

# Spokes Action-Update 01.07.24

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## 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. UK General Election, 4 July 2024

With virtually all transport and cycling-related policy now a Scottish rather than a UK responsibility we are not asking individual candidates for statements and did not hold a hustings for the UK General Election.

However, as always, we have a website page giving extensive information, including links to all manifestos, and analyses and commentaries on manifestos from a range of active travel and transport organisations.

In addition to *UK-wide* manifestos, most parties have also published *Scottish* manifestos, mainly covering issues which are UK government responsibilities. These Scottish manifestos *do not cover active travel*, as this is wholly devolved to the Scottish Parliament. Indeed, the word 'cycling' does not appear in the Scottish Conservative, Labour or SNP 2024 manifestos, and only in passing in the Lib Dem and Green. For current *Scotland* active travel policies, the 2021 Scottish Parliament manifestos still apply – see our analysis, and links to those manifestos, [here](#).

Our website page also provides links to a range of independent organisations to assist in deciding how to make your vote matter as much as possible, for example..

- [WhoCanIVoteFor](#) Find your candidates and a mass of publicly available background information on each
- [SwapMyVote](#) Is your preferred party a no-hoper in your seat? Consider swapping your vote with someone where it could really count

Several organisations also include online options to email your candidates, including..

- [Cycling UK](#), and
- [United for People, Climate and Nature](#) (130 organisations, under the [Climate Coalition](#))

## 2. Please consider volunteering!

Spokes is highly reliant on volunteers, without whom little could be achieved. Sometimes one-off projects, though we particularly need people who can offer an ongoing commitment. A big contribution is by joining Planning or Resources working groups – this involves online meetings roughly monthly, to discuss current issues/projects, at which you may volunteer for some particular task in the following weeks.

*Here are some current opportunities where we really need help! ...*

### 2.1 Disabled people and cycling – the Edinburgh Accessibility Commission

Edinburgh Council has set up an [Accessibility Commission](#) to review how council policies affect disabled people, with the aim of making Edinburgh accessible to all. Spokes was not in the original list of participating organisations, but after we raised this at Transport Committee we have been invited by the Council to join.

*If you have lived experience or expertise in the area of cycling and disability, whatever your form of disability, and would be willing to help Spokes contribute to the Commission, please get in touch.*

Incidentally, there is a lot of useful and well-considered on this subject by [Wheels for Wellbeing](#).



