

SPOKES SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Our safe routes to school/healthy school travel competition [SPOKES 63] is now underway, with formal notes of entry already sent in by some 15 primary and secondary schools throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians. The closing date for entries is 4 April, so there's still time to register (and get the extensive briefing pack). SPOKES and the other sponsoring organisations are happy to meet entrants to discuss ideas/progress.

The Challenge is just the start: **School study trips** to York and, later, Europe are hoped for; **West Lothian** promises "to implement all worthy safety improvements in the winning entries"; and the **Scottish Office Cycle Challenge** [see p.1] offers future funding opportunities.

Meanwhile the government has set a target to reduce child pedestrian deaths 30% by 2000; and Labour has promised to re-prioritise transport funding to ensure safe routes to every school (eg 20mph zones) within 5 years.

£30 SCHOOLS CYCLING PRIZE DRAW

Another SPOKES lucky dip: £30 each for 2 schools running a bike trip/event, Jan-April, for 10+ pupils/staff. Apply on school paper, with teacher's phone, by March 15. Please promise two photos of the event. Use the £30 as the school wants - preferably for bike-related activity!



Cllr Tony Kinder launches the W.Loithian/SPOKES Safe Routes competition at Deans Community High, where the council recently installed Sheffield racks [SPOKES 62].

SCOTRAIL DELIGHT - MAYBE!?!?

After 3+ years of huge disappointment with ScotRail [eg SPOKES 58, 61, 62] we were delightedly astonished when a member forwarded us a wonderful letter, promising action on our 2 biggest concerns, and other matters. The **£3 local-journey charge** is to be "revised" - we hope that means **abolished**, as in Strathclyde and several English regions. **Bike capacity** will now be a "major requirement" on new rolling stock - and will be increased from 1 to 4 cycles per 2 coaches on existing Class 158 units!!

It sounds too good to be true, and we wrote at once [8.12.96] for clarification. As yet [12.1.97] there is no reply. Obvious questions include: *do these promises apply only if ScotRail managers win the privatisation franchise? Will the £3 be abolished? What is the timescale?*

"I wish I had more time to thank you, but I am in the midst of moving. Thank you so much - you have helped make Edinburgh a better place!"

Letter to SPOKES from a departing member

CYCLE CUTS SET TO CONTINUE

The Scottish Office 1997/98 budget announcements were dismal news for local transport needs such as cycling, traffic calming, road maintenance, and public transport. The capital funds to councils for all non-housing works, including transport, have been cut by a further 18%, on top of last year's huge reduction!!

Councillors have to split the funds between education, transport, etc, and our 96/97 survey [SPOKES 63] showed a massive 53% drop for transport! A COSLA-wide survey [LTT 3.1.97] put it at 40%! Cycle budgets escaped with 11% - but only because Edinburgh, Fife and West Lothian made it a big priority - elsewhere they fell 61%.

Our survey achieved wide publicity, including a major Scotsman article [2.10.96], and prompted Cllr David Begg, COSLA transport spokesperson, to call a special meeting of transport Directors and Chairs on the issue.

The further 18% is a cruel additional axe, and with the priority which councils must give to education, local transport will suffer badly. **Scotland on Sunday** [5.1.97] calculated that 30 extra children die each year on Britain's roads because we are already so far adrift from average European traffic calming levels. At Netherlands levels, 60 children would be saved each year. Each such dead child is a family and community tragedy.

Just one year's Scottish Office £200m trunk road spending would make a huge impact (SoS suggests £2bn needed for Britain as a whole), *but instead much of it goes to increasing trunk road capacity!* Whilst this year's Scottish budget, at last, does significantly reduce trunk road spending, only 3 fairly modest schemes are cut, and none of the savings go to local transport.

Fortunately for Edinburgh, 97/98 should see a huge cash addition from sale of The Gyle, but for other Scottish councils the position is dire. Where money is so tight, there is certainly no room for grandiose road plans, and councillors should be urged to spend what they do have on promoting safe and healthy travel.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER STORY

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MP, Roads Minister.....

"We cannot consider transport infrastructure provision in isolation from its wider effects ... or from alternative options. Increasing levels of car ownership, combined with decisions ... about transport choices, are leading to undesirable environmental impacts"

[Speech to 'Strategies for a new Century' conference 29.11.96].

"The government's priorities for Scotland include completion and improvement of the central Scotland motorway network, M74, M8 and M80"

[Letter to Thomas Graham MP, 20.11.96, justifying high Scottish Office levels of trunk road expenditure].

SPOKES

Leaflet 64 Early 1997

SPOKES, The Lothian Cycle Campaign, St Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG © 0131.313.2114
[This is a mailing address and answerphone - SPOKES is a voluntary organisation with no staff]

COUNCILLORS' BIKE ALLOWANCES - SPOKES SAVES THE DAY!

The councillors' cycle mileage allowance planned by Edinburgh and Glasgow Councils [SPOKES 63] has, in effect, been vetoed by the Scottish Office [Scotsman 24.9.96]. Under the relevant Act the government decides all councillor allowances - and Edinburgh was told that Ministers "have no plans" to set a rate for cycle use. Car mileage rates (31p-43p) are, however, specified!

