

Spokes Action-Update 07.07.23

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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. Active Travel Action Plan ATAP (& other action plans) – **ends Sun 9 July**

Your last chance to comment on this important consultation

Please take the time to respond – you are helping to decide the Council's strategy and plans for active travel between now and 2030 – in the context of their target to cut car-km by 30% in the city.

How to respond (quick or slow!)

Steps marked * are essential, others are optional. If you only follow the essential steps and are fairly decisive it should only take you around 20mins.

1. Read or skim the Spokes response, [here](#)
2. Read or skim the [draft ATAP](#). It is very long – chapters 5 & 6 are the most relevant to future cycling development. Also the actions on pages 86-95 of appendix 1.
- *3. Decide one or more points you really wish the Council to include in ATAP. We suggest two below, but you may have your own ideas, possibly including something in your own area
- *4. Go to the Council consultation page, [here](#)
- *5. Click the online survey link on the consultation page, and complete the survey. All questions except for the very last, are multiple-choice, so you don't need to do any writing until the end
- *6. For the last question, which is free-text, write in your concerns from (3) above.
7. If you would like to make a longer, more detailed submission (by 9 July!) you can email the address on the consultation page (spatial.policy@edinburgh.gov.uk). We suggest you complete the above survey anyway, but in the free text box say you will email detailed comments.

Two points Spokes has made, and you might like to consider making (use your own words)..

(a) The promised segregated cycle network on main roads must be *continuous*. If there are sections, even short ones, where novices, those scared of sharing with traffic, or children, will not venture, then they won't use the route at all and the network will just be for the more confident. There will be places where space is tight, and ATAP hints that the network here may just consist of a bus lane or an 'open to all vehicles' shopping street. The answer instead must be – avoid gaps in the cycle network, by reducing traffic (e.g. parking changes, bus gate) so there *is* space for the cycle lane to be continuous. Yet the draft ATAP unfortunately doesn't say this - despite the Council's target to cut car-km by 30%.

(b) The draft ATAP promises a new policy to create a 'primary cycle network' of main road segregated cycleroutes – but leaves this till *after 2026*! We need to see early action if the public is to believe the promise. There is no reason why the Council could not upgrade one or more of the 'Spaces for People' main road routes in the next year or so, e.g. Lanark Road, or extend CCWEL out to Corstorphine, using cost-effective methods (as recently in [Holyrood Road](#)) and with greater protection at junctions.

2. Spokes summer competition 2023 ... Bike Storage at Home

- **ends 3 September**

Our annual summer competition is here, with the usual (indeed, enhanced) range of super prizes. As always, the competition is also intended to gather useful ideas and experiences which we can pass on to others – like with last year's [Shopping by Bike](#) comp, which resulted in this lovely [factsheet](#).

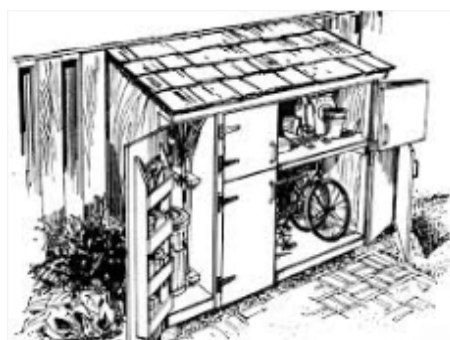
This year we're interested in *Bike Storage at Home*. Storing your bike, or family bikes, is impossibly hard for some people and a doddle for others (until a thief calls!) depending where and how you live, and what bikes you have. We want to hear your experiences, ideas or handy hints – anything related to **domestic bike storage**.

Full competition details/rules here.. spokes.org.uk/2023/07/spokescomp-2023-bike-storage-at-home

Please help publicity by retweeting [our tweet](#).

Whether it's a storage challenge you've overcome, an experience you'd rather forget, or something you'd *not* recommend – if it's about **storing your bike(s) at home**, we want to hear from you!! You may live in a flat, bedsit, terraced house or mansion – but you've got to store your bike(s)!

Your entry needn't be about equipment, though it could be. It might be an amusing incident, or how your much-loved bike was stolen whilst you slept, or how having children suddenly brought new storage dilemmas, or how the arrival of Bike Hangars changed your life, or how swapping car for bikes gave you *more* storage space – or just a simple handy hint.



Prizes so far – more expected!!

- [ScotRail](#) Return ticket for 2 adults & up to 4 kids between any 2 ScotRail stations
- [Spokes](#) £1000 voucher* towards purchase of a cargo-bike
- [Spokes](#) £200 voucher* towards purchase of an e-bike
- [Spokes](#) Full set of 4 Spokes maps plus 2 buffs**
- [Lanterne Rouge](#) (cyclists' favourite cafe, in Gifford) £10 voucher
- [Dowerhouse Cafe](#) Two £25 vouchers [one per prizewinner]
- [Edinburgh BikeCoop](#) £50 voucher
- [Edinburgh Festival of Cycling](#) One day free hire of the EdFoC Urban Arrow cargobike
- [Laidback Bikes](#) Electric or manual recumbent tour, solo or guided to Cramond *OR* free day hire cargo bike
- [Hart's Cyclery](#) One-week hire of an e-bike
- [Camera Obscura & World of Illusions](#) – Family ticket
- [Spokes](#) 10 runners-up will each win 1 map or buff**

* ** See full [competition article](#) for meanings of the asterisks.