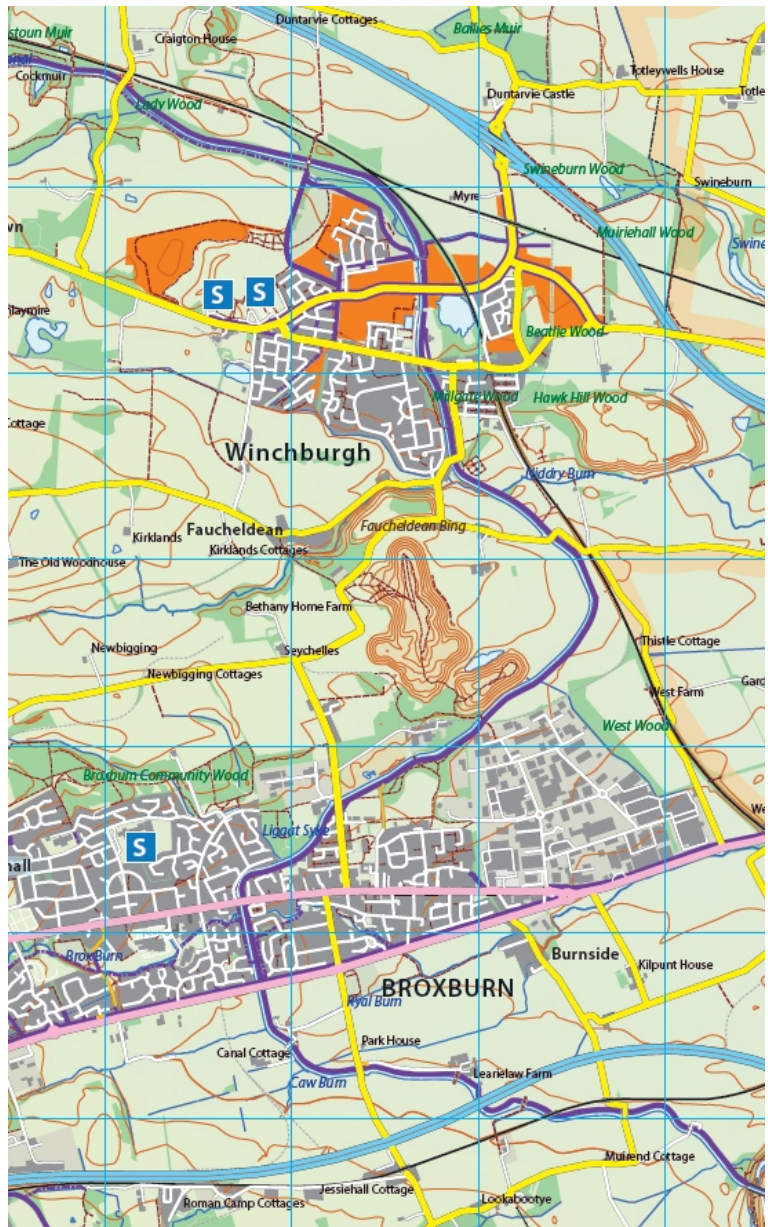
## 2.2 West Lothian – map surveying

As mentioned in previous Spokes communications, our Maps Group is planning a new, fully revised edition of our West Lothian map. This involves cartography and design, plus on-the-ground surveys to be done over the summer months. We aim for publication towards the end of the year or early 2025.

The previous map was published in 2018 and there have been many developments in the area since then, so the whole area needs to be surveyed in detail. Also, the new map covers areas which were not included in previous Spokes maps and therefore have never been surveyed by us before.

**We have already got a good number of surveyors but still need a few more**, notably for areas in and around Bathgate, Ratho, Hopetoun and Falkirk. People who have carried out surveys for previous maps have found it to be interesting and good fun – it adds a new purpose to your outings and you can discover places you never knew existed!

Surveying needs to be done between June and early autumn. You will be given full instructions on how to record the information, plus an extract of the draft new map and a copy of the existing map. You will have a coordinator to go to with questions at any time, and we have a great deal of experience from similar surveys by Spokes volunteers for the Midlothian and East Lothian editions.



*Extract from an initial draft of the new map (before surveying)*

If you can help or want to find out more, please contact Katharine Taylor ([katharinetaylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katharinetaylor@yahoo.co.uk)), our Maps Group coordinator, indicating what area(s) you would be most interested in surveying. We really need help with this, in order to get the map out on our projected timescale, so many thanks if you can volunteer!!

## 2.4 Spokes Working Groups

Most Spokes activity happens through working groups which meet roughly monthly online. The two most central groups, **Planning** and **Resources**, have both lost a couple of regular members during the last year or so. This has a clear detrimental effect on Spokes activity: for example we can't respond to all relevant council and other consultations (see [here](#)); and we can't always organise stalls at community events.

*Please do get in touch if you'd like to try joining Planning or Resources.* Both 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 of the group. 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.

### 3. Dates for your diary

- Events marked \* will have a **Spokes stall** – please volunteer to help! Or come and say hello anyway!
- Also, there are many **current consultations**, each with their own **closing date** – see sections 5 & 6 below.

Apr 27 – Sep 22 [Cycling in Edinburgh exhibition](#) at Museum of Edinburgh, Royal Mile

Spokes has participated in designing the exhibition, along with [Critical Mass](#), [Infrasisters](#) and [Bike Buses](#). [Spokes maps](#) and [buffs](#) will, hopefully, be on sale in the museum shop, and our [summer bulletin](#) available to pick up.

#### Pedal Power: Cycling and Activism in Edinburgh





This exhibition has been created by groups in Edinburgh who are campaigning to make our city a safe place for cycling.

You'll hear about group rides for fun and friendship that also carry a serious message about the importance of safe cycle routes. You'll learn about the positive environmental impact cycling can have and how it can help both individual and community wellbeing. You'll find out about activism in Edinburgh and around the world and learn about the rich history of cycling in Scotland's capital city.