The Scottish Office decision totally contradicts the spirit of their *Cycling into the Future* policy [SPOKES 62]. Edinburgh's *Evening News* told the government to "get on their bikes - to a school of common sense!" [24.9.96].

In view of this shambles, SPOKES is stepping in with our own (once-only) councillors cycle allowance, funded by members' voluntary donations.

Councillors in Lothian will be asked to promise to cycle to the council, or on council business, at least 3 times in the next month. All who do will be entered in a draw for three £50 'cycle allowances'. [To avoid accusations of sleaze, this SPOKES allowance must be

spent on a good cause in their ward - preferably to encourage healthy travel - and not for personal benefit!]

Similar government restrictions do not apply for council staff, and Edinburgh has set a 25p rate, encouraging healthy travel and saving money on car rates.

Told of our scheme, Edinburgh Council's cycle spokesperson Cllr Sheila Gilmore said the government position was "ludicrous", and hoped SPOKES would shame them into a re-think! Cllr Brian Weddell, cyclist and Finance Convener, said that when government is demanding every possible saving it was crazy to encourage councillors to claim car mileage instead of cycling!

STOP PRESS: We have just heard from Minister George Kynoch. He says all councillor allowances are being reviewed [so this is a time to lobby for a cycle rate, and at a level to encourage bike use!] He says councils *can* consider paying cycle allowances now - but implies they may face legal challenge if they do! He adds that councillors may cycle on business without claiming allowances. In this spirit of saving public funds, can we suggest Mr Kynoch perform his ministerial duties without claiming a salary?

☆☆ PUBLIC ELECTION MEETING ☆☆ CYCLING IN TRANSPORT POLICY

Conservative, Green, SNP: to be announced

Labour: Malcolm Chisolm, Leith MP, local govt shadow

Liberal Democrat: Cllr Mike Pringle Ed South candidate

Friday 7 March, 7.30 [6.45 for coffee, stall & chat], at Friends Meeting House, Victoria Terr, Geo. IV Bridge.

More details: Ian Maxwell 0131.669.6542.



Cllr David Begg launches the SPOKES Safe Routes to School competition at Craigmount High - see back page article.

IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO TODAY...

SPOKES was founded in 1977, and here is part of the main article from the first ever 'SPOKES' magazine.

"Cycling has been neglected for too long. Motor traffic has increased to such an extent that many people feel the roads too dangerous to cycle. Whilst millions have been spent on providing for cars, nothing has been done to encourage the healthiest, most efficient and safest (to others) method of personal transport, after walking.

The 1977 council transport TPP report didn't have one word about cycling. A Highways Department letter said "pressure of work in the formulation of major transport policy has precluded any action on cycling so far".

SPOKES is putting the case for cyclists to all candidates and parties in the Council elections. And we are putting it to you - don't leave it there!!"

In those 20 years much has changed - and we share the credit for greater awareness of safety, health, environment, and fairness in transport thinking! **But one thing stays constant - our message that YOU are needed. Please resolve to write to your councillor or MP after each SPOKES issue.** Our factsheet inside will help you!

SCOTTISH CYCLE CHALLENGE

SPOKES warmly welcomes the new Scottish Office £0.5m fund for schemes to encourage cycling. Although the money is 'small beer' compared to the cuts in Council transport funding, the Challenge is a tremendous way to foster and test new ideas which could then be taken up more widely.

A similar £2m scheme in England is funding 60 experiments, including bus bike-racks, bike maps, trailer-loan at supermarkets, modified space on trains, workplace bike pools, and a route-selection helpline.

The Challenge is open to any person, group, council, or other body. **That includes you!** - or your family, workplace, school or local shop. The key is an innovative idea. It could cost anything from £50 to £50,000, but preferably with partial funding from other sources.

One imaginative idea is for Edinburgh Council to seek funds for a councillors' bike allowance!! [see lead article].

Applications by 15 June, payment in 1998/99. *Details and application form:* 0131.244.0851, Cycle Challenge.

Post this to: SPOKES, St.Martins Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2JG.

Where did you find this leaflet?

"I'm interested in joining SPOKES. Please send a membership application form,

SPOKESHOP pricelist, and recent issues of SPOKES"

***** Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (9" x4" if possible).**

Please enter your name, address, postcode:

WINTER SUNDAY RIDES

Meet 10am, Usher Hall, Lothian Road. Normally 1st Sunday each month. Rides are fairly gentle, 30 miles or so. Lunch at pub/cafe, or bring picnic. Odd showers won't put us off, but real bad weather may cause cancellation. We show the way, help mend mechanical malfunctions, wait for the less-speedy, and try to ensure all have a wonderful time! Please ensure your bike is in good order. Cycle carefully and considerately. You are entirely responsible for your own safety. Children under 14, or not used to roads, may only come with an adult. Dates: Mar 2; Apr 6; May 4; Jun 1; Jul 6.

For further details or to help: Angela 445.7073.

A programme of Spokes Cycling Weekends will be enclosed in the members' mailing. Stuart McEachan 01968.676797. Glasgow (Strathclyde) Cycle Campaign has an extensive rides programme - usually 1st Sunday each month, and some weekends. Richard 0141.563.7871 or dmarsh@pobox.co.uk.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar 1 Local Transport Day 0171.388.8386.

