

# Spokes Action-Update 15.10.25

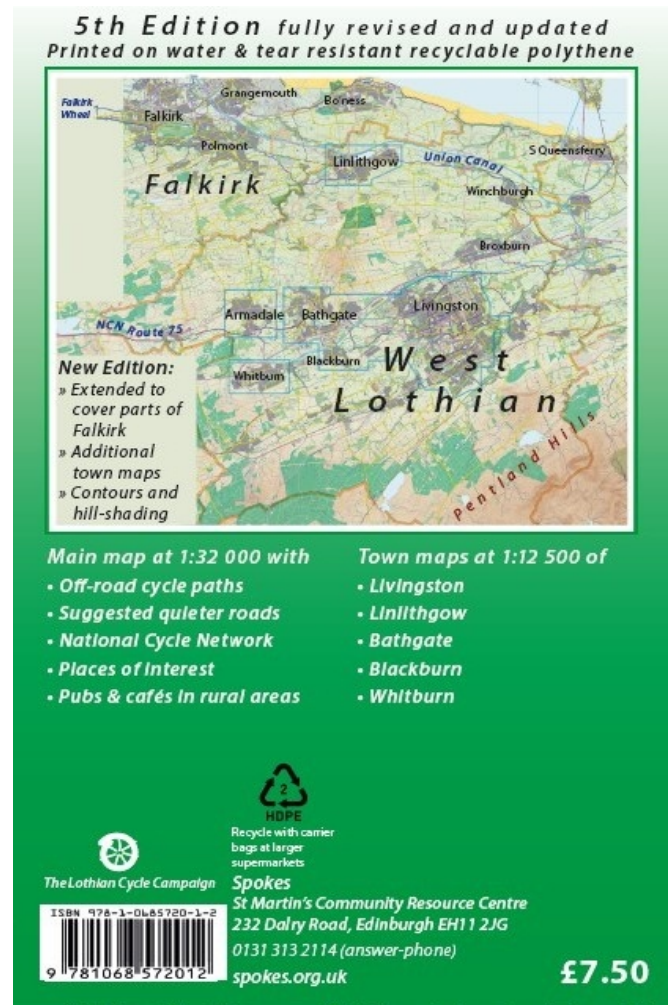
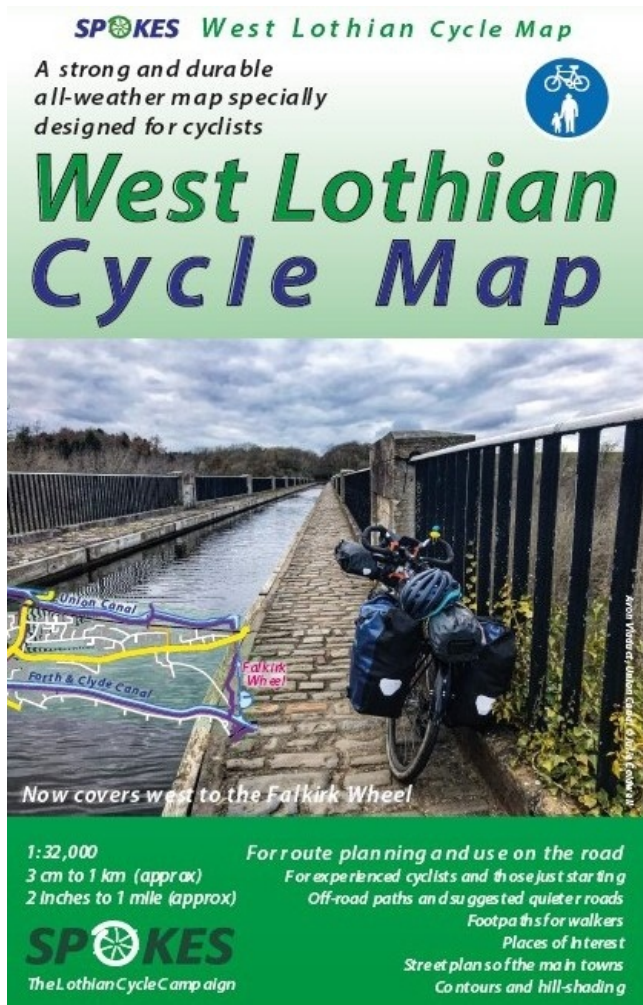
[spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk) St Martins Centre, 232 Dalry Road EH11 2JG 0131.313.2114 bluesky: [@spokes.org.uk](https://bsky.app/profile/spokes.org.uk)

## 0. Finding your councillors

In Edinburgh, find your ward & councillors by typing your postcode on [this page](#) [or [edinburgh.gov.uk](http://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](http://writetothem.com).

