

Leith green action

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Autumn 2010

Your Local Green Team



Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians



Alison Johnstone,
lead Green candidate
for Lothians in 2011



**Susan Guest, Green
spokesperson for
Leith**

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Greens back Alison for Scottish Parliament

Local Greens have selected Alison Johnstone as Robin Harper's would-be successor in the Scottish Parliament.

Alison, who is Green councillor for the Meadows and Morningside Ward in Edinburgh, has been selected to be the party's top candidate in Lothian in next year's Scottish Parliament elections. Her selection follows Robin Harper's decision to stand down next year, having served as Green MSP for Lothians since 1999.

If around 7% of voters back Alison then she'll follow in the footsteps of the hugely popular Mr Harper. If, however, 12% of people vote

Green with their second vote, then the Greens will have two MSPs in Lothian, just as they did in the 2003-2007 Parliament. This would mean fellow Green councillor, Steve Burgess joining Alison in Holyrood.

Alison said "I am delighted to have been selected. Of course, I realise that the hardest work is only now beginning: to persuade voters that I am worth backing as Green candidate

in just the same way as Robin has done over the last 12 years.

"However, I've worked in Parliament, with Robin, since 1999, so I have a good understanding of the challenge ahead.

"I am sure that people in Lothian will respond to the importance and urgency of the Green message and see through the weak choices that other parties offer. I am confident

that record numbers of people will vote Green."

Robin Harper gave Alison his full backing: "Scotland's Parliament needs Green MSPs, to challenge and inspire: campaigning

effectively on securing clean green energy; on efficient transport; on tackling pollution and waste; and delivering thousands of quality green jobs. I can think of no better successors than Alison and Steve."

The Scottish Parliament elections are on 5 May 2011. If you can help in any way with Alison's campaign please contact "Green Action".



Green MSP candidate, Alison Johnstone backs local traders in her council ward in Edinburgh

Picture: David Rintoul

Contact your local Greens

Leith Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in Leith, from Newhaven to Seafield

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

Or write to us at
Edinburgh Green Party,
20 Graham Street,
Edinburgh EH6 5QR

You can also contact your Green MSP, Robin Harper on robin.harper.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 6421

This newsletter is also available in large print

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Green energy - not Biomass

Leith Greens have backed community concerns over a proposed biomass power plant at the Port of Leith.

The development is being put forward by Forth Ports and Scottish and Southern Energy, with a plan to burn over a million tonnes of wood shipped from abroad each year.

Earlier in 2010, Green MSP, Robin Harper and Leith Walk Green Councillor Maggie Champman, were among the first to query whether the plant amounted to Green energy. Now the local Green Group has posed a number of questions. These include: whether the source of the

wood is sustainable; what will happen to waste; what the impact on local roads will be; and how much heat and power the Leith community will get from the development?

Leith Greens' spokesperson, Susan Guest, said: *"It is not clear to me that Leith is the right location for a plant of this scale. Forth Ports and Scottish and Southern must listen to the depth of local concern. Otherwise, there's a real risk of genuinely appropriate renewable energy being tarred with the same brush. I am worried this proposal is an example of money-making masquerading as environmentalism"*

Facts about the proposed Biomass power station

The proposed location is Imperial docks, at Leith Docks. The chimney stack will be about 100m high. Commercial Street and Salamander Street will be used for road access.

The plant is a joint venture between Forth Ports and Scottish & Southern Energy. Similar schemes are proposed at Rosyth, Grangemouth and Dundee.

The plant will burn around 1.3 million tonnes of wood that is to be shipped to Leith from foreign countries. Forth Energy plan to have the plant running by 2014.

For more info: <http://www.forthenergy.co.uk>, <http://www.greenerleith.org> and <http://groups.google.com/group/leithbiomass>

Leith Greens need your help!

Can you help us in our campaigns? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at Leith@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at Edinburgh Green Party, 20 Graham Street, Edinburgh EH6 5QR.

- 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 _____

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