Think about:

- Number and type of bikes to be stored
- Bike storage security
- Other spaces that might be used
- Neighbours' opinions
- Permissions needed



Cycle blog no. 5: In which my bike gets stolen

In the fifth blog of this series, Communications Coordinator Sarah has some bad luck with her bike.



I'm pretty sad to be writing that thing that every bike owner dreads having to write: my bike was stolen.

Yesterday evening the main door of my stairwell was kicked in and the bike pinched, despite being locked up to metal railings. The police tell me 4 other bikes were stolen from stairwells on my street around the same time.

What can I say? Yes it's insured, yes it's registered and engraved, yes I'm scanning eBay and Gumtree regularly in case it's up for sale... And yes, I know it's unlikely I'll get it back.

The thing I'm struggling to comprehend (and am pretty unsettled by) is that someone took it – without me knowing – when I was less than 5 metres away.

Before this happened, I wanted to tell you that I got [Marathon puncture-proof tyres](#) put on a few days ago... But I didn't even get to try them out.

If you do happen to see a bike like 'Rover', my beautiful white Giant Liv Rove 2, please get in touch.

3. Spokes Bike Breakfast , June 13

The Bike Breakfast was its usual great success – a **full report is [here](#)**. Our thanks to Kate Sturrock and the other organisers, stall holders, the Council, and of course everyone (you?) who came along.



Bike checks at Spokes Bike Breakfast 2023 ... photo Chris Hill

We were delighted that around 10 Edinburgh councillors, from Labour, SNP, Greens and independent, Labour MSP Sarah Boyack, and East Lothian Green councillor Shona McIntosh, turned up - with many people chatting to them about what councils are or could be doing. There's a full list of the politician names, wards and parties in our article above. Most (but not all) were still around for a photo...

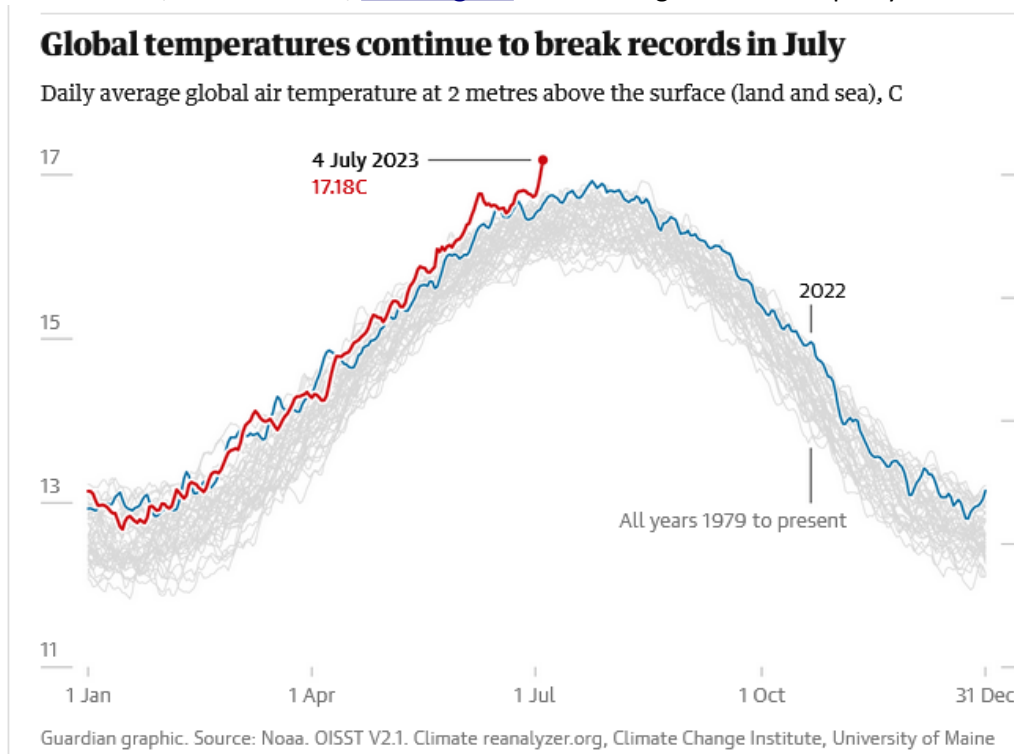


L to R: Cllr Shona McIntosh; Cllr Jule Bandel, Cllr Claire Miller; Cllr Scott Arthur; Cllr David Key; Cllr Cammy Day; Cllr Lezley Marion Cameron; Sarah Boyack MSP; Cllr Chas Booth. photo: DdF

4. Did you know??

4.1 Earth's hottest day since records began [does your MP/MSP know?]

- Talk of global heating is becoming so normalised that there was almost no coverage of the fact that July 3 recorded the hottest global average temperature ever. This record was beaten again on July 4, and worse is doubtless to come. [theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/05/tuesday-was-worlds-hottest-day-on-record-breaking-mondays-record](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/05/tuesday-was-worlds-hottest-day-on-record-breaking-mondays-record).
- Change is happening at a scary pace – now, it seems, in terms of just years rather than decades or centuries – a daunting prospect for the years ahead. Yet action by governments, ours included, is dilatory at best. **Scotland** [has missed](#) its statutory emissions target, whilst the **UK** Foreign Office Minister dealing with environment, Zac Goldsmith, [has resigned](#) because of government “apathy” on the environment.