## 1. Spokes West Lothian Map 2025 ... Full report at [spokes.org.uk](http://spokes.org.uk)

The long-awaited new Spokes West Lothian map is here - another fantastic product from our Maps Group!



The whole county was surveyed in detail by Spokes volunteers, together with a new area covering Falkirk, Bo'ness and [the Kelpies](#). The map was then completely redrawn and revised by our maps group's skilled volunteer cartographer Andy, using new software which enables simpler future updating.

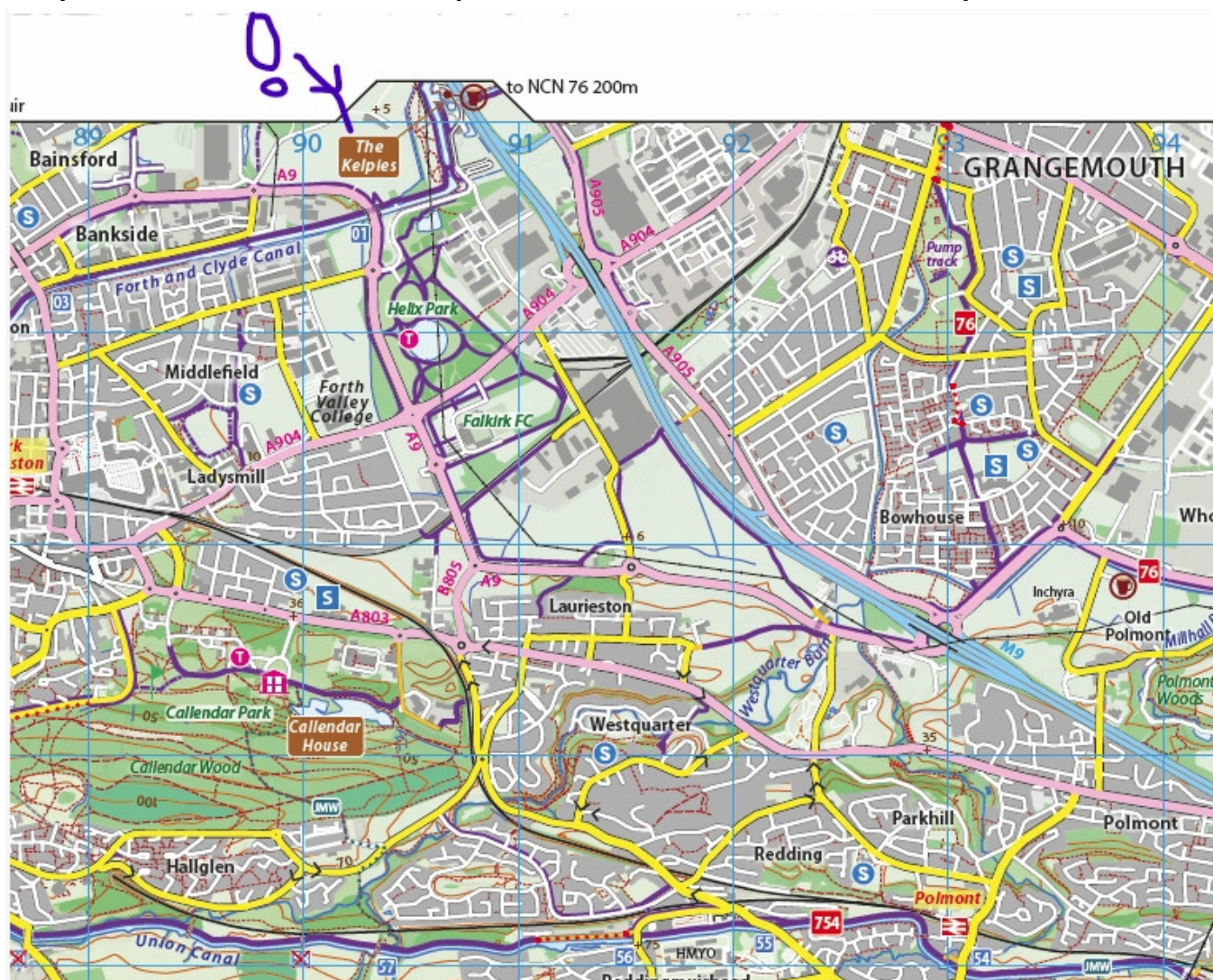
*Features of the map (some completely new) include...*

