

Spokes Action-Update 06.06.23

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0. Finding your councillors

In Edinburgh, find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](#) [or edinburgh.gov.uk : Council & Committees : Find your Councillor]. Everyone has either 3 or 4 councillors, usually from assorted parties. For any Council, and to find MSPs, you can use writetothem.com.

1. Spokes Bike Breakfast **Tuesday 13 June**

Covid and post-covid have meant no Spokes Bike Breakfast since [2019](#). Now, in 2023, you and your bike are invited again for tea or coffee, a roll, degreaser and oil; getting you and your bike in top condition for the remainder of your commute!

Come along on Tuesday 13 June any time between 7.45-9.30 a.m. with your bike!

- Free roll (vegetarian/plant-based); tea or coffee; fruit
- Bike chain degrease and oil (thanks [Edinburgh Bike Coop](#))
- Bike security registration (app-based) advice by [Police Scotland](#)
- Choice of one free [Spokes map](#) (from 7.45) for the first 20 arrivals
- £50 [Edinburgh Bike Coop](#) shop voucher to be won
- Short speeches at approx 8.20
 - [Kirsty Lewin](#) from Spokes Porty and Infrastesters
 - [Cllr Scott Arthur](#) Council Transport Convener
 - Possible MSP (to be confirmed)
- Wide range of stalls and attractions – current bookings listed below

Stalls and/or displays at the 2023 Bike Breakfast are expected to include...

- [Police Scotland](#)
- [Edinburgh Bike Coop](#)
- [School Bike Buses](#)
- [Infrastesters](#) / [Spokes Porty](#)
- [Cargo Bike Movement](#)
- [Living Streets](#)
- [East Lothian Council](#) [Cllr Shona McIntosh, convener of ELC Active Travel Forum]
- [Cycling Scotland](#)
- [Sustrans Scotland](#)

More information

- Email: katesturrock63@gmail.com or imaxwell@gn.apc.org
- Phone: 0131 313 2114
- [Previous bike breakfasts](#)
- The Quad must be clear by 10am for a wedding
- The breakfast is funded jointly by Scottish Government cycle promotion (SCSP) money and by Spokes



Spokes Bike Breakfast, 2018

Please help publicise

- Retweet [our tweet](#)
- If you take photos or tweet about the event, use hashtag [#SpokesBB](#)

2. For your diary

- ◆ June 5-11 [Bike Week](#)
- ◆ June 10-18 [Big Green Week UK](#)
- ◆ June 10-18 [Climate Fringe Festival](#)
- ◆ June 13 (Tue) 7.45-9.30am **Spokes Bike Breakfast** – see 1 above
- ◆ June 15 [Clean Air Day](#)

3. Spokes Traffic Count, 16.5.23

The biannual Spokes city centre traffic count, on May 16, found a further substantial rise in bike traffic as compared to May 2022, whilst motor traffic was fairly static (pun intended!) Bike numbers were up at all our 4 count points and in both time periods, whilst cars and commercial (van, bus etc) were both largely unchanged from last May.