Mar 7 SPOKES Election Debate - see p.1.

Apr 12 CTC 100-year Ceilidh George Di Ponio 669.6785

Apr 26 Edinburgh 30km sponsored ride for SAMH, also publicising the mental health benefits of physical activity. Free SPOKES Edinburgh map to entrants! Ian Reid 229.9687

May 22 [provisional date] Scottish Cycle Conference for council staff, cycle groups, etc. Strathclyde-CC/SPOKES 0131.334.2653, Mark James; 0141.423.2417, Richard Moran.

Jun 7-15 National Bike Week 01483.419556, M Gourlay.

June ? SPOKES BikeBreakfast IF we get helpers! 553.5819

June 14-22 Green Transport Week 0193.282.8882, ETA.

June 17 National Car-Free Day Phone as above (ETA) - free action pack on organising car-free events.

Jun 21 St Andrews Ride 01968.682369 Ros, LEpra.

Jun 23-27 Child Safety Week.

Autumn [provisional] Transport & Health conference, Scottish Transport Studies Grp/HEBS, D.Halden 01506.847409.

Sep 15/19 Velo-City 10th International Bike Planning conference, Barcelona. Tel +34.3.487.0018. viacon@tsai.es.

Last Fri each month - Critical Mass ride, 5.30, The Mound

ADMIN MATTERS!!!

We volunteers want to spend our time campaigning, not overwhelmed by paperwork!! So please...

✉ If you move tell us the new address, flat and phone

✉ If you want to resign (eg if you move away) tell us

✉ Only renew when we enclose your personalised renewal form (normally February, but not if you joined recently)

✉ When renewing, send SAE (at least 9"x4") and donation

✉ Send more donations at any time

CYCLE HELMET STATISTICS

Former SPOKES treasurer Dorothy Robinson [drobinso@mendel.une.edu.au], a statistician at Australia's New England University, has a paper *Head Injuries & Bicycle Helmet Laws in Accident Analysis & Prevention journal* [vol 28 no 4 p.463].

Her analysis concludes that the most significant effect of compulsory helmets in Australia was greatly to reduce the amount of cycling, probably bringing a net loss of health. Although the proportion of head-injured cyclists declined, the same was true of head-injured pedestrians! - both effects were probably due to anti-speeding and anti-drinking measures.

The paper also notes that death risk from head injury per hour of travel is similar for car occupants to that for unhelmeted cyclists. Helmets are available for car occupants, but compulsory wearing has not been suggested!

PARTY POLICIES

SPOKES has written to the main political parties for election statements. Meantime, published in recent months are:

✉ *Consensus for Change - Labour's transport strategy*, £4 from Labour HQ, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17 1JT.

✉ *Transporting People, Tackling Pollution*, £3.75 from Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley St, London SW1P 3NB.

BIKE MAPS

"I've just discovered your bike map, and this great way to explore Edinburgh" ... Canadian holidaymaker Sara Jinha.

Having sold 3,000 of our original Edinburgh Bike Map, 5,000 of the 2nd edition and 10,000 of the 3rd, we've published the next great version. It has wider coverage, a new 'outside Edinburgh' summary map, and more colour. On sale at bike and book shops, or £3 post-free from SPOKES. Many thanks to hard-working editor Ian Maxwell, and to Bike Trax shop for bulk delivery trailer-loan.

With its 300km path network (more than Edinburgh!), Livingston is to get a high-quality bike map, thanks to West Lothian Council. Ideas to: Graeme Malcolm 01506.775296.

A Glasgow City bike map is being prepared by Strathclyde Cycle Campaign & CycleCity Guides. Ideas/comments to Dave Marsh 0141.636.6084, dmarsh@pobox.co.uk.

SNIPPETS & PUBLICATIONS

✉ Mark Symonds reached Jerusalem on 3.12.96 on his 6-month £5000 sponsored ride for Intermediate Technology. Details by Internet - <http://www.mech.ac.uk/~ally/mark.html>.

✉ Cars kill birds The British Ecological Society reports 20 species, eg. barn owls, threatened by cars [Scotsman 10.9.96].

✉ Car taxes Complaints of high taxes by the AA/RAC are undermined by 3 new publications estimating 'hidden' motor costs, such as police, hospitals, local and global pollution, etc.

The True Costs of Road Transport, D.Maddison et al, Earthscan 1996. £10.95 Academic book.

The Real Costs of Motoring, ETA 1996 £3.50. More basic. Both post-free from Environmental Transport Assn, 10 Church St, Weybridge KT13.8RS. [<http://www.eta.co.uk>]

The Great Road Transport Subsidy, N.Bradbury. Different assumptions, giving even higher 'true costs' of £100bn p.a. From Railway Development Soc., 89 N.Wallington, Fareham PO16.8TJ. [<http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/railwatch>]

✉ Bike Classes Maintenance, commuting, wheel-building, Edinburgh Bike Coop 228.1368 [www.edinburgh-bicycle.co.uk].

A bike-planning, health, safety, etc 'insight' day is planned at Wester Hailes Education Centre 442.2201 (Beryl Homan).