The exhibition has been created in collaboration with Critical Mass, InfraSisters, Spokes and Bike Buses.

#### Information

 Sat 27 Apr to Sun 22 Sep

 Museum of Edinburgh

Prices:

Free entry

July 27 [Edinburgh Critical Mass](#) – monthly ride

### 4. Snippets

#### 4.1 Helmet Camera reporting

July 1<sup>st</sup> sees publication of "[Record, Retreat, Report](#)" the story of how helmet cam reporting of dangerous road driving grew from a few initial brave individuals, often in the face of aggressive opposition, until it is now widespread, with reports uploadable to the police in England (not yet Scotland!)

Featured in the book is Scotland's pioneer, David Brennan (who was also an originator of Pedal on Parliament). David says...

*"Would you like to understand the minds of helmet camera cyclists? What drives us to do what we do? How did it start? Where is it going? With interviews (including me!) and insight, here's the book to get."*

Website: <https://phonekills.com> Twitter: [@phonekills](#)

#### 4.2 Transport Committee (TEC)

You may be aware that all Transport Committee papers can be found here...


<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=136>

Spokes now has a [web page](#) with links to the papers, Spokes notes, and tweet threads for most meetings.

#### 4.3 Ageing Well, cycle skills

Edinburgh Leisure's Ageing Well project is running an 11-week [cycle skills course](#), starting 15 July. It is not for people who have never cycled before, but as long as you can stay on the bike, you are welcome! Bikes are provided if necessary. The course aims to build your skills, confidence, and fitness.

Places must be booked in advance. Contact the Active Communities Team

 0131 458 2260

 [active@edinburghleisure.co.uk](mailto:active@edinburghleisure.co.uk)

*As a Spokes member, you may not need this course yourself, but do pass on the details if you have friends, relations or colleagues who might find it useful and enjoyable.*



#### 4.4 Portobello Climate Cafe

There's a weekly Climate Café every Sunday on Portobello beach front, from 3pm each week, near Towerbank & Beach Lane. Just drop by at any time - "*it's a great opportunity to sit down and have a blether about our climate and what's going wrong.*" [www.facebook.com/groups/1151036858806619](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1151036858806619)

#### 4.5 Granton Tramline – Spokes public meeting

There's a detailed meeting report, with links to a full video and the speaker slides on our website, [here](#).

## Granton Tramline: #SpokesMtg Report

Our Spokes public meeting on the proposed Granton tramline extension was jammed, with the hall at capacity, the gallery opened, and 20 or more latecomers still having to be turned away – over 200 in total! Whilst many issues were raised, the future of the Roseburn walking/cycling path was the top issue raised in discussion, with many in the audience seemingly unconvinced that any form of path would remain if the tram uses the Roseburn route.



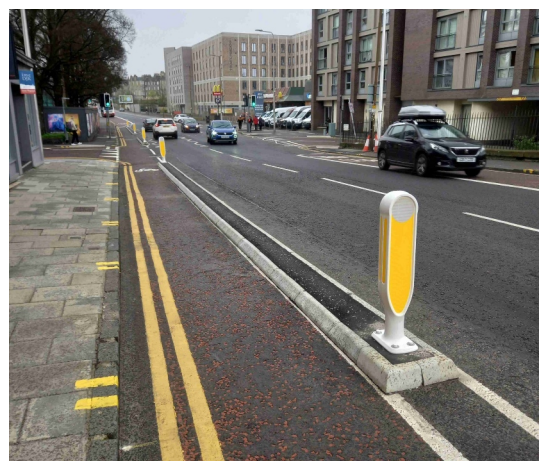
pic: David Somervell

#### 4.6 Charlotte Square

There's a complex ongoing story about the future of Charlotte Square, including the nature of the connection from west CCWEL to George Street. The Council web page is [here](#). Following a recent public drop-in session, Spokes submitted [these comments](#).

#### 4.7 Lasswade Road resurfacing

Edinburgh Council has a policy to incorporate active travel improvements into major road resurfacing, where possible. Whilst this does not always happen, Lasswade Road looks like an encouraging example. You can see the drawings and the Spokes comments in para 2405 [here](#). The cyclist route segregation is to be implemented using the type of low-cost infrastructure recently installed in Holyrood Road and a short stretch of London Road [pictured] and expected to be used more widely in future.



