

Dave du Feu report to 2026 Spokes AGM

Dave is paid a small fee (£350 per month) by Spokes towards part of his time.

He plays an essential central coordination role between the Resources, Planning and Maps Groups, as well as other largely central tasks. He keeps in close touch with the activities of all groups, helping to avoid overlap, and providing central support to the work of the Groups.

The following list covers the main areas of work that Dave undertakes:

- Preparation of the [Bulletin](#) – A paper-based bulletin remains hugely valuable for pick-up points and for bike leafleting. Being annual, careful thought is essential to ensure content which remains valid for as much of the year as possible. The work also includes obtaining advertising and a relevant centre-page supplement
- **Mailouts** organisation - co-ordination of the labelling stuffing meeting and deliveries to members, bike shops, libraries, politicians and for bike leafleting. With some 20 volunteer delivery areas in Edinburgh and another 10 or so further afield, this isn't a trivial task.
- **[Roughly-monthly emails \(the 'Action-Update'\)](#)** to all members, aimed as far as possible at encouraging members to take action rather than being purely informative
- **Membership and organisations databases** – working with the database volunteers to ensure it remains as up-to-date as possible. Emails to over 1000 member addresses usually have fewer than 10 rejections. The database is used to get the necessary outputs for the above all-member emails, and for selected groups as below
- **Email circulars** to selected groups of members for specific purposes. This includes *locality-based circulars* about local developments/proposals – with a dual aim to get feedback, usually for Planning Group, and to encourage members to take action on their own behalf. There are also *interest-based circulars*, for other purposes, such as lists/emails of members volunteering to help at stalls for our Resources Group stalls organiser.
- **[Website](#) and [Bluesky](#) posts** on current relevant issues particularly where we wish members and followers to take action. Spokes [Facebook](#) is looked after separately by another member of Resources Group.
- **[Website reference documents](#)** – Whereas Bluesky and Facebook largely cover current ephemeral issues, the website is used for major articles, and as a historical reference source on everything from [Planning Group concerns and submissions](#) through to [Maps sales](#), [Competition records](#), [Cargo-bike initiatives](#), [traffic count records](#), minutes of working groups, tramline crash reporting (see below) and much more
- Keeping a [consultations spreadsheet](#) for Planning Group, to try and ensure we respond to as many as possible, and do not miss closing dates – though if Planning Group has too much on, it is not always possible
- Helping organise the annual **Spokes [competition](#)**, and the outcomes and reports derived from the entries.
- **General coordination** – for example trying to ensure that relevant people/ groups are kept in touch with relevant issues/ actions/ people; and that there is always a person or group responsible for important current issues where a Spokes response or action would be valuable.
- Many **ad-hoc, one-off issues**, such as liaising with a skilled volunteer to organise the 2026 survey to ascertain the balance of member opinion on the highly controversial Tram and Princes Street/George Street issues
- **Tramline crash database** responding to tramline crash victims who have completed our [website reporting tool](#); and deriving [lessons and advice](#) from the overall results.

Coordination between groups

Spokes working groups are the central basis of Spokes activity. However, there has always been a need for linkages between groups, to avoid overlaps (and possible inconsistencies) and so that groups can assist each other as and when useful. With groups being all volunteers with limited time, and very little overlap between group members, there is a very clear danger of silo working (something we often criticise council and government for!).

A recent example of *liaison* was when Maps group was looking into getting the latest Spokes map installed at Waverley to replace the existing ancient one. Dave reminded the group that Spokes has a bike/rail person, so maps group then liaised with him and he made the Network Rail contacts to get the map changed. Another example was finding volunteers in response to a request from Tram Trans for Edinburgh, to assess possibly active travel routes to stations – a small temporary working group has been created with one member from Planning, one from Maps, and a non-group member who volunteered to coordinate our response.

An example of *avoiding overlap* was in noting that both Planning Group and Resources Group were talking about doing something on illegal use of modified e-bikes, and ensuring that only one group (in this case a member of Resources Group) followed this up.