

Spokes/CUK #Holyrood2026 Hustings

Social media hashtag #SpokesMtg

Programme

- ▶ **Introduction** – Emma & Brendan outline the evening
- ▶ **Initiation** - candidates speak individually
- ▶ **Interrogation** - candidates questioned individually
- ▶ **Combination** - questions to all, chosen by you – see below
- ▶ **Education** - candidate take-aways
- ▶ **Conclusion** - chair's reflections

Speakers

- ▶ **Conservative** – **Jo Mowat**, Councillor; candidate for Edinburgh Central
- ▶ **Green** – **Chas Booth**, Councillor; candidate for Lothians List; Spokes member
- ▶ **Labour** – **Stephen Jenkinson**, Edinburgh City Council Transport Convener
- ▶ **LibDem** – **Sally Pattle**, West Lothian Councillor, Chair of SEStran, candidate for Clackmannanshire and Dunblane
- ▶ **Reform** – **invited** ... no speaker provided
- ▶ **SNP** – **Kate Campbell**, Councillor; candidate for Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh & Tranent
- ▶ **Chair/Maestro** – **Brendan Paddy**, Spokes member, Director of Ramblers Scotland

Questions for combination section

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions for all the candidates, following our request in the members' email and on social media. Some questions largely duplicated each other, and some were on local issues which are the responsibility of the Council, not of the Scottish Parliament. We ended up selecting what we reckoned were the top 5 questions relevant to Holyrood, as below.

There will probably only be time for 2 or at most 3 of these questions, so we will ask for a show of hands for which of the questions will be put to the candidates. **Please read the questions carefully now, and decide which you will vote for when the chair, Brendan, asks for a show of hands. You can vote for two questions (or just one if you prefer). Please be honest – don't put your hand up more than twice!**

- 1. The Scottish government has scrapped its commitment to reduce car use. Do you agree that for reasons of public health, climate and congestion, car use should be reduced? If so, what would you do about it at Holyrood?*
- 2. How important do you and your party consider active and sustainable travel in relation to all other policies? If you were in budget negotiations, what priority would it get?*
- 3. What support, financial or otherwise, would your party offer to new small logistics firms aiming to use cargo bikes for last mile deliveries in an industry which is currently heavily focussed on van delivery by a small number of large firms?*
- 4. Recent Scottish Government budget decisions have de-prioritised active travel. What is your party's view on this, and will you re-instate the scrapped policy to allocate 10% of the transport budget to active travel.*
- 5. The Government allocates active travel infrastructure funding, but delivery is often poor, whether due to bureaucracy, council inertia, endless consultation or whatever. In Musselburgh, our Active Toun project started in 2018 but has still built nothing. How could the Scottish government close these delivery gaps?*

After the meeting: If you feel strongly about any of these issues, contact your own candidates over the days and weeks before the election. Find them at whocanivotefor.co.uk/elections (constituencies & list).