✉ Environmental Essay Prize Edinburgh University £200 student prize. 650.6614. Previous winner *Can we afford cars in cities?* is on the Internet [<http://greeninfo.ucs.ed.ac.uk/student>]

✉ USA Even cheap-petrol-land is seeing a mind-shift toward sustainable transport. At the fore

is the Alliance for a Paving Moratorium, whose magazine, *Auto-Free Times*, is at PO Box 4347, Arcata CA 95518, USA. [<http://www.tidepool.com/alliance>]

WORKBIKE REVOLUTION

FOE Edinburgh is planning a cycle commuting campaign, including employer bike-purchase loans, bike shop discounts, and guided commuter rides. Details: Ronnie Pryor 669.0629.

Some local initiatives were described in SPOKES 55. Also, Nottingham Council [0115.948.3500x5481] has a *Green Commuter employers' pack* (not just cycling), and the government Cycle Challenge [p.1] could help fund new ideas.

LEISURE & TOURIST DISCOUNTS

Special note: Our discounts make 1997 ideal for a Highlands bike holiday! If you agree, these numbers will help you: tourist info 01463-234353; Sustrans Inverness-Glasgow map (£4?) 0141.552.8241; Great Glen Cyclerroute leaflet 01463.232811; BikeBus transport 0131.229.6274.

To encourage cycling SPOKES has negotiated discounts - for all cyclists not just members. To claim...

☺☺ You must show this leaflet

☺☺ You must arrive by bike (not bike on car rack*).

Note: SPOKES is a voluntary body. We don't inspect these premises/facilities - but we'd like to hear if you use them. We'd also like to hear of other discounts [we guarantee space if 20%+].

*Car bike racks: Police are to crack down on illegal/dangerous bike-carrying. An AA survey found only 10% of bike-carrying motorists legal and safe. 80% had obscured lights/plates, or illegal replacements, and 10% risked car damage [London Cyclist 10.96].

Edinburgh Council: 2 people for price of one, as below. [further details: Jacqueline Hall 0131.657.4815].

a. Meadowbank, Leith Waterworld, Leith Victoria: 2 for 1 entry and all facilities.

b. Portobello Leisure Centre: 2 for 1 fitness/leisure coaching.

c. Dalry & Glenogle Swimcentres: 2 for 1 entry, Sat/Sun only.

d. Ainslie Pk Centre: Mon-Fri only, 2 for 1 in pool/sauna/steam.

Kilmartin House (Argyll): opens March. Archaeology eco-museum, 20% discount if arrive by bike. Paths to local archaeological sites planned. 01546.510278 <http://www.kht.org.uk>

Nairn (Laikenbuie croft): Caravans (2-7 people, Mar-Nov) and tipi (in stone/tree circle, June-Sept). Daily or weekly rent, 20% discount. Peter Muskus 01667.454630.

Wick (S.Keiss): B&B normally £12 ("cheapest in the North" already!). Cyclists discounted to £10 plus free tea on arrival & later. Drying facility. Mrs Dixon 01955.631376.

Grantown-on-Spey: B&B normally £15, 20% discount 1.4.97-30.9.97. Mrs Milne 01479.872592.

Kingussie, Columbia House Hotel: B&B normally £25-£35. 20% discount B&B & dinners. Myra Shearer 01540.661402.

Morar: B&B normally £14 Jul-Aug, £12 other times (double-room prices). 20% discount if stay 3+ nights. Audrey MacEachan 01687.462592. sandholm@zetnet.co.uk.

Dornoch: Self-catering 4-bed cottage. 20% discount Apr/May & Sep/Nov (normally £175); 5% Jun/Aug (normal £275). John Padbury 01642.712095.

Loch Ness (Brackla), Clansman Hotel: 20% accommodation discount, Oct-Jun. 5% all-year in gift shop. 01456.450326.

Skye (Braes, by Portree): B&B normally £15-16, discounted £14, min 2 night. Bike store. Nevelee Corry 01478.650.325.

Castle Douglas, Crown Hotel: B&B normally £19-26, 10% discount. Also 3 nights for price of 2 outwith holiday season. Kenny McCall 01556.502031.

Portpatrick: B&B normal £17/£20; 10% disc. 01776.810238.



OTHER BIKETOURIST NEWS

✓ Whilst the NT(Scotland) and Historic Scotland are moving slowly to a 'green tourism' perspective, neither offers a discount to visitors arriving by bike. English Heritage, however, is considering this, and is also installing bike parking whenever other significant work is undertaken at any property [Sustrans Network News 97.3].

✓ A new Sustrans report 'Cycling Opportunities' [£30, 0117.926.8893] analyses cycle tourism/leisure potential, particularly for long-distance car-free or car-calmed routes. There is detailed analysis of different market segments. The report foresees a huge upsurge in recreational cycling, as traffic fear is removed. Switch from car to bike for leisure is already apparent at various early facilities.

Cycle tourists bring a similar level of revenue as other visitors - around £25 per night [see also SPOKES 61]. They need much less infrastructure expenditure than car-tourists, and bring no noise or pollution to beautiful areas.

✓ Despite County Durham's many beauties, its 2nd most popular tourist attraction is the Consett-Sunderland railway path/sculpture trail. [Sustrans Network News 97.3]. The new C2C 140-mile route [SPOKES 62], including this trail, attracted 15,000 cyclists in 1996, adding £2m to the local economy [C2C Sustrans map/guide £3 from spokes].