- All new housing developments since our last edition
- Contours and shading, to identify gradients and hills
- A scale of 1:32,000, covering the entire area effectively within one manageable sheet
- Large-scale (1:12500) street maps of Livingston, Linlithgow, Bathgate, Blackburn and Whitburn
- Printed on water and tear-resistant synthetic paper (a recyclable polythene)

**Getting your copy** – see also [here](#)

- **Available soon** (£7.50) at larger Edinburgh bike shops and West Lothian outlets listed [here](#).
- **Buy 6 or more copies** at £5 each – share an order with your work colleagues and friends
- **Special introductory offer** (ends 31 Oct) £7 post-free from Spokes: email [office@spokes.org.uk](mailto:office@spokes.org.uk)
- **Please let us know** of any other outlets who'd like the map, or suggest other distribution methods

Sample extract from the new map, now extended to Falkirk & the Kelpies!



## Map launch



The map was launched by [Kirsteen Sullivan](#), MP for Bathgate and Linlithgow, and [Cllr Peter Heggie](#), Deputy Provost of West Lothian Council. The event was also a thank-you for the many Spokes members and other volunteers who gave countless hours surveying and identifying every road, path, cut-through and more in the huge area covered. Our thanks to [W. Lothian Bike Library](#), [Crofthead Community Centre](#) & our [Maps Group](#) for organising the launch. Note the weather-proof copies of the new map fixed permanently to the Bike Library's fence – a great idea!

## 2. Tram Consultation – ***closes 17 November***

With the consultation now more than half way through, the Spokes draft response is developing well. **You can find it [here](#)** [1.9MB pdf]. We strongly stress that this is a work in progress and there are likely to be further edits, particularly to the second part of the response, dealing with individual sections of the route.

*Major updates and ideas in the draft, since our [initial thoughts](#), include..*

- An introductory section on **bikes and tramlines**, which includes lessons from our [tramline-crash reporting tool](#) and from earlier phases of Edinburgh tram
- Detailed commentary on **all sections of the route** [several sections still require considerable fleshing out].

*Some major concerns and opportunities which arise include..*

- Great concern over **cycling safety in the Bridges corridor**. We urge single-line working for this section, or possibly the tramlines on one side of the road with bidirectional segregated cycling on the other side
- We suggest **dropping North Bridge tram stop and replacing it by two stops** – at Waverley Steps to serve east Princes Street and the rail station, and at the North Bridge arcade, to serve the Old Town and again the rail station. There are multiple reasons for this suggestion, in addition to a major cycling safety aspect
- There may be an opportunity to incorporate an **active travel bridge over the mainline railway**, linking North Edinburgh Network to the new Roseburn to Fountainbridge path without the existing long ramps down to road level and up again.