## 5. Edinburgh Consultations (including by developers)

*Please respond as an individual to all that concern you. Also copy to Spokes for possible use in our responses.*

### 5.1 Corstorphine Connections ETRO/21/21 – ends 7 July 2024

The Corstorphine Connections experimental quiet area project (particularly around the primary schools) had some relatively minor alterations at the end of its 6-month consultation period, as a result of which the ETRO has had to be revised, with a new closing date of 7 July.

Most people who wish to comment will probably have already done so, but, if you have not, you now have this extended opportunity. *Send your comments to [TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk)*, quoting “ETRO/21/21, Corstorphine Connections” and copy to [Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk](mailto:Edinburgh.Consultation@projectcentre.co.uk).

Previous Spokes comments are [here](#).

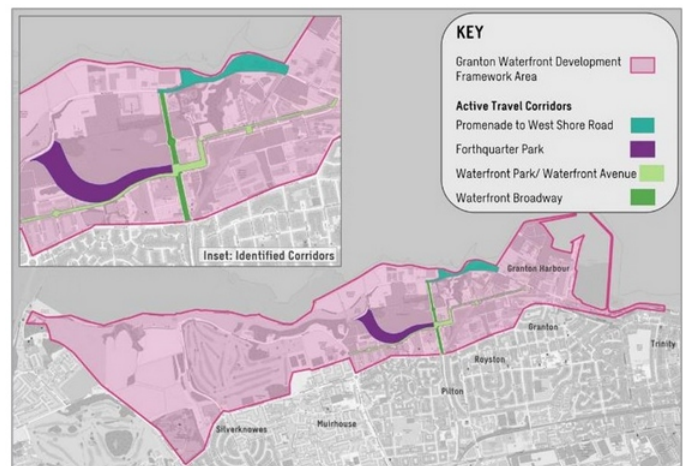
For more info about the scheme, the project page is [here](#).

### 5.2 Granton Waterfront, active travel routes – ends 16 July 2024

Granton Waterfront is a truly massive project, creating a new urban centre with 3500 net-zero homes, school, retail, medical centre, businesses, etc.

*“These will be tied together with high quality public realm and green spaces connecting new and existing communities to the wider city and Edinburgh’s Waterfront through active and sustainable travel”*

The consultation is about the active travel routes, within and linking to the area. [Consultation webpage](#)  
[Project background](#).

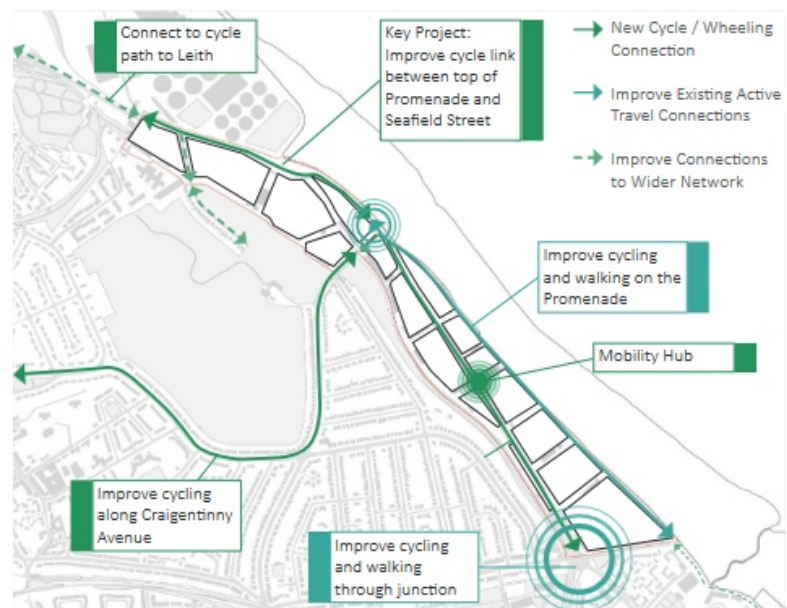


### 5.3 Seafield Regeneration – ends 31 July 2024

Seafield is another largely ‘brownfield’ urban area where the Council is planning major regeneration, and are preparing a masterplan intended to guide developers on what will be allowed and what must be provided.

