

GREEN ACTION

AUTUMN
2011



Inverleith

It's time for a better Edinburgh

EDINBURGH MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN CREATING A BETTER KIND OF CITY, says new Green MSP Alison Johnstone.

"Edinburgh is a fantastic city but much of what makes it distinctive is under threat. I want Edinburgh to be a leader. To protect and enhance the local shops, businesses and services which give our communities character. To design streets where people come first. To create new jobs in areas as diverse as renewable

energy technology and caring for the vulnerable. To reward the lowest-paid with a fair wage. To nurture our precious common spaces.

"In these ways Edinburgh can be the model greener and fairer city of the future."

"I also want to thank voters in Inverleith for the confidence they showed in me this year. I am determined to build on Robin Harper's hard work over the last 12 years."



New Green MSP, Alison Johnstone takes over the reins from Robin Harper

Greens call time on Council privatisation plans

GREEN COUNCILLORS HAVE SLAMMED the so-called "alternative business model" as no more than privatisation in disguise.

The City Council currently plans to put large chunks of Council services out to tender. Green Councillor Maggie Chapman said "I fully support public services being checked to make sure they run efficiently. But I have no faith in Council managing contracts effectively and that, therefore, the current privatisation route is the right one. We risk being left at the mercy of footloose corporations which promise the moon to win contracts and then fail to deliver.

Trams debacle shames Edinburgh, says Councillor

A LEADING COUNCILLOR HAS BACKED A PUBLIC INQUIRY into the running of the trams project

Councillor Steve Burgess said: "2011 saw the tram project descend into further farce. Although Greens were not on the Council prior to 2007 when the project was designed, we have backed modern trams, as enjoyed in comparable European cities, as one part of a revitalised public transport system.

"But the public is rightly angry at the way the project has been

mis-managed by the Lib-Dem – SNP Council. A public inquiry will clear the air. And, for now, we need to be confident that the skills are in place to manage the project within budget and on time."

YOUR LOCAL GREEN TEAM

Alison Johnstone
Green MSP
for Lothian



Nigel Bagshaw,
Green
spokesperson
for Inverleith



Contact your local Greens



Inverleith Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area stretching from Drylaw to Warriston and south to Dean Village and Stockbridge.

You can contact us at inverleith@edinburghgreens.org.uk

Or write to us at
5 Lennox Street EH4 1QB

You can also contact your Green MSP, Alison Johnstone at alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 5000

This newsletter is also available in large print

Printed by Cowan Print,
23 Brougham Street,
Edinburgh EH3 9JS.

Promoted by and on behalf of the Scottish Green Party,
20 Graham Street,
Edinburgh EH6 5QR

Inverleith Park for public good not private profit

GREENS CONTINUE TO PUSH THE COUNCIL TO ABANDON ITS PLANS to develop a three-acre section of Inverleith Park for private housing.

The local group has given its full backing to the campaign to prevent the sale of the land into private hands, have it reinstated as open space to remove any future threat of development, and explore ideas which will benefit the wider community.

Green spokesperson Nigel Bagshaw said: "The park as a whole has belonged to the people of the Edinburgh since 1889 and should still belong to them in



another 122 years. Park users need to be able to trust the Council to look after it for the common good and listen to the community's suggestions for alternative, public uses for the site. Like the campaigners, we regard the park as a social asset; not a sellable 'prime piece of city centre real estate'."

Drylaw Skatepark – a skatepark for the area at last?

LOCAL GREEN CAMPAIGNER, NIGEL BAGSHAW has welcomed the proposals for a skatepark in Easter Drylaw Park, saying: "Plans to build a skatepark elsewhere in Inverleith faced local opposition, so it is fantastic to see this project

moving ahead with massive support from the local community. The idea was thought up by local young people themselves and it would be wonderful if it went all the way to construction".

Your local Greens need your help!

CAN YOU HELP US IN OUR CAMPAIGNS? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at inverleith@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at 5 Lennox Street EH4 1QB

- I can help deliver Green Action in my street
- I'd like more information about the Scottish Green Party
- I'd like to make a donation to Edinburgh Green Party (cheques payable to Edinburgh Green Party)

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Information on this form will be kept private and used only for Green Party contact

Make use of derelict land

INVERLEITH GREENS have called for more creative use of derelict sites in the area.

Citing the example of the Raeburn House Hotel site in Stockbridge, the group has warned of the potential for idle sites to become eyesores, creating litter, graffiti and vandalism. The Greens have instead proposed developing such sites as temporary green spaces which can be made available to local people for imaginative uses such as the growing of food and the hosting of events.