4.2 ScotRail bike opportunities

- The Highland Explorer 20-bike trains now run to Mallaig as well as Oban. ScotRail recently won an ‘[Excellence in Transport Design](#)’ award for the bike-carriage scheme
- There’s lots of useful info at www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/cycling/plan-your-cycle-rail-journey
- ... including Bike-hire discounts at Inverness, Blair Atholl, Oban and Fort William
- ... and, one day free Brompton hire at Inverness
- Don’t forget you could win a free rail ticket (2 adults, 4 kids) between any 2 ScotRail stations in our summer competition (2 above)



4.3 Cargobike hire – east, west, central – or hire someone to do it for you!

We're delighted to see the growth in cargobikes on the streets, availability for hire (free or cheap), and growing enthusiasm in council policies. We've put the opportunities in [this tweet](#) – please retweet!

Opportunities include...

- Hire in the West--> <https://twitter.com/SW20Ed/status/1672873543569141761>
- Hire in the East--> <https://portycommunitybike.myturn.com/library/>
- Hire in the Centre--> <https://cargobikemovement.com/about-us>
- Hire in the Southside--> <https://edfoc.org.uk/cargo-bike-hire/>
- Hire someone to do your transport (by cargobike)--> <https://farrou.delivery>
- Buy your own--> Get a £1000 voucher to help, as a [competition prize](#) (2 above)
- Could your community group/business use a cargobike? Spokes can help--> www.spokes.org.uk/documents/advice/cargo-bikes

5. Action Ideas & Opportunities!! - can you help?

5.1 Cycling support for MoonWalk Scotland, Sept 9-10 overnight

MoonWalk is a night-time Edinburgh walk supporting work on Breast Cancer, and 2023 is its 25th year! Many forms of support are needed for the walkers, including volunteers to cycle around 30-40 miles (using your own bike).

For more info, and to register as a volunteer, see walkthewalk.org/challenges/volunteering-the-moonwalk-scotland

5.2 Local improvements

We're planning to send the Council lists of the following. Please email us spokes@spokes.org.uk with any that you know about...

- Junctions with wide splays, which should be tightened to reduce speeding at turnings
- New connecting paths needed between housing and shops, school or other community facilities

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

There are many Council and Government consultations ongoing most of the time, and little 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 can be dispiriting to spend time on a draft then receive no comments on it before it is submitted.

5.4 Gran Fondo for Maggie's Cancer Centre

OK, we didn't know what a Gran Fondo is either! However, you can enter Maggie's and help contribute to the great work of their cancer support centre at the Western General Hospital.



You are committing to cycling either 250km or 500km, whilst raising money to support people in Edinburgh and the Lothians who have cancer and are being helped by Maggie's. Your cycling can be any time or place on any type of bike, but must complete by August 13.

Full details, and sign up here... <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/GranFondo2023>

You'll also get a Maggie's cycling jersey and the chance of prizes for everything from top age to outlandish dress!

6. Consultations

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

EDINBURGH CONSULTATIONS

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

Major consultation - see (1) above

6.2 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](#).

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

6.5 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](#)

6.6 Bus Lane ETROs – ends 11 December

Bus lanes and/or restrictions on waiting/loading, at **Captain's Road, Drum St, Newtoft St, Duddingston Park South, Howden Hall Road, Gogar Underpass, Newbridge Edinburgh Rd (A89)**. This is an ETRO, so we presume the measures are all now in place, but on an experimental basis. Whether the schemes are kept, modified or scrapped will depend on the feedback to this consultation, as well as monitoring of the schemes. *If you would like to influence what happens, please respond.*

[The Order ETRO/23/13, including plans](#) [Where to send your comments](#) [Background info](#).

LOTHIANS CONSULTATIONS

6.7 East Lothian, Local Development Plan (LDP) – ends 17 September

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](#).

6.8 Midlothian, Local Development Plan (LDP) – ends 31 August

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

6.9 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; and also a page of [current projects and completed consultations](#).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

6.10 Local Living & 20-minute nbds, 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](#).

6.11 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!

7. Event – ‘Everyday Cycling’ – Tues 1 August, 10am-4pm

The Scottish Government is putting on an all-day event, hosted by Active Travel Minister Patrick Harvie MSP

Location - **Clayton Hotel Glasgow** 298 Clyde Street Glasgow G1 4NP

They say: “we will have an exciting agenda of speakers and a showcase of community cycling organisations that aim to get as many people as possible benefiting from the #powerofthebike as part of their everyday journeying”

More details, and register here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everyday-cycling-tickets-665191625057

8. More & future consultations – Check council, government, and other

- ◆ **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

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.