### How this consultation fits into the overall process

- In February 2024 the Transport Committee (TEC) approved the principle of a tram, as the best way to enable the major development areas of Granton and Bioquarter (thousands of houses planned in both areas) to develop with as little car use as possible. They also approved the line of the route to be used, although with two options between Crewe Toll and Roseburn.
- They also approved further work on the proposals, to be followed by the current consultation. Thanks to [a big Spokes effort](#) at that time, TEC instructed that the proposals should aim for good active travel infrastructure throughout and, in particular, a high-quality walking and cycling route beside the tram if it used Roseburn corridor. Following that instruction, the plans underwent a significant change, replacing dual-track/cable-powered tram with single-track battery-based tram between Roseburn and Craigleith (no overhead cables). This enables a path of 3m-4m, although with a 2m pinch point at Telford Bridge and a lack of clarity between Roseburn and Russell Road (see our draft for more on these issues).
- **The current consultation is on the outline details of the plans** (including whether to use the Roseburn offroad or Orchard Brae onroad option). The finer details (e.g. how cycling will be treated in the onroad sections, or how tramline crossings offroad or onroad will be designed) will appear in the next stage, and **so now is the best opportunity to say what should be taken account of in the detailed design stage**.
- Following the current consultation, if the Council decides to continue, the detailed plans will then be drawn up, followed by a further consultation.
- After that, funding would be sought for the project to go ahead. Depending on the outcome of the Holyrood elections, this could be government funding, or it could be private finance of some sort.
- It is fairly clear from the above that, if the tram goes ahead, and funding is found, work on the ground is unlikely to start for a minimum of 2 years from now, probably more.

### What you can do

- **Please have a look at our [current draft submission](#) and send us your comments – we'd be interested in comments on the general approach as well as any points of detail**
- Forward [our draft](#) to anyone who may be interested
- Repost our [bluesky post](#)
- Like our [facebook article](#)
- Two new [drop-ins](#): Oct 28 Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre; Oct 29 Bristo Baptist Church; both 4-7pm
- Most important of all – submit your own response to [the consultation](#). Use the online QA and/or the email address given.

### Edinburgh Park to Balgreen [not part of the current consultation]

If you are a regular user of the bike path beside this existing tram route, and have comments on it, particularly the crossing points, we'd be pleased to hear your thoughts and any possible improvements you can suggest.

### 3. Dates for your diary

- **Oct 23** [Borders Rail, 10 years on \(and the future?\)](#) Talk by Cllr David Parker, former Scottish Borders Council leader. Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, starting at 7 pm
- **Oct 24** [Infrasisters 'Glow ride'](#) Start 7.30pm, Middle Meadow Walk
- **Oct 25** [Edinburgh Critical Mass ride](#) Start 2pm Middle Meadow Walk
- **Oct 29** [Ride for Tim – Cycling and Mental Health](#), talk and discussion, 18.45, Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace. We had this message from Anna Hughes, the meeting organiser and who is also the Director of Flight-Free UK, which Tim supported.

Dear Spokes

We frequently interact on social media so it's nice to have a reason to actually contact you!

This summer I cycled from Lands End to John o' Groats in memory of my friend who died. Tim McKenna was a big cyclist and had bipolar disorder. He was well known on social media for his wonderful cycling adventures as well as his open and honest narrative about his mental health struggles.

I'm holding an event on 29th October in Edinburgh to celebrate the ride and talk about mental health. I will be sharing the story of our adventure and we'll also be joined by Nick Ray (adventurer and speaker on suicide prevention) and Lynne Sampson from Edinburgh mental health charity Health in Mind.

It's also in aid of the three charities we raised money for during the ride: Mind, Sustrans and Flight Free UK. The event is free to attend but you will be encouraged to make a donation to the fundraiser! The fundraiser is here: <https://givewheel.com/fundraising/6774/ride-for-tim/>

All the event details are on Facebook here: <https://fb.me/e/6lrxMFSX>

I'm also sharing it on my social media channels: <https://bsky.app/profile/annacycles.bsky.social>

I'd really appreciate any help you could give in spreading the word. I'm sure you have already, but any extra help you can give would be most appreciated. I'm not from the area so I'm kind of relying on the wonderful Edinburgh cycling community to spread the word!

- **Nov 15** [COP30 climate march](#) Glasgow Start 11am, Glasgow Green
- **Nov 17** [Cycling Road Safety event](#), 6-9.30pm, organised by CycleLaw. Free to attend.
- **Mar 16, 2026** – provisional – Spokes public meeting, hustings for the Holyrood election
- **Also** There are **current consultations**, each with their own **closing date** – see sections 7-9 below.

#### REGULAR EVENTS

**Mondays 12-2.30pm** Adult Bike Club easy rides, from Bridgend Farmhouse. Contact [nelly@elgt.org.uk](mailto:nelly@elgt.org.uk) to book.