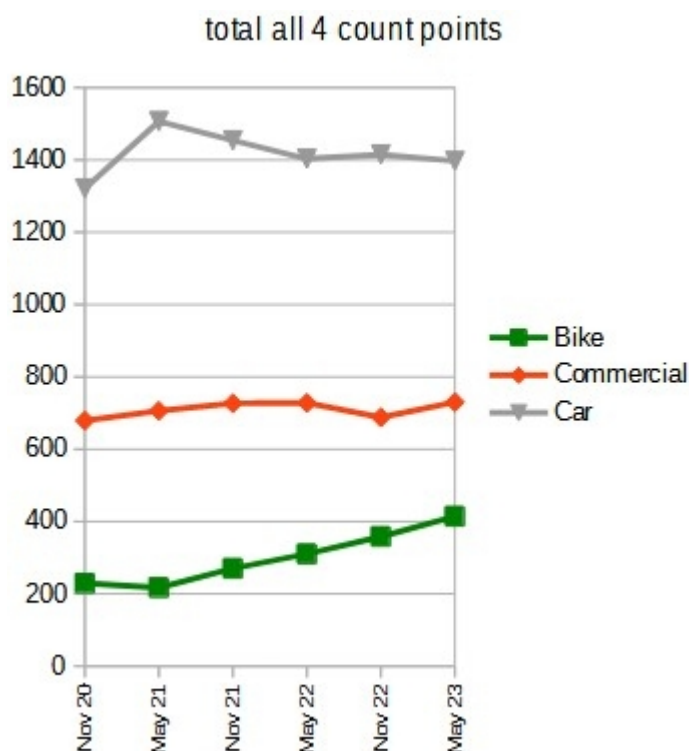
In total, combining northbound and southbound on Lothian Road and Forrest Road, bikes rose to 16.3% of all 8am-9am vehicles, from 12.7% last May, and at lunchtime to 10.8% from 9.2%.

A top takeaway is that bikes totalled 21.2% of all citybound vehicles between 8-9am at our two northbound count points, 18.6% on Lothian Road and 25.0% on Forrest Road.

Smaller counts were also held by Spokes Porty and Spokes South Edinburgh.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the counts, particularly main organiser Barbara.

There's a full report on our website [here](#).



City centre, 8-9am	Nov 2020*	Nov 2021	May 2022**	Nov 2022**	May 2023
Bikes	229	270	310	358	414
Commercial (bus, taxi, van, etc)	679	727	728	688	730
Private car	1321	1454	1403	1415	1397
Bikes as % of total traffic	10.3%	11.0%	12.7%	14.5%	16.3%
% of cars which are single-occupant	79.0%	75.4%	77.7%	74.0%	77.0%

Spokes traffic counts 8-9am, totals Lothian Rd & Forrest Rd, northbound & southbound. The weather was reasonably good for all these counts, so is unlikely to have affected numbers significantly.

**November 2020 was our first count during Covid. **North Bridge closed northbound.*

4. Active Travel Action Plan & other action plans - consultation

Consultation continues until 9 July on the draft action plans – [please take part](#)

A series of drop-ins has been added to the consultation programme and can be found at the above link. Several are now over, but the remaining ones include...

- City Art Centre 9 Jun, 13:00 to 17:00
- City Art Centre 10 Jun, 10:00 to 16:00
- Currie Library 12 Jun, 15:00 to 19:00
- Granton Primary School 13 Jun, 15:15 to 19:00
- Wester Hailes Education Centre 14 Jun, 15:00 to 19:00
- Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre 20 Jun, 15:00 to 19:00
- Ratho Community Centre 21 Jun, 15:00 to 19:00

Spokes initial reactions

You can see Spokes initial thoughts on the action plans, both good and less good, particularly the Active Travel Action Plan, in this [Spokes submission to the Feb 2 Transport Committee](#). [Also [tweeted](#), please retweet].

The Active Travel Action Plan

A top cycling takeaway from the draft ATAP is the new focus on main road segregated routes. It says [chapter 5], *“The (off road) traffic-free routes will continue to play a vital role, and we will seek to improve their comfort, safety and security. However, we now plan to develop a joined-up network of routes that **feel safe to everyone at all times of day**. This network will need to use **segregated cycle tracks on main roads**, as well as **unsegregated on-street routes that have low volumes of motor traffic**.”*

The three highlighted phrases above [our emphases] neatly summarise important major developments, which we strongly welcome, in the Council’s approach to cycling policy, and we urge determined implementation.

But what is missing in the plan? And what could be better? See our initial thoughts above.

All the Delivery/Action Plans

Do the [delivery plans](#) live up to the Council’s ambition to cut car-km 30% by 2030, with much more travel by foot, bike and public transport? Will they let more people live car-free? Will they be rapidly implemented?

