# SPOKESWORKER 09.03.10

**The *Action-Update* of Spokes the Lothian Cycle Campaign**

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***Spokesworker is an occasional ("roughly monthly") news sheet, with stop-press news of forthcoming events, and of road, traffic and planning matters. It is not automatically sent to all members. A copy is enclosed if we are writing to you anyway, and copies are handed out at working group meetings. You can make sure to get a copy by sending us 10 or so stamped addressed envelopes. Spokesworker also appears on our Internet web site - to be notified of such updates by email, contact spokesATspokes.org.uk.***


## TRAM TROs

The tram Traffic Regulation Orders objection period ends Mar 20. The TROs cover banned turns, parking restrictions, etc. Send objections/comments to infoATedinburghtrams.com, quoting ref TRO/09/60A, and saying you are objecting to (or commenting on) the Orders. For more details see *edinburgh.gov.uk* – transport – publictransport – trams – TRO consultn. If there's too much to look at, concentrate on the areas you use most.

**Staffed exhibition (with experts)**: City Chambers, High Street, Feb 22-Mar 20, 11am-3pm Mon-Sat [open till 7pm Thurs]

**Libraries**: The plans are also available at these libraries – Central, Portobello, Leith, W Hailes, Blackhall, McDonald Rd.

***If you make an objection please copy to Spokes asap so we can consider including your points in the Spokes objection.***

Important issues which have emerged so far, and where you may wish to object or make comments are below. There may be others that we missed but would affect you. In some cases the council is investigating alternatives, but it's important to object now – you can always withdraw later if a good alternative is agreed.

**BANNED ENTRIES – in Schedule 1, part A**

- **Constitution St** no-entry (at Foot of the Walk) – the council is investigating an alternative via Kirkgate, which could be reasonably good. Otherwise, cycling would for many trips involve a right turn off the busy Great Junction Street into Henderson Street, a significant detour and cobbles.
- **South St Andrew St** – cycling to be totally banned for a short distance where it meets Princes Street, because space between the tramlines and the road edge is limited – we think a route is possible, like what is planned at North St Andrew St/Queen St.

**BANNED TURNS – in Schedule 2, part A**

- **Lothian Rd**, **Mound**, **Dalry Rd** – left turn ban at north end of these roads. The council is to experiment with a cyclist turn via the pavement: objections to the ban should encourage them!
- **The following turns are also to be banned, with no cyclist exemption**. As far as we know the Council is not planning anything to assist cyclists at these points....
  L from Palmerston Pl into W Maitland St;
  R from W Maitland St into Manor Place;
  R from Shandwick Pl into Lothian Rd;
  L from Shandwick Pl into Q'ferry Rd;
  R from Canning St into Shandwick Pl.;
  R from Shandwick Pl. into Stafford St.;
  R from London Rd into Blenheim Pl. (leads to Royal Terrace)
  R from Brunswick St into Leith Walk
- **Right turns into Leith Walk** will be banned from most of the minor roads off Leith Walk. It is probably unlikely we'd get far on objecting here, due to the central island, but if you think any are particularly important, do object.

**ONE-WAYS, CAR PARKING, AND OTHER**

There are other schedules covering **one-way streets, car parking restrictions and more**. Scrutiny of these might also be valuable in areas that concern you. The one-ways are most (all?) existing, but this is a chance to consider if cyclist exemption is appropriate. Edinburgh's **Cycle Design Guide** says, "*It is Council policy to allow contra-flow cycling in all new one way schemes. Requirement for segregation depends on volume of motor traffic*." The **Local Transport Strategy** even notes that, "*in several European countries cyclists are exempted from all one-way streets*."

***Stop Press:*** more on 1-ways – see our website, Mar 10 news item.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Spokes is concerned that new developments – supermarkets, flats and others – are still appearing with inadequate bike parking and/or access. Sometimes the Council didn't specify adequate conditions when giving planning permission, and often conditions were laid down, but the developer didn't properly fulfil them, and the council has not enforced them. Often the devil is in the detail – e.g. Sheffield racks too close to each other, or to a wall.

PLEASE HELP: **We are preparing a dossier of new developments with substandard or no bike parking and/or access. Please email** *spokes@spokes.org.uk* **to tell us of any examples you know which have appeared in the last few years.**

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**See Spokes 106 for more dates.**

*Mar 19* **Climate Change Act inaction?** 2-3pm, St Bride's Centre, 10 Orwell Terrace. Spokes member Sarah Boyack MSP is holding a discussion on what is/isn't happening to ensure that the Climate Change Act (now 8 months old) is implemented in all relevant policy areas, including transport. The meeting is mainly aimed at interested members of relevant groups (such as Spokes). RSVP if you hope to go: sarah.boyack.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 348 5751, saying you are a Spokes member.