**Tuesdays 5-6.15pm** UK cycle campaigners '[Active Travel Cafe](#)' via zoom. News, speakers & discussion

**Tuesdays & Thursdays** [Edinburgh Dawn Patrol](#) Markus Stitz, founder of [BikePacking Scotland](#), runs regular early-morning rides, leaving at 5.40am from the western gate of St Andrew Square, and ending at Wellington Coffee. Rides likely to be around 20 miles, e.g. a circular route encompassing Musselburgh at the far end.

**Wednesdays 3pm-9pm** [Bike Kitchen](#) Fix your bike with help from qualified volunteers at [Edinburgh Tool Library](#)

**Thursdays 5-8pm** [Bike DIY repair](#) at the Wee Spoke Hub [tools and advice provided; book in advance]

### 4. Spokes Competition 2025: My Favourite Bike Ride

We had 30 great entries to [the competition](#), and prizewinners are currently being notified. Results will be on our website and our bluesky account in the next week or so, and then also in the next Action Update.

Many thanks to our two external judges, Mike Lewis of the [Cycling-Edinburgh rides website](#), and Ewen Maclean of [Blackford Safe Routes](#).

Meanwhile here's a great photo from our first-prize winner, Gregor Steele. Do you know what it is, and where in Edinburgh to find the original?



## 5. Success !

### 5.1 CCWEL 12-month monitoring data

A [major report](#) to the Transport Committee includes 12-month CCWEL monitoring data, showing hugely impressive outcomes, as well as lessons learned for future projects. Results include...

- Bike use doubled since before the scheme
- Support for the scheme from local residents, up from 49% to 68% (opposition down from 11% to 7%)
- Support by local traders up from 14% pre-scheme to 60%
- Mastercard data shows retail spending up 20% in the affected areas compared to other comparable areas.

Once again, pre-scheme fears have proved completely unfounded. Please repost our [bluesky post](#) about this.

### 5.2 Bike network saved!

In another major success, after much concern and tribulation, the experimental traffic orders to make the Travelling Safely (covid) bollarded routes [have been made legally permanent](#) in all parts of the city (except the south which, for technical reasons, is to be debated later). The Council has now allocated funding for a gradual process, over the next few years, to replace the bollards with permanent materials, and at the same time make improvements such as at junctions.

**Thank you if you contacted councillors** when these schemes were [in jeopardy](#) at the TRO subcommittee earlier this year. Our particular thanks also to Ben of [edi.bike](#), who also played a big part in this success.

## 6. Spokes news & help needed

### 6.1 Edinburgh Accessibility Commission – volunteer needed

Spokes has a place on [the Commission](#), which “provides independent advice to the Council on the challenges, opportunities and actions required to ensure the city’s public streets and spaces are as accessible as possible to disabled people.” We now need a new person to represent Spokes – preferably someone with personal experience or knowledge of the issues concerned. Please contact us [[spokes @spokes.org.uk](#)] if interested.

### 6.2 University / College / Workplace map orders

We have had several bulk map orders from Spokes members at workplaces (e.g. at RBS and Edinburgh University) who have organised a joint order with colleagues, to benefit from our [bulk-order prices](#), e.g. £5 each for 6 or more of the new Edinburgh map, rather than the £7.50 retail price.

**Please consider organising something similar at your workplace, college, church, or even with a group of friends and relations.**

More generally, we’d also like to see if university and college travel coordinator staff might be interested in doing something similar – or at least notifying staff of the opportunity, given that these institutions are now generally very keen to promote non-car commuting by their staff (and students). **If any Spokes member, particularly someone with university/college experience in travel issues, or more general workplace experience, has an interest in taking this on as a mini-project please get in touch.**

We also need help making good use of the remaining stock of existing West Lothian maps (see 5 above).

### 6.3 Spokes → SCIO

Spokes is considering becoming a [SCIO](#). If anyone has suggestions for possible trustees, please get in touch.

### 6.4 Spokes Working Groups – please volunteer

Most Spokes activity happens through working groups which meet roughly monthly online.

*Please do get in touch if you’d like to try joining Planning or Resources, our two most central groups.* Both meet online roughly monthly and have well-used email lists to keep in touch with ongoing issues between meetings. At meetings, don’t be shy to butt in with your thoughts or asking anything that is unclear; groups are friendly and everyone starts by not really knowing what is going on!