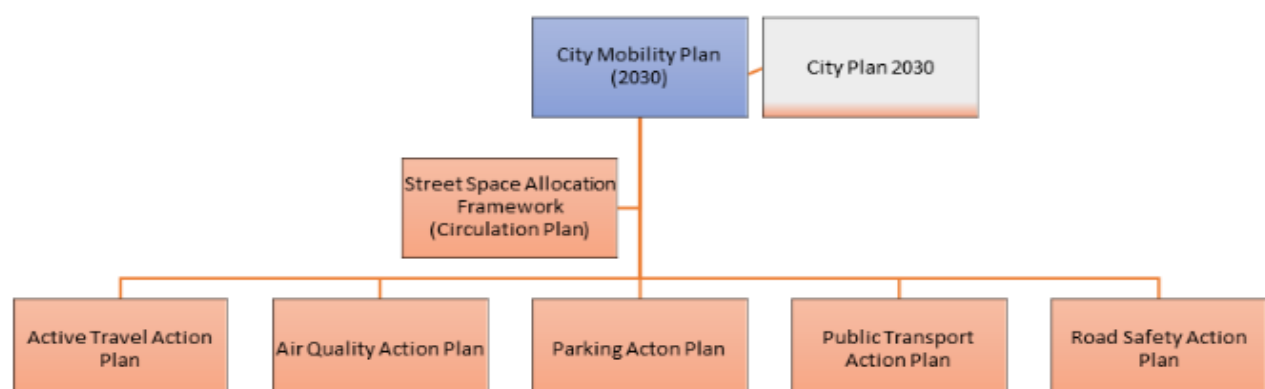
The ambition *“to create a city where you don’t need to own a car to get around,”* mentioned in several of the documents (e.g. Parking Action Plan, p8) is very welcome, for reasons of climate, public health, congestion and equalities. It is also essential, if the Council is to achieve its ultra-tough target to reduce car-km 30% by 2030. But it is far easier said than done. Will the policy documents achieve it – and will they be fully implemented?

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] [Feb 2023 update](#)

What you can do – closing date 9 July

- ◆ See the consultation page [here](#). **Please do respond.**
- ◆ However the online QA is very skimpy. If you have specific comments on any of the delivery plans, email spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk and copy your email to spokes@spokes.org.uk
- ◆ For comments on the draft **Active Travel Action Plan**, also copy your comments to activetravel@edinburgh.gov.uk

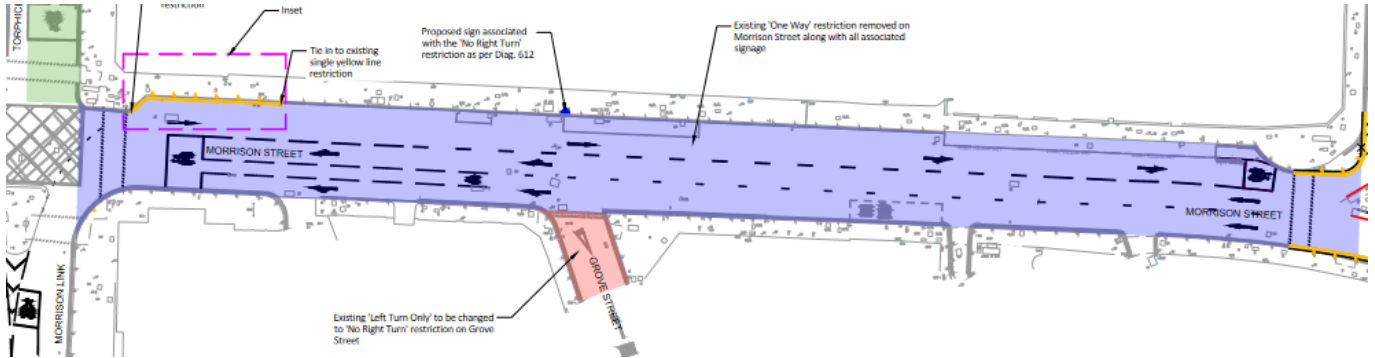


5. Morrison Street – continuing disappointment

In our [May 7th](#) Action-Update we described Council plans for Morrison Street as a diversion route for polluting vehicles which will be banned from the city centre LEZ (Low Emission Zone) when it becomes enforced in 2024.