✓ We were pleased to see increasing promotion of bike tourism by the Scottish Tourist Board - free brochure from 0990.511.511 [or see www.scotourist.org.uk/scotpress].

LOTHIANS CYCLENEWS

In addition to projects in SPOKES 63, West Lothian Council plans cycle lanes and/or edge markings on the old A89 (B7066, A706, A7066, A89), Harthill to Kilpult. An off-road path is then planned to the council boundary, at the acqueduct, and the council is negotiating with Edinburgh to continue to Newbridge and the A8 and Queensferry paths.

On Edinburgh-Glasgow Millenium route, contracts are likely soon at Easter Inch/Tailend, the final Bathgate-Livingston link. The Edinburgh-Livingston section is being planned by Sustrans. They want to hear from anyone who has used the track south from Easter Newton (near Kirknewton) to Boll-o-Bere (on the A71), to provide evidence this is a right of way. [Tony Grant 0141.552.8241].



The 19-mile Bathgate-Airdrie path now boasts 10 'milepost' sculptures, new creations such as *High Wire Act* by Jeremy Cunningham adding to Dave Holladay's existing wonderful *Bedrock Bicycle* [Sustrans 0141.552.8241].

Sheffield racks are to be installed at rackless sports centres, pools, etc, and several Safe Route project schools.

There are threats to *Pencaitland Railway Path*, near Smeaton, Coulsland and Elphinstone, from Open Cast mining and landfill. Anyone who enjoys the path is asked to lodge objections. Details: Ian Brash 665.7654.

One of the few Scottish Office budget trunk road cuts was the A68 second Dalkeith Bypass. Although dropped to save money, the local campaign will have helped persuade the government to choose this particular scheme.

BAINS BIKES

Repairs and Spares

21 Newhaven Main Street

☎ 031-551-2839



SPOKES COUNCIL SURVEY

Cycle projects for 1996/97 which we didn't manage to include in our SPOKES 63 survey report, include...

Aberdeen: Westhill-Livingwells route
Aberdeenshire: Deeside Way; Fortmartine/Buchan work
Angus: Montrose routes; Monifieth school link
Clackmannan: Alloa/Dollar route completion
Highland: work on Inverness network
Stirling: work on Stirling/Killin-Central Highland Way
West Dunbarton: toucans at A82/A8014 roundabout

We also heard from several councils after the closing date:

E.Dunbartonshire: has published a major Cycle Strategy report covering commuter and leisure routes, local networks and an 'awareness' campaign, as an "integral" part of council transport policy. Funding to begin 1997/98. Details: Cllr Baillie, Roads Cttee 0141.776.9000; or Richard McKinlay, E.Dunbarton Cycle Campaign 0141.563.7871.

N.Lanarkshire: £164,000 cycle budget, 3.3% of total transport budget, amongst the top 5 in Scotland for total and percent. Each area office has a 25%-time cycle officer in both transport and planning, who together comprise N.Lanarkshire Cycle Team.

Perth & Kinross: considering a full-time cycle officer and instituting a formal cycle audit to ensure cycle consideration in all new road/transport plans.

SUSTRANS NATIONAL NETWORK

[More Sustrans news in 'West Lothian' and 'Tourism' on page 3]

Edinburgh/Berwick surveying is underway. Ideas to Nick Cotton 0117.973.0520.

Highland's initial signing of the 95km **Inverness-Dalwhinney** route is complete, but some A9 sections are not yet bypassed. Work should soon start on the £660K full upgrading to NCN standards [Sustrans Network News 96.2 & 97.3]. The expensive Drumochter path, to be built by the Scottish Office, is the major problem in continuing south.

N.Lanarkshire Council is putting a big effort into **Edinburgh-Glasgow:** a £0.5m cyclistroute bridge and paths have opened in Coatbridge, and a compulsory purchase order issued to allow an improved path through Viewpark Glen, Uddingston - a sign of the seriousness given to cycle facilities. The Council is considering links north (towards Cumbernauld) and south (to Strathclyde Park) from the national route [letter 10.96]. Sadly, its environmental credentials are dented by enthusiasm for the government's £150m M80 traffic-generation project.

The Scottish Office is to convert 4km of A78 footway to shared use, from **Seamill to Ardrossan**.



OTHER SCOTTISH CYCLE NEWS

For news of Borders Cycle Campaign, **Pedal Power** - lobbying, rides, newsletter, etc - tel. Mark 01578.760239.

Whilst the government has split up the Regions, Glasgow Cycle Campaign has moved the other way, becoming **Strathclyde Cycle Campaign** [PO Box 15175, Glasgow G4 9LP; http://home.ml.org/squelch/scc], with active groups in East Dunbarton [0141.563.7871] and Glasgow [0141.636.6084].

The SCC newsletter reports new bike lanes and advance stop lines in Albert Drive area. SCC has objected to 2000-space car park plans at Glasgow's Buchanan Centre, and to government plans for 1km M8 slip roads (on a disused railway!) to a Braehead out-of-town retail centre.

Dumfries & Galloway has put in a £3.3m Millennium bid for cycle routes including urban-access routes and a £0.6m coastal path [Letter from Galloway Cycle Group].