***Mar 23*** **Edinburgh Cycle Action Plan: Spokes public meeting**. Details in Spokes 106 and on website. Or Jackie 664 0526.

*Mar 28* **North Edinburgh Path Cleanup** See link on Spokes website [left column] or phone 07786 632114 or email edinburghcyclepathcleanup@hotmail.com. Also Water of Leith and towpath cleanups – see Spokes website for links.

*Apr 6* **Green Transport** Patrick Harvie, Green MSP, convenor of Parl't Transport Cttee. CRAG open meeting, 7.30pm, Friends Mtg House, 7 Victoria Terr. *A chance to ask about cycle funding: did Green MSPs make this a priority in budget negotiations? And what should be in the Greens 2011 Holyrood election manifesto?*

*Jun 13* **Sestran Two Capitals Ride** Dunfermline to Edinburgh (25 miles) *www.twocapitals.org*. Money goes to school cycling equipment. lisa.black@sestran.gov.uk, 524 5159.

*June 19-27* **BIKE WEEK** *www.bikeweek.org.uk*. There's also a local site ***www.bikeweekedinburgh.info*** to encourage anyone to set up local events – e.g. Workplace or school challenges or fun events. ***The site has a special section for schools***. Events which form part of Bike Week can get free insurance cover.

*June 23* **Spokes Bike Breakfast** jackie.howlett3ATgooglemail.com

*June 22-25* **Velo-City 2010** Copenhagen global conference for campaigners, experts, decision makers across the world to discuss the potential and challenges of cycling. www.velo-city2010.com.

*Nov 5/6* **CYCLENATION EDINBURGH CONFERENCE** Spokes is hosting the autumn conference of Cyclenation – the twice-yearly meeting of UK cycle campaign groups - its first visit to Scotland for 10 years. There will be a day of conference sessions for the 60-100 expected delegates, and a high-profile guest introductory speaker. We will need loads of help, including accommodation offers for visiting delegates. If you want to know more, have interesting ideas, or can offer any potentially useful assistance, please contact rosie.telfordATgmail.com 622 0143.

**ELECTION CANDIDATE MEETINGS** Morningside Justice & Peace group is holding question-times with candidates in the UK election. 10.30-11.30am, Open Door, 420 Morningside Road. ***Mar 17*** Neil Hudson, Con; ***Mar 24*** Sheila Gilmore, Lab (former Spokes member); ***Mar 31*** Fred Mackintosh, LibDem. The SNP and Green meetings are already over.

# COMMUTING WITH KIDS

Spokes and the Bike Station are producing a fact-sheet this spring to provide information aimed at helping families complete their daily work/nursery/school travel by bike. The fact-sheet will use case-studies to illustrate how people might use the various options in practice on a day-to-day basis. Any suggestions for the fact-sheet's content and how it might be used, or - if you cycle commute with your child/children - offers to feature as a possible case study, would be very welcome (as soon as possible). Spokes would like to set up an email group of people interested in this aspect of everyday cycling, as a sounding board for the fact-sheet and possible follow-on practical initiatives. If you'd like to be involved contact katherineATtusks.org.uk / 667 5576.

As part of the ***Better Way to Work*** project, the Bike Station is hoping to purchase a range of equipment that will be available for project participants to try out, including a selection of child carrying equipment for loan – details are not yet available.

# ONLINE THINGS

**Napier Student cycling survey** Héctor Trigal is doing a dissertation on Edinburgh cycling policy effectiveness. He would be very grateful if Spokes members (+friends, family, even non cyclists) could complete an online survey. It takes about 5 mins. *www2.napier.ac.uk/UltimateSurvey/Surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?surveyid=1465*

**Waverley Viaduct online petition** Cycle Carlisle (the local campaign group, *www.cyclecarlisle.co.uk*) is petitioning the City and County Councils to purchase and restore the Waverley Viaduct to secure its future as a walking route and open it up to cycling. They ask for support from anyone who knows the area or might use it. The viaduct last saw trains in 1969, and has been used as an "unofficial" crossing of the Eden ever since, but has suffered neglect in recent years. It is grade 2 listed and provides the most convenient crossing of the Eden to link North and West Carlisle. *www.petitiononline.com/ccviad/petition.html*.