Background: If you wish to look at the detail of the Orders, find them here...

- ◆ [TRO/23/04](#) is the changes in turnings, one-ways, etc
- ◆ [TRO/23/05](#) is the changes in waiting/ loading etc
- ◆ [RSO/23/03](#) is the redetermining of sections from footway to carriageway and vice-versa



Spokes objected to the 3 traffic orders and we understand that quite a number of individuals also objected – doubtless in part thanks to our article. Thank you if you objected.

As a result, Spokes was invited to a meeting with senior officers to discuss the proposals and our objection. However, they were adamant that their proposals could not change. Otherwise, they said, computer modelling showed that traffic from Morrison Link would back up as far as West Maitland Street and would hold up the trams. The best they could offer was, as had already been promised, cycling and walking would be given full attention here in the future, in parallel with the Lothian Road Boulevard project, or in advance of that. i.e. nothing definite.

This left Spokes in a quandry as although we are very disturbed at these Morrison Street plans, nor did we want to hold up – or be seen to hold up – introduction of the LEZ. However, we also knew that the Council has legal powers to over-rule objections to Traffic Orders (TROs) without the need for an Inquiry, so even if we maintained our objection it would very likely be over-ruled.

We therefore maintained our objection to TRO/23/04, the Order most relevant to our concerns. However we withdrew the objection to TRO/23/03 as it had only minor relevance; and also to the RSO order since it provides major improvements for pedestrians at the very unpleasant Gardners Crescent junction.

Under new arrangements, final TRO decisions are taken by the Licensing Committee instead of the Transport Committee (TEC) – an odd setup, given that it is TEC which understands and decides transport policy. [A report](#) is going to the June 9 Licensing Committee, in which officers recommend that the objections (17 in total) are rejected. However, the report includes our letters in full, so councillors will be made aware of our concerns.

The future

The likely outcome is certainly a disappointment, but not wholly unexpected. However, the number of objections, and the fact that a meeting with senior officers was called, mean that both officers and councillors are very aware that there is serious concern about this decision. This will strengthen our case in the consultations on Lothian Road and Morrison Street expected in the next year or so, and also when, as is likely, the LEZ area is widened in future, almost certainly encompassing Morrison Street itself, and so removing the added polluting traffic.

??? Strange...

To our considerable surprise, given that this will be a diversion route, the report to the Licensing Committee says that the overall effect of the measures proposed will *reduce* traffic on Morrison Street (by 11%-13%) according to computer modelling. Because ... reducing the 3 existing westbound lanes to 2 will cut traffic more than it will be increased by the new eastbound lane. If so, this would surely mean delays to westbound buses, and traffic backing up along Morrison Street perhaps even as far as Lothian Road? Does the Council really intend that?

Also intriguingly, the statement about this is not in the main text, but is buried away in Appendix E of the report, (see the reply to objector 1). Nor had we been aware of this modelling outcome in advance. It states...

“Modelling indicates overall traffic volumes on Morrison Street are anticipated to reduce slightly (11%-13%) after the implementation of two way operation. Induced traffic as a result of opening Morrison Street eastbound is anticipated to be less than the level of westbound traffic displacement caused by capacity restrictions.”

6. Spokes East Lothian map – now out & launch offer!

Our fully revised East Lothian map was launched at East Lothian Council HQ by the Provost, Cllr John McMillan (also a follower of Spokes on twitter) and Spokes member Councillor Shona McIntosh, East Lothian's first ever Green councillor. Cllr McIntosh also transported 300 of the new maps to Haddington from our storage space at Jenners Depository (Haymarket) in her family cargobike.