The Scottish Rights of Way Society needs evidence to keep open the track from **Callander to Comrie via Glen Artney**, which a farmer is now blocking to cyclists. If you have ever used this track in the last 20 years, please contact Judith Lewis, SRWS, 10/2 Sunnyside EH7 5RA; 652.2937.

Falkirk Council is planning a long term town-circular route, with cross-town links - though it has no cycle budget [SPOKES 63]! The network would include the 2km existing Carron path [SPOKES 62], and could form part of a **Edinburgh-Linlithgow-Stirling** Sustrans route. Plans for a cycle-friendly Grangemouth, however, seem to have fallen entirely off the shelf [Linlithgow Advertiser 7&14.8.96].

Stirling & Perth councils are investigating a path on the disused railway Lochearnhead-St.Fillans, linking to the Sustrans Glasgow-Inverness route [LTT 15.8.96].

SPOKES has long predicted that the government break-up of large councils could allow small 'rogue' authorities to frustrate cross-boundary sustainable transport plans. Now **Renfrew** council, whilst strongly backing the government's £250m 4-mile corridor-of-destruction M74, through houses, workplaces and amenity spaces, is blocking the planned 'St.James' airport rail link as it would damage one park! [RDS 10.96]. The rail link was supported by former Strathclyde Region, Railtrack, ScotRail, the airport, etc. A 530-space car-park also opens soon near Renfrew's already highly-polluted Paisley High St [Scotland on Sunday 5.1.97].

On cycling, Renfrew is apparently cool about its section of the Sustrans national network [GCC newsletter 9.96], previously approved in principle by Strathclyde Region.

NEW CYCLEROUTE MONEY

20% of revenue from the new landfill tax can be used for "public environmental facilities", including cycle routes, if within 10 miles of a landfill waste site. Details: Nigel Brigham 01733. 319981 [Sustrans Network News, summer 96].

Jocky Allan Cycles

115 Leith Walk
LEITH EH6 6NP
031-554-8888

We specialise in wheel repair, cycle repair, spares and accessories. EMMELLE, MBK, PEUGEOT, TOWNSEND.



A New name, an Established Location,
Lochrin Place, Tollcross, Edinburgh.
 For Cycle Hire, Repairs & Budget Priced New Bikes.
 Check our SPECIAL OPENING OFFERS.
TEL. 0131 - 228 - 6633
 CLOSED on Tuesday & Sunday.

USING YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL... Spokesfacts No.2... Feb 1997

SPOKES, The Lothian Cycle Campaign, 232 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh EH11 2JG ... 0131.313.2114 (ansaphone)

This factsheet answers the questions most people have in taking up cycling matters with the council. *Please remember - the best way you can help SPOKES is by writing the occasional letter to the council, with your suggestions, complaints and/or congratulations. Send us any useful replies - we often get new information this way!*

We also give details for several councils just outside our home Lothian area. For more information/contacts on the structure of Scottish Councils (not just transport), see *The Directory of Scottish Local Government*, on sale from COSLA 0131.474.9200 (Dawn Burrows). For names of all Edinburgh & Lothians councillors, see Spokesfacts no.1.

A: Council	B: Councillor	C: Transport chair	D: Leaflets	E: Address
Edinburgh	0131.529.3186 Members Services	Cllr David Begg Transportation	0800.232323 Freephone Clarence	City Chambers, High St, Edinburgh EH1 1YG
East Lothian	01620.827005 Members Services	Cllr John Ross Environment	01620.827661 Paul Ince	Council Buildings, Haddington EH41 3HA
Midlothian	0131.663.2881	Cllr David Hamilton Strategic Services	0131.663.2881 Transport Dept.	Midlothian House, Buccleuch St, Dalkeith EH22 1DJ
West Lothian	01506.777269 Members Services	Cllr Tony Kinder Strategic Services	01506.775296 Graeme Malcolm	West Lothian House, Almondvale, Livingston EH54 6QG
Falkirk	01324.506150	Cllr Joe Kennedy Strategic Services	01324.504950 or Annie Watson	Municipal Buildings, West Bridge Street, Falkirk FK1 5RS
Fife	01592.414141 Members Services	Cllr William Aitken Strategic Development	01592.414141x3633 David Seaman	Fife House, North St, Glenrothes KY7 5LT
Scottish Borders	01835.824000x211 Central Services	Cllr John Scott Technical Services	01835.824000x493 David Sharp	Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA
Stirling	01786.443300 Members Services	Cllr Tommy Brookes Environmental Quality	01786.442457 Jim Towers	Viewforth, Stirling FK8 2ET

1. Suggestions, complaints, congratulations about cycle or traffic matters: Write to or visit your councillor. To get their name, ward, phone, surgery times, etc, phone the number in col B. They can look up your address to find the details. Or phone the nearest CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) - see phone book. To write to the councillor, use the address in col E. *Ask your councillor to let you know what happen as a result of your enquiry.*

2. Contacting the transport chairperson direct: It is normally best to write to your own councillor and ask them to take the matter up with the transport committee chairperson - that way more councillors hear from cyclists, and your letter gets double-exposure. However, the name is given in col C in case you want to write direct. For example, if you are writing to another council in whose area you were cycling, or to raise a general policy issue.

