#); more pics [1](#) [2](#);

## 6. Spaces For People bike lanes, ETROs – *comment by 20.5.23*

Remember that the 6-month formal consultation for the *Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders* for the *Spaces-for-People/Travelling-Safely* main road semi-segregated bike lanes is now underway.

### Why you should respond...

1. This is the final consultation, after which the Council will have the legal powers to declare the lanes permanent, to modify them, or to scrap them. Although public comments are not a 'vote', councillors will be influenced by the weight of support and opposition
2. Furthermore, although we strongly support the lanes, there are undoubtedly problems to be resolved and major improvements that should be made. Large amounts of funding for bike and walk facilities are now starting to come through from the Scottish Government, so it is realistic to make bold suggestions.

***If you don't have time or patience to wade through the documents and plans (which are not user-friendly) you can anyway respond, like this...***

- Address your email to [TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk) and to [Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk)
- Say you are commenting about the Travelling Safely Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders.
- Then make any points you wish, for example...
  - general points about the importance of the schemes
  - improvements you would like to see
  - comments on specific schemes that you use.

If you wish fuller background details, links, etc, see item (6) in the [Jan 13 Action-Update](#).

 **McFlytaethemoon**  
@McFlytae  
Just got overtaken and left for dust by an older lady on an ebike going up Lanark Road. Game changing!!! #sfp All seemed well with the football on at the park too. No predicted chaos. ☀️



## 7. Other current issues

### 7.1 Lawnmarket cobbles

The Council is planning in the next financial year (23/24) to re-lay the very uneven setts on Lawnmarket (between George IV Bridge and the Castle).

Some years ago, thanks to Spokes, the Council incorporated consideration for cycling and walking into its [policy on setted streets](#) – which previously had been only about heritage. It is not just a question of cycling comfort, but of danger – both for cyclists and for pedestrians with certain types of walking disabilities, as became clear in the consultation which led to the new policy. In particular, the ‘principles’ (appendix 2, p35) now include...

*Any construction or re-construction of setted streets in Edinburgh which is regularly used by cyclists and pedestrians should use setts in a way that facilitates active travel. This may mean using the sawn edge on the upward facing side or, specially at crossing points for walking and, where possible, design features, such as strips of flat-top setts to aid cycling.*

However, the Council intends to go against this policy and not take account of cyclist or pedestrian issues, because it has been decided that heritage issues over-ride this. They told us...

*We look at how to construct setted streets on an individual basis, as agreed in the committee report approving the Strategy for Setted Streets in 2018. Lawnmarket is one of the most historically significant streets in Edinburgh. Edinburgh World Heritage do not support the removal of the traditional setts at this location. We would, therefore, be proposing to retain the original setts as part of the design. I do think that there is still a bit of consultation to be carried out on this scheme and we are still unsure on the final design so this is still subject to change.*

As you can see, a final decision has not yet been taken. **If you would like provision made for cyclists and pedestrians please email the [City Centre Ward councillors](#) (ward 11).** Send us any useful replies.

One solution would be cycling strips using flat-topped setts (as at the historic Linlithgow Cross town centre) – and a pedestrian crossing using similar. Another would be to use flat-topped for the entire area, as was done very successfully some years ago at the High Street junction with George IV Bridge, and which immediately abuts the area now to be resurfaced.

### 7.2 Ashley Terrace rat-run

*Spokes member Peter Hawkins sent us the following item for inclusion in this circular ...*

A flyer through our door in Ashley Drive, from local Tory Cllr Chris Cowdy, gives the latest info on the closure of Ashley Terrace, how long it's likely to last, possible solutions etc.

I would just like to say, as a resident, what a wonderful thing the closure has been - peace, quiet, sanity! Ashley Terrace is a rat-run between Colinton Rd and Slateford Rd, and as it's on a hill, the closure has made the air noticeably cleaner. Bikes can still get through, though the barriers are not ideal for that.

It's a good example of how traffic reduction can be achieved, and the wider implications this can have. Far from all the traffic going elsewhere, a lot of it has simply evaporated; Colinton Rd is also quieter, as is Slateford Rd, while the opposite might have been expected. Admittedly this is just an impression, and there could be other factors at work such as school holidays, strikes etc.

When the street re-opens, it would be wonderful if it could be restricted to buses-only (it's part of the 38 bus route) and emergency vehicles.

My message to the Traffic Authorities is, please let's have lots more street closures, to reduce car use overall. I'm sure it's painful medicine for some, but they'll get used to it - and boy is it necessary!

[for anyone wishing to contact local councillors, see item 0 at the start of this circular]



## 8. Other consultations – Local

*Please respond to all that concern you. Also copy to Spokes for possible use in Spokes responses*

### 8.1 Portobello 20-minute neighbourhood – ends 14 April

- The Council is consulting on the future of Gorgie/Dalry as a 20-minute neighbourhood.
- Please respond to the consultation [here](#) and/or by emailing [20minuteneighbourhood@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:20minuteneighbourhood@edinburgh.gov.uk) – also use that email address for any queries.
- [Spokes Porty](#), our local group, is expecting to make a formal response, so please send us your thoughts for possible inclusion – but do submit your own response as an individual also.

### 8.2 Moredunvale Greenspace Development – ends 8 March

- “A steering group gathered ideas for the greenspace through community consultation, held in the park during the summer of 2022. A summary of the key ideas taken forward into design proposals include: Improved accessibility through the greenspace and New paths through the greenspace. [Your feedback](#) is welcome to refine these proposals.

### 8.3 New Newcraighall Primary School – ends 31 March

- “A new Newcraighall Primary School, which will replace the existing Newcraighall Primary School, is currently being developed on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council. ... We invite comment and seek feedback from all those interested in this project. Please give us your views on the proposals by completing [the online survey](#) or e-mailing comments to [newcraighallschool@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:newcraighallschool@edinburgh.gov.uk).
- Also, or alternatively, you can visit a public drop-in session at the existing Newcraighall Primary School between 2.00 and 4.00pm on Friday 24th Feb or between 6.00 and 8.00pm on Tuesday 14th March.”

## 9. More & future consultations – Check council, government, other consultations

- ◆ Edinburgh [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk)
- ◆ Edinburgh [Edinburgh traffic orders](#)
- ◆ East Lothian [www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianconsultations.co.uk)
- ◆ Midlothian <https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/directory/33/consultations>
- ◆ West Lothian [www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/consultations)
- ◆ Scottish Government [consult.gov.scot](https://consult.gov.scot)
- ◆ Transport Scotland [www.transport.gov.scot/consultations](http://www.transport.gov.scot/consultations)
- ◆ Scottish Parliament consultations [yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation\\_finder](https://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](https://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!)

## 10. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our [website](https://www.spokes.org.uk) every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](https://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](https://www.spokes.org.uk/membership).



## Finally...

Martin McDonnell sent us this lovely picture of the coastal route near Port Seton in East Lothian. If you are visiting, note that it is tidal and gets covered at high tide.