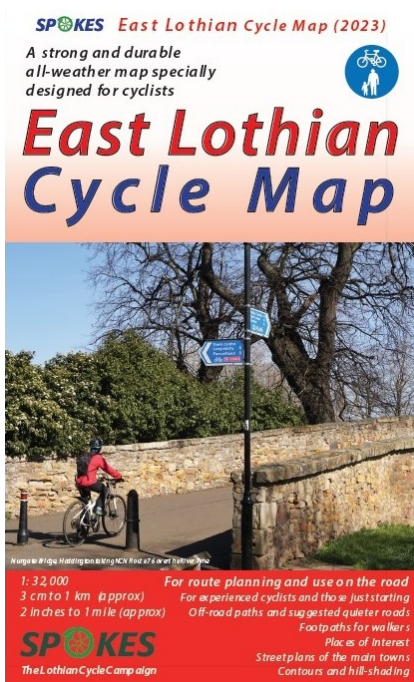
We hope to have an article about the launch on our website in the next week or so.



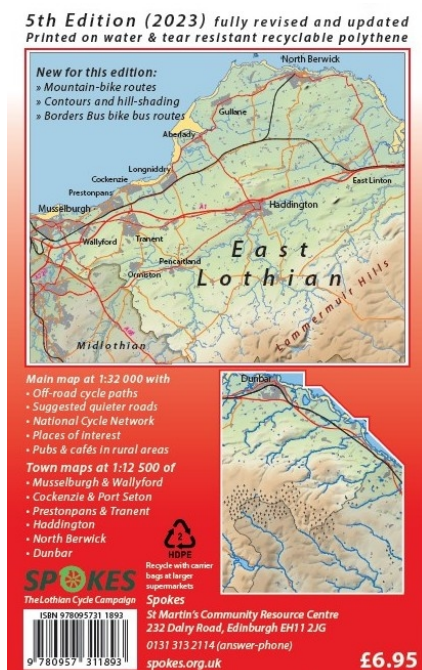
Foreground, R to L: Provost McMillan, Cllr McIntosh, Maps Group coordinator Katharine Taylor, Spokes maps veteran Peter Hawkins. Photo: Andrew Moncrieff

The map should now be in most Edinburgh and East Lothian bike shops (at £6.95). Please tell us of any which don't have it. **There's also a special offer for orders direct to the Spokes office, until the end of June, just £6 including postage. Or share an order with friends and colleagues at £27 for 6 copies.** Why not organise a bulk map order at your workplace, or for family and friends? See what other Spokes members have done, [here](#).

- ◆ email office@spokes.org.uk to order and pay by BACS, or
- ◆ send a cheque to Spokes, St Martin's Centre, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG. **Make your cheque payable to: Spokes Lothian Cycle Campaign**, not just to Spokes.



As always, huge thanks to our maps group, coordinator Katharine Taylor, the volunteers who surveyed every road and path in the county, and of course Andy Follis our expert volunteer cartographer.



7. Action Ideas & Opportunities!!

7.1 Organise a street party

Get together with neighbours or local groups – you can apply to the council for a temporary street closure.

Details-->cultureedinburgh.com/sites/default/files/attachments/guide-street-party-and-play-streets.pdf

Here's a short video of one held recently in Marchmont

-->twitter.com/blackfordsafer1/status/1662835010015985665

7.2 ELREC Bike Activities

Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council runs a range of bike activities, including...

- confidence building for people wanting to get back to cycling
- drop-in bike repair (you learn the skills to sort the problem)
- bike rides on off-road paths – children welcome if with an accompanying adult

Details → www.elrec.org.uk/elrec-cycling-club/

If you are not familiar with [ELREC](http://www.elrec.org.uk), its aims include the elimination of discrimination and reduction of inequality.

7.3 Take your local politicians for a ride (!)

Every so often Spokes members tell us they've invited local politicians for a bike ride to look at infrastructure issues. It's a great idea, especially for your local ward councillors (See section 0 on p1 above to find them). If you'd like to do this we can contact other members in your area to see if they'd like to be involved too. We *may* also be able to find someone from our Planning Group to come along too – but you'll have to do the organising.