3. Contacting your MP: Phone CAB (1 above) to get their name and constituency (and surgery if wanted). Write to them like this, for example: *Alistair Darling MP, Edinburgh Central constituency, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.* Write to MPs about government policy matters but use your councillor for local matters.

4. Potholes, broken lights, glass on cyclistroutes (etc): To report such items, phone the number below. If this fails, contact your councillor.

Borders: 01835.824000x518

Fife: East 01334.412020, Murray Hannah; Central 01592.412020, Steve Knowles; West 01383.312020, J Halliday.

All other councils: 0800.232323 (Freephone Clarence).

5. Cyclerroute maps/leaflets: Phone the number in col D. None of the new councils yet have new publications, but most have some from the old council - all free at present. *If you have ideas for new leaflets/maps write to your councillor.* In Edinburgh/Lothian the Clarence freephone can also be used to get local public transport information.

6. Council structures: Many of the new councils have a quite new structure, often with transport, planning and economic development all coming within the one department - often called Strategic Services (see table).

Edinburgh Council has such a new department, the *City Development Department*, with 5 area teams - central, N, W, SW, SE. Each team has 2 sections: 'Network' deals with existing infrastructure and 'Initiatives' promotes new developments on the local economy, transport and environment. Each team is meant to develop cycling expertise, with the HQ 'cycle team' having been cut to one person for central advice and major projects.

Edinburgh, as a large council, has also given special transport responsibilities to various councillors on the Transport Committee. These are as follows, and form another point of contact on these topics...

Cycling - Cllr Sheila Gilmore
Green Transport - Cllr Maureen Child
Road Safety - Cllr Brian Houston
Road Maintenance - Cllr Ken Harrold
Buses - Cllr Angus MacKay
Rail - Cllr Lawrence Marshall

City CYCLES

SERVICE CENTRE

City Cycles offer a 24 hour repair service with no booking needed. Nothing too much trouble – puncture repair, brake adjustment, accessory fitting; you name it. **Call our Service Hotline now!**

OPENING HOURS
Monday – Saturday 9am – 5.30pm
Sunday 12noon – 4pm

031-557 2801

You're on a good thing with a

RALEIGH from MACDONALDS

FRAMES · PANNIERS
SHOES · GROUP SETS
RIMS · WHEEL BUILDING
CLOTHING · SPECIALISED TYRES

26 Morrison Street ☎ 031-229 8473
opposite ABC cinema

HENDERSON'S METAL CLEANING CENTRE

FRAME RESPRAYS AND REPAIRS

"BRAZE-ONS" FITTED

1/3 PIERSHILL LANE, EDINBURGH
☎ 031-661-0870

MOULTON APB

We are Scotland's first dealer of the superb APB range of cycles. Call us for details of the comprehensive range and our deals on cycle/accessory packages



Aerobikes Ltd.
Unit 13 Duddingston Yards
Edinburgh EH15 3NT
0131 657 5655
Callers by appointment only, please

EVENING CLASSES

We are now running classes in

BASIC CYCLE MAINTENANCE

Covering all the basics to keep your bike in good order. Six evenings. £45.00

NEW

ROAD SIDE REPAIRS
The essentials required to dealing with common road side emergencies. Two evenings, £15.00

NEW

SAFE CYCLE COMMUTING
Equip yourself with the skills in coping with city traffic. Six evenings, £45.00



0131 228 1368

DAVID'S BICYCLE STORE

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS 9-7, SUN 12-4

Same Day Repairs

Tyres & Tubes fitted While You Wait

Edinburgh's Used Bike Specialist

39 Argyle Place
229-8528

BIKE HIRE

CYCLES WILLIAMSON

For the best in quality bikes, accessories & repairs.

Cannondale, Kona, Marin, Specialized.

26 Hamilton Place, Stockbridge, Edinburgh.

TEL. 0131 - 225 - 3286

Open 6 days, CLOSED Mondays.



BICYCLE SERVICE CENTRE NOW OPEN.

29/30 ARGYLE PLACE

228

(NEXT TO FRUIT & VEG SHOPS.)

SS20

REPAIRS/SERVICING - WHILE YOU WAIT. HAVE A REST AND A HOT DRINK IN OUR TEL ROOM, WHILE YOUR BIKE IS REPAIRED

OPEN

MON - FRI 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM.
SAT - SUN 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

THE TOP TEAM.

ANDREW DAVIES - BRITISH TEAM MECHANIC
JOHN ANDERSON - SCOTTISH TEAM MANAGER
EMMA GUY - BRITISH MOUNTAIN BIKE CHAMPION

EDINBURGH COUNCIL NEWS - see page 3 for Lothians news

The best way to help SPOKES is to write to the council about cycling/transport matters that concern you. There are plenty ideas on this page! Use the addresses on p.5.

CANAL EXCITEMENT!!

A 4.5km Fountainbridge to Wester Hailes towpath upgrade looks likely, incorporating part of the Sustrans Edinburgh-Glasgow route. £100K Sustrans funds are allocated, and other partners expected. [Sustrans Network News 97.3].