Don’t feel you don’t know enough – it is by doing that you learn - and you would normally share with other members. For example, on responding to a [consultation](#) in Planning Group, someone might draw up initial ideas, others could then comment and perhaps add useful references, leading to a final complete response. Or if you are helping at a Resources Group stall at a community event, you’d not be alone.

## 7. Edinburgh Consultations & other projects

Unusually, this month there are no relevant **Lothians** or **National** consultations of which we are aware

### 7.1 Heriot Watt to Curriehill station

Heriot-Watt University, together with the Council and Sustrans, has for some time been planning [this segregated connection](#): a safe alternative to a road which at times experiences a lot of traffic and speeding. Unfortunately the Planning Application ran into problems with the Council planners – apparently for biodiversity and heritage reasons. As a result, the plans have to be revised, negotiated with the planners, and the application resubmitted – and it appears there is no timescale.



If you would find this route useful...

- contact your councillors (see link at top of page 1 above) and ask them to speak to the officers, stressing the importance of not letting this sit on the shelf, which feels like a big risk
- repost our [bluesky post](#).

### 7.2 Dundee Street Fountainbridge Active Travel Project – **ends 12 January** [Consultation site](#)

Major proposals for segregated cycling along Dundee Street & Fountainbridge, and connecting Telfer Subway (and the new Roseburn link) to the canal towpath. Part of the idea of the project is that by providing safer cycling conditions the pressure on the inner section of the towpath will be reduced (although cycling will remain permitted on the towpath).

**Please reply to the consultation; and send Spokes anything you'd like included in our response.**

## 8. Snippets (big ones!)

### 8.1 [COP30](#): climate & active travel

- In advance of the [COP30 climate conference](#), Spokes has joined other active travel organisations worldwide in an [open letter](#) calling on all Governments to **Make Walking and Cycling Central to their Climate Commitments**. If you are involved with another organisation that might be interested in signing, please pass on the link.
- [Not specifically active travel] An opportunity to examine what the COP process is, why it's important, and reflect on how you can add your voice to the call for collective action for a sustainable future ... Join the free '[Learning for Sustainable Futures: Live at the COP](#)' MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in November. Since its first iteration in 2021 for COP26, over 20,000 people from over 170 countries have taken part in this collaborative, facilitated learning opportunity



*"Throughout the course, we'll share 'live' insights into the issues being discussed at COP30, as well as responses to the conference themes from children and young people, community groups and ministerial bodies, both nationally and internationally ... Course content from 'Live at COP30' will remain open, free and accessible as a legacy resource for school, community and individual use beyond the Conference."*

## 8.2 Holyrood Elections – joint manifesto

Spokes has been involved with Cycling Scotland and other groups in developing a shared manifesto for the May 2026 Holyrood elections. The manifesto has now been signed by around 60 Scottish groups involved in active travel. Full details are [here](#), but the heart of the message is the following 5 key commitments that we urge candidates and parties to adopt...

1. **Investment:** Provide long term investment to transform our local high streets and communities, committing at least 10% of the transport budget to active travel funding.
2. **Long-term commitment:** Multi-year budgets to accelerate delivery of national strategies on walking/wheeling and cycling, offer better value for money and give more people access to active travel regardless of income and background.
3. **Infrastructure:** Transform our communities, enabling anyone, especially younger people – to travel more safely on foot, by wheeling or by bike. Including through well maintained, accessible networks of walking or cycling routes and reorganised street space, creating better, greener local places.
4. **Link active and public transport:** Integrate walking and cycling infrastructure with public transport in rural areas especially, to provide alternatives to the car. Reducing congestion for all and effortlessly linking longer journeys.
5. **Safety:** Reduce road danger by reducing traffic speeds in our communities, by taking dangerous drivers off the road and by creating more accessible streets for all: implementing the pavement parking ban, reinforcing the new Highway Code and making welcoming spaces everyone can use and enjoy.

***If you are involved in a political party, or know any likely candidates, please ask them to discuss incorporating these points into their party's election manifesto.***

Spokes also plans to hold a hustings, provisionally fixed for 16 March, 2026.