The Masterplan is now at an advanced draft stage, and the consultation is seeking comments. Whilst we very much welcome the active travel improvements, there are rumours that the proposed segregated cycling provision on the main Seafield Road might be watered down, so please be sure to welcome and support safe cycling on Seafield Road.

Spokes Party is hoping to do an official Spokes response – please send us your thoughts for possible inclusion in our response.



[Project background](#) / [Consultation webpage](#).

## 5.4 Spaces For People bike lanes – **City Centre ETRO/21/26A ends 18.8.24, others end later**

The Spaces for People bike lanes and traffic restrictions are still legally valid under temporary Orders. In order to make them legally permanent (with any changes) the Council is introducing Experimental Traffic Orders, which include powers to deem them permanent (with or without changes) after a 6-month consultation period.

Unfortunately the **first attempt** (via consultants) to do this, in Jan 2023, failed because of a series of errors which meant that the draft Orders had to be withdrawn. Council officers are now drafting **the Orders** themselves. This is apparently quite complex, and time-consuming. They are now being published successively this Spring, numbered as shown, and in the order below. You can find more of the history [here](#).

It is likely that many of the schemes will be retained largely as they are now, but with gradual improvements over the next few years, notably by replacing defenders with the low-cost dividers pictured in 4.7 above, and with improvements at junctions. *It would be really valuable for members to request such changes, either in general terms, or by commenting in detail on the basis of your local knowledge of particular schemes.*

- City Centre [ETRO/21/26A](#) – now published for comment, ends 18.8.24.
- East [ETRO/21/28A](#) – now published for comment, ends 28.10.24.
- West [ETRO/21/30A](#) & [ETRO/21/30B](#) – now published for comment, ends 16.12.24.
- North [ETRO/21/27A](#) & [ETRO/23/23](#) – now published for comment, ends 23.12.24.
- South [ETRO/21/29](#) – still to be published, [here](#)

**Comments should be sent, by closing dates, to:** [TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:TRO.Consultations@edinburgh.gov.uk) quoting the relevant ETRO reference number(s) as above.

**If you comment, please copy Spokes** so we can consider including your points in the Spokes submission. We have not yet drawn up draft responses, but you can see our comments when the schemes were being installed [here](#) – they were done scheme by scheme, and only subsequently did the Council group them into 5 groups as above.

**Latest:** Because of the complexity of the above, the Council has created a new webpage covering all the schemes, with clearer maps, and the opportunity to comment more easily on any of the schemes. The address is.. <https://travellingsafely.commonplace.is/> Of course, Spokes is also keen to get your views so we can consider them for the main Spokes response, so please copy your comments to us, as far as possible.

## 6. Lothians Councils Consultations

### 6.1 Midlothian, Active Travel Strategy 2024-2034 – **ends 22 July 2024**

*“The draft active travel strategy, which includes measurable and achievable targets, focuses on making Midlothian a place where getting around in a way that makes you physically active, such as walking and wheeling, will be an easy, convenient, cheap and realistic option for all.”*

**For more info, the draft Strategy, and to respond to the consultation, see [here](#).**

*A volunteer to prepare a draft response for our Planning Group would be most welcome!*

### 6.2 West Lothian Council - enquiries re new road & path developments – **no closing date**

The Council has a [webpage](#) for enquiries and comments about new roads, footpaths, and cycle routes; and also [a page](#) of current projects and completed consultations.

### 6.3 East Lothian Council – ‘Call for Sites’ – **ends 6 Sept 2024**

The Council is seeking suggestions for sites throughout the county for housing, economic development, allotment provision, community growing space, cemetery sites or sites suitable for renewable energy developments.

We need an end to housing developments, in particular, which are located and designed in such a way that you can only get to shopping and other services by car. So this is a good opportunity to suggest developments and locations where active travel and public transport can be well provided for. The consultation requests various details about each site that you suggest, but presumably you can leave blank any boxes where you don't have the relevant information. [Consultation webpage](#).



## 7. 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)

## 8. 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 **Twitter** [@SpokesLothian](#). Follow us and ReTweet tweets that you support. Recent tweets also appear on our website in the right-hand column.
- ★ 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).