However, BWB still has no reply to its Millenium Link Edinburgh-Glasgow canal/towpath reopening lottery application [SPOKES 60]. If you are disappointed, write now to Millenium Commission, 2 Little Smith St, London SW1P 3DH, explaining how important this is to you and asking for early approval of Lottery money for the project.

PRINCES STREET

Whilst the new lane is not the design we wanted, SPOKES sees it as far better than no lane, and as a significant council commitment. The Council has emphasised it is experimental and they want to hear of any problems or improvement ideas: write to the address on p.5.

Once the westbound lane is car-free (by 2000?), a 2-way bike facility is possible, and we are promised full consultation.

Photo: Nov.17 - ready to open Princes Street bike lane! The 400 cyclists included no less than 4 councillors and 4 senior officials!



CYCLE-FREE CENTRAL ZONES ??

We have complained to Edinburgh Council over neglect of cyclists, and poor consultation, in several major city centre proposals. This seems to happen especially with projects designed by consultants - are they aware of council policies? The council has now assured us [6.1.97] cyclists will be considered and consulted in all such schemes.

Chambers Street: proposed cobbled surface, Sheffield rack removal, closure of W.College St, no notice of exhibition [Turnbull Jeffries architects].

Cockburn St: no bike facilities, no notice of exhibition.

Royal Mile phase 2: cobbles, no bike-exemption at proposed 1-way, 1-day notice of exhibition [Page&Park].

Festival Square/Usher Hall repaving: no cycle route despite Local Plan promises, no Lothian Rd bike crossing, no Sheffield racks (despite much railing-removal).

Stop press: A new planning application (no.60/97) for Usher Hall improvements shows a Lothian Rd cycle crossing from Festival Sq.

Morrison St: We have just read of a major environmental scheme here (tree-lining, etc) [Tollcross News 11.96]. Consultation is hopefully still to come! The Local Plan promises cycle facilities - we trust these will be included.

CITY BYPASS

The Scottish Office, which is in charge of the City Bypass, is reviewing its use and safety. We receive forceful complaints from cyclists about crossing it. Using it is nasty too, and there is a strong case for an alternative, perhaps through local communities in parts. Send your views to Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Ask him to include your ideas in the review, and to tell you the result. Copy your letter and the reply.

EDINBURGH CYCLE BUDGET SCHEMES

Work has begun on Fiveways to Heriothill railway path, Meadows to Brunstfield (resurfacing, cycle-calming, toucans, path widening, and narrowing of Meadow Place), and the Council's Cycle-Planning Design Guide.

Other projects expected by May 97 include: light-controlled bike crossings at Dechmont Rd, Duddingston Park South and Road West; Greenways bike facilities (Corstorphine to Leith); and perhaps Mound bike lanes.

1997/98 possibilities include: N. Edinburgh Network access/signing upgrades (the council wants ideas), Kings Buildings to Pollock Halls and to Marchmont Rd, Innocent path to Old Town, Bristo &/or Meadows. Send your 97/98 priorities to your councillor [p.5].

In past years, the Cycle Team always had expensive but simple projects 'ready to go', to use spare money at the end of the financial year. Asphaltting of paths was often achieved like this. We had suggested this for new paths at Telfer subway-Morrison St; Granton Sq-St.Columba; and A89 Newbridge-W.Lothian. Unfortunately new Council procedures don't allow project design until money is available - an exception is needed for projects like these.

EDINBURGH TO CORSTORPHINE/GYLE

Several members have been stopped by wardens on the path beside Roseburn Park, after years of uncontentious use. We have raised this with the Council, and also asked them to formalise, upgrade and sign a continuing route along Corstorphine railway path, Meadowhouse Rd, and so to the Gyle. Please write to your councillor [p.6] asking him/her to raise this with the Transport Dept, West Team.

EDINBURGH-QUEENSFERRY

The recent A90 hit-and-run death [Scotsman 6.12.96] highlighted the dangers of Fife-Edinburgh cycling. There is a particular problem catering for both commuter and leisure cyclists, and separate facilities may be needed in parts. The 2 councils are bidding for £5m government 1998/99 Challenge funds to rebuild the A90, with bus lanes: on- &/or off-road cycle provision is also being considered. Whether or not the bid succeeds, Edinburgh is committed to an Edinburgh-Fife Sustrans national network route by 2000. Send your ideas to the Council.

TRAMS & CERT

Edinburgh has won Challenge funding for the £15m. CERT Guided Busway scheme, Airport-Gyle-Balgreen-Princes St, to be built by 2000. CERT includes a parallel bike path much of the way, with road-crossing measures, and CCTV-covered Sheffield racks at CERT stops.

There is also talk of a private-funded on-street tram from Princes St to the planned Leith Ocean Terminal retail/leisure complex: its developers are required by the Council to keep car-based users to 45% by 2000 and 31% by 2010. Whilst supporting the principle of trams, we are concerned by potential dangers (Sheffield's new trams have seen cyclist injuries and a death), and we are also urging provision for cycle carriage. Cllr David Begg has assured us all such matters will be considered from the outset.

Meanwhile the government is looking into all aspects of bikes and trams. Send views/experiences to: R Sharples, MVA, Floor 26, Sunley Tower, Manchester M1 4BT. Croydon Cycle Campaign is also in discussions over a proposed on-street tram system [romney@geo2.poptel.org.uk].