A couple of our members from Livingston have recently invited one of their MSPs, to look at potential routes between towns, including Fauldhouse to Stoneyburn to East Whitburn. Obviously if you are inviting local ward councillors, you would probably select a more local route to highlight issues and potential within the ward.

If you do this, we'd love to have a few photos of the event too, and the councillors would doubtless be happy to get a bit of extra publicity!

7.4 Can you volunteer to help with Spokes consultation responses??

As you can see from section 9 below, there are many consultations ongoing, and no sign this will slow down. Spokes Planning Group does not currently have the capacity to respond to all, so we are missing out on opportunities to improve things. Please, if this interests you, do get in touch and join the Planning Group.

A draft response for an occasional consultation would be great. And/or if you are doing a detailed personal submission, could this also be used as a draft Spokes one, for Planning Group to comment on then submit?

There is also a need for people to comment on drafts prepared by others - it is dispiriting to spend time on a draft then receive no comments on it before it is submitted.

8. Spokes Public Meeting, 24 May – video available

Our public meeting on [A City Where You don't need a Car](#) was very successful, with a good attendance in person and online. We hope to have a report on the website, but in any case a full video of the meeting is now available on the Spokes Youtube channel, with over 170 views so far! – find it from the [videos tab](#) on the Spokes website.



9. Other consultations

Please respond as an individual to all that concern you. Also copy to Spokes for possible use in our responses.

LOTHIANS

9.1 East Lothian, Local Development Plan (LDP) – *starts 12 June; ends 31 July*

Early comments being collected for this major policy document on development and use of land in East Lothian – including issues of transport, climate, etc. [Consultation Page and email/postal addresses for comments](#).

There will be a series of drop-ins which will cover the LDP *and* a range of related policies including Woodland Strategy, Poverty Plan, Local Economic Strategy. The overall consultation page is [here](#). The drop-ins are...

- **Musselburgh** Tuesday 13 June at the Regent Room, Brunton Hall, 3.30-8.30 pm
- **Musselburgh East and Wallyford** 27 June at the Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre, 12 – 6 pm
- **North Berwick** Friday 16 June at the Hope Rooms 12.00-4.00pm
- **Haddington** Monday 19th June at the Star Room John Gray Centre (Library) 2.00-7.00 pm
- **Dunbar** Thursday 22 June at the Bleachingfield Centre (Library) 4.30-8.30 pm
- **Prestonpans** Monday 26 June at the Pennypit Centre 4.00-8.00 pm
- **Tranent** Wednesday 28 June at the Fraser Centre 4.00-8.00 pm

9.2 Midlothian, Local Development Plan (LDP) – *ends 3 May 2024 (yes, 2024!)*

Like East Lothian above, Midlothian is [gathering initial ideas](#) for its next LDP. It is doing this through a set of online surveys, as follows...

- [Place Standard](#) i.e. what it feels like to live in your town or neighbourhood, and how to improve that
- [Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Playing Outside survey](#)
- [Organisations and Businesses](#) – How Midlothian can be good for them

9.3 West Lothian Council: B7066 cyclerooute, Whitburn area – *closing date not stated*

West Lothian Council is consulting on plans for a shared-use path, as part of their A89 Active Travel project, linking Whitburn, Bathgate, Livingston, Broxburn, Uphall, and related rail stations.

Comment on the B7066 plan (*and any other West Lothian cycling infrastructure issues*) HERE westlothian.gov.uk/article/32502/New-Road-Footpath-and-Cyclepath-Developments

9.4 West Lothian Council: enquiries re new road & path developments – *no closing date*

The Council has a [new webpage](#) for enquiries & comments about new roads, footpaths, and cycle routes.

EDINBURGH – NEW SCHOOLS & SCHOOL SITES

9.5 New Trinity Academy – *ends 9 June*

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, and provides an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, as well as bike storage and parking at the new school.

9.6 New Greendykes Primary – *ends 30 June*

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, including even the location of the school, and provides an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, as well as bike storage and parking at the new school.