**Finding public bike parking** Most people just look for the nearest racks or railings at their destination, but if you want to plan your bike parking in advance you can sometimes find it on the cycle version of Openstreetmap - *www.opencyclemap.org*. To find bike parking, zoom in close (use click and shift to zoom in to Edinburgh with a zoom window). Bike parking is shown by small blue squares. Note that the map isn't complete, and the type of parking/ number of spaces isn't indicated. Missing locations can be added by public contributors (e.g. you!) if you create a free account with OpenStreetMap - *www.openstreetmap.org*.

# *SUSTRANS CAMPAIGN:* MORE HASTE LESS SPEED

For more info, background data, and how you can help, see: *www.sustrans.org.uk* or phone 0845 113 0065.

## Upping the pace to achieve a cost-effective transition to sustainable local travel by 2020.

**The way we travel impacts on our environment, our health, our quality of life and our economy. In the UK, travel is dominated by car use, resulting in increasing levels of CO2 emissions, congested roads, and high dependency on oil, more and more of which is imported.**

- It's a vicious circle. The more dominant car travel becomes, the less people are able to travel by foot, bike and public transport; and the more transport budgets are focused on access by car.
- As a result, car use is the single biggest source of CO2 from transport in the UK. Our public space is dominated by roads full of cars, causing pollution and creating a physical environment that further discourages walking and cycling. This, in turn, contributes to a variety of health conditions, such as obesity. It doesn't need to be like this.
- Investing in enabling people to travel more often by foot, by bike and by public transport isn't just an incredibly cost-effective solution to transport challenges. It will also contribute enormously to government efforts to tackle climate change, and spiralling health and energy budgets.

## A CALL TO ACTION

National, regional and local governments need to act with much more haste to establish genuinely sustainable travel behaviour. Enabling people to travel far & fast is taking our transport system in the opposite direction. *"**Sustrans calls on UK governments to invest in doubling the number of journeys under 5 miles made by foot, bike and public transport to 4 out of 5 by 2020.**"*

| % of all trips by mode | Now | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| Bike | 2% | 20% |
| Foot | 34% | 40% |
| Public transport | 8% | 20% |
| Car | 54% | 20% |
| Other | 2% | 0% |

This call to action explains the changes - some small, some very significant - that need to happen to achieve the 2020 percentages above. The change needed will vary from place to place. In Edinburgh, for example, 22% of journeys are already by foot, in Greater Manchester 28% by public transport, and in Cambridge 26% of journeys to work are by bike. So Edinchesterbridge is already on the way to achieving our call to action. Now we need every town, city and village to make this move by 2020.

Sources: See Sustrans original document for sources to the above data.

### *1. Encourage people to change their travel behaviour*

- Establish UK-wide travel behaviour change programmes using proven, cost-effective techniques to encourage and support people to travel more sustainably within communities and to workplaces, schools, education, leisure and retail centres.
- Give every child and young person the knowledge, skills and confidence to establish the habit of travel by foot and bike.

### *2. Create safe, attractive walking/ cycling conditions*

- Invest in high quality walking and cycling networks in rural and urban areas, re-allocating road space to provide safe routes to everyday destinations, integrated with public transport.
- Redesign streets to reduce traffic speeds, and enforce speed limits of 20mph or less in all residential and built-up areas.
- Create and enforce traffic laws to protect the most vulnerable users of public space and roads.

### *3. Increase public transport usage by improving and integrating services and reducing fares*

- Introduce national travel cards, building on the success of the Oyster Card in London and travel cards in other cities, to enable greater flexibility, choice and integration.
- Provide more demand-responsive transport services to people in rural & urban areas, so they can choose to travel sustainably.

### *4. Ensure that planning policy and practice reduce the need to travel*

- Grant planning permission only to mixed use developments, and where high-quality sustainable transport and restricted parking already exist.

### *5. Reform taxation and increase spending on sustainable travel*

- Invest only in initiatives that reduce high carbon travel.
- Re-establish a fuel duty escalator UK-wide to reverse the current decline in the cost of motoring.
- Introduce work and retail parking levies with revenues invested in improving walking, cycling and public transport conditions.
- Establish UK-wide road pricing. with revenues used to improve environments for walking, cycling and public transport.

**Sustrans calls on UK governments to invest in doubling the number of journeys under 5 miles by foot, bike and public transport to 4 out of 5 by 2020.**