

## Spokes Public Meeting 21.11.24, Local Bike Campaigning

### Speaker notes from Jarlath Flynn, Edinburgh Bike Buses

Typically, I sing the virtues of bike buses to an audience of 10year olds.....but today I have adults in the room so my bike bus story will be slightly different.

- I tell the 10-year-olds about how great bike buses are for their health and wellbeing
- I tell them that bike buses are great for the environment
- I tell them that they get free brain training by cycling to school. – Free hand eye co-ordination training, free balance training , free social skills training

As you are adults I want to inspire you by telling the story of the bike bus project - I want to inspire you to do something tangible.... no need to wait for politicians or a council consultation to get a bike bus up and running

- In started in 2022 when like-minded people came together to ask the council to send a bike bus starter pack to all schools in Edinburgh
- We have had mixed success. There are 90 schools but only between 5 and 7 are running bike buses. How do we get 50 new bike buses up and running?

Imagine!

- Imagine if you could do something to help reduce the traffic congestion in Edinburgh.
- Imagine if all schools had bike buses.... There could be a 20% drop in traffic volumes in the morning.
- Image if you could do something free – legal and environmentally friendly that makes a difference.

You can do something .....

You can volunteer

There are about 25 bike bus volunteer marshals in Edinburgh ..... we need 200 to get all the schools up and running

Visit <https://bikebus.org/edinburgh> and click on the volunteer button

Only 20 minutes a week

As your work about time off for volunteering

You can nudge your local school

Do you know a teacher, a staff member or parent at a local school? Ask them to start the bike bus conversation and to get in touch with <https://bikebus.org/edinburgh>