9.7 New St Catherine's RC Primary School (Liberton/Gilmerton) – *ends 7 August*

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, including location of the school, and is an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, community facilities at the new school, and bike storage and parking.

9.8 New Kirkliston High School – *ends 30 June*

Consultation [here](#). This is an early-stage consultation, including location of the school, and is an opportunity to comment on routes to the school, community facilities at the new school, and bike storage and parking.

EDINBURGH – OTHER CONSULTATIONS

9.9 City Mobility Plan, Delivery Plans including Active Travel Action Plan – ends 9 July

Major consultation - see section 4 above

9.10 Edinburgh Seafield regeneration area – ends 8 June

A masterplan is being prepared to regenerate the area, including housing, public transport and active travel routes. As a first stage the consultants are consulting the public on overall concepts and opportunities.

The online consultation is [here](#). For more info or to submit detailed comments, email seafield.regeneration@edinburgh.gov.uk



9.11 Spaces For People bike lanes, ETROs – consultation postponed

The 6-month [formal consultation](#) [#6] for the *Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders* for the *Spaces-for-People/ Travelling-Safely* main road semi-segregated bike lanes was due to end on May 20th. However, errors have been found in the technicalities of the Orders, so they will have to be re-issued - which means another 6-month consultation period. Spokes has been assured that comments already submitted will still be taken into account.

9.12 Listed Buildings and Sustainability – ends 11 June

Edinburgh has many listed buildings, and many others in conservation areas. How can they be upgraded to be fit for and contribute to Edinburgh 2030-NetZero? Consultation is [here](#).

We need to be sure the report includes domestic bike storage – a particular issue in such areas, especially where tenemental. If this matters to you, or you have suggestions, or just want to emphasise the importance of bike storage, please reply to the consultation. As well as the online QA, there's an email address for more detail.

We have [tweeted](#) this consultation, and it has generated significant interest. More retweets welcome!

9.13 Craigmillar & Niddrie, Living Well Locally, 20-min neighbourhood – ends 7 July

Future of the High Street on Niddrie Mains Road, and greenspaces in the area. Aiming for conditions which enable everyone to reach the local facilities that they need with no more than a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle. Funded by Scottish Government under the Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' scheme. Consultation [here](#).

9.14 Corstorphine Connections LTN (Low Traffic Neighbourhood) – ends 23 November

"Measures to promote quiet local neighbourhoods, encourage sustainable travel (walking and cycling), improve exercise local to home, and to deter motor vehicle through traffic in the areas of Corstorphine and Carrick Knowe, particularly around the Primary Schools."

The measures are now in place under an Experimental Traffic Order, ETRO/21/21. Comments and/or objections received may result in changes to the scheme, either during the course of the experimental period, or at the end if the Council decides to make the scheme permanent at that stage.

[The Order ETRO/21/21 \(includes plans\)](#) [Where to send your comments](#) [Background info](#)

9.15 Union Canal (Edinburgh section) Strategy Refresh – ends 17 July

Edinburgh Council and Scottish Canals are working in partnership to update the Edinburgh Union Canal Strategy originally produced in 2011. Comments and ideas are wanted at this early stage. Consultation [here](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

9.16 Local Living, Scottish Government consultation – *ends 20 July*

Seeking views and comments on the draft planning guidance for councils and others on local living and 20 minute neighbourhood planning guidance. [Consultation page](#).

9.17 Pavement parking – enforcement regulations – *ends 28 July*

Very belatedly, the government is consulting on the enforcement regulations which must be in place before the 2019 Act prohibiting pavement parking, double parking and dropped kerb parking comes into force. We haven't looked at this in detail, but are likely to support the proposals. [Consultation page](#). If you respond, please send us a copy of your points. We [tweeted about the delay](#) – please retweet!

10. 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 petitions.parliament.scot
- ◆ 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!)
- ◆ Spokes website We have a page of particularly relevant consultations www.spokes.org.uk/consultns

11. 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.