## 8.3 Champion Phil Noble

Phil Noble, who recently retired after some 30 years working in active travel for Edinburgh Council, has been named one of two [Cycling Champions of the Year](#) in the annual Cycling Scotland awards. The richly deserved award said...

*"Phil Noble is former Strategy and Development Manager for Active Travel at City of Edinburgh Council, having retired in August 2025. Over a 40-year career, which began in York as one of the first local authority cycling officers in the UK, before moving to Edinburgh in the 1990s, Phil has influenced positive change and led development of policies and projects to create safer streets for cycling.*

*Nominations highlighted Phil's role as a key driving force for change in the capital, including the advancement of strategies to prioritise street space for active travel, such as Edinburgh's Street Design Guidance, and its School Streets programme, first trialled in 2015 as one of the first of its kind in the UK.*

*The awards panel commended Phil's energy, enthusiasm, and impact in advocating for and shaping improvements to make it easier and safer for more people to cycle.*

*In accepting the award, Phil said: "I feel extremely honoured and proud to have won this award, and wish to thank everyone who nominated me. I passionately believe cycling is key to making the places we live more sustainable and better places to be. There's just so much to love about it: it gives you freedom, it's cheap, environmentally friendly, and a gateway to independence. And with the right environment, it can be accessible to everyone. I've been so privileged to work with an outstanding team delivering improvements in Edinburgh. I want to thank my colleagues for their support over the years, and wish them well as they continue to make the city a better place to walk, wheel, cycle and live."*

**Earlier, at Phil's retirement event,** Dave du Feu of Spokes was asked [to speak](#) briefly on behalf of Spokes. In his reply, Phil made the interesting observation, which we have heard before, that one of the reasons why Spokes is particularly respected in the Council is that we see and lobby for cycling not purely as a single issue 'cycling only' campaign, but as part of an overall sustainable transport strategy – in other words, we are also openly supportive of walking, cycling, public transport, car-reduction and wider climate and sustainability measures.

We understand that Phil intends to set up a consultancy specialising in active travel, so we hope to see his talents and active travel enthusiasm continuing to benefit Edinburgh!



**9. Small ads** We are happy to post cycling-related small-ads from Spokes members at no charge, though we can't guarantee the date of circulation. Include a photo if possible.

#### Sustrans 'Longest Ride' plaque

This metal plaque (about 15cm diameter) marked [the official opening](#) of the then 5000-mile National Cycle Network in year 2000, when 5000 cyclists, in 250 separate rides, from 70 towns and cities, rode the entire network – plus another 5000 miles planned to be added by year 2005.

Anyone interested in the plaque (preferably in exchange for a donation to the Bo'ness heritage railway) contact [chris.r.dufeu@gmail.com](mailto:chris.r.dufeu@gmail.com).



## 10. Local councils - Active Travel websites

- **Edinburgh** – [main page: Cycling & Walking page](#) /
- **East Lothian** - [main page: East Lothian on the move](#) / [AT infrastructure](#) /
- **Midlothian** – [main page: Walking, cycling, horse riding](#) / [active travel map](#) /
- **West Lothian** - [Enquiries and comments about new roads, footpaths, cycle routes](#) / [current projects and completed consultations](#).
- **SEStran** (South East Scotland regional transport partnership) – [People & Place, projects & grants](#) /

## 11. More & future consultations – *Check council, government, and other sites*

- ◆ **Edinburgh** [consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://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](http://consult.gov.scot)
- ◆ **Transport Scotland** [www.transport.gov.scot/consultations](http://www.transport.gov.scot/consultations)
- ◆ **Scottish Parliament consultations** [yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation\\_finder](http://yourviews.parliament.scot/consultation_finder)
- ◆ **Scottish Parliament petitions** [petitions.parliament.scot](http://petitions.parliament.scot)
- ◆ **Just in case...** Transform Scotland keeps an updated page of current transport-related consultations... [transformscotland.org.uk/whats-new/action-alerts](http://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](http://www.spokes.org.uk/consultns)

## 12. Keeping in touch

- ★ Remember to check out our **website** every so often [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)
- ★ We are active on **Bluesky** [@spokes.org.uk](https://bsky.app/profile/spokes.org.uk) Follow us, and repost posts that you support.
- ★ 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](http://www.spokes.org.uk/membership).