

# Leith Walk green action

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Scottish Parliament  
Election Special 2011

## Your Local Green Team



**Robin Harper,**  
Green MSP  
for Lothian



**Alison Johnstone,**  
lead Green candidate  
for Lothian in 2011



**Maggie Chapman,**  
Green Councillor  
for Leith Walk

www.  
edinburghgreens.  
org.uk

# Greens – the only alternative!

**Greens in Edinburgh have launched their campaign for the Scottish Parliament, by urging voters to back an alternative to politics as usual.**

Top candidate, Alison Johnstone, who is bidding to succeed Robin Harper as Green MSP for Lothian, said: "There's never been a more important time for a Green alternative. We are witnessing an astonishing assault on public services: ideology wrapped in a cloak of financial necessity. Yet all so-called main parties accept this as inevitable.

"There's an utterly naïve view that the private sector will grow to fill the space left by public sector cuts.

But will it? And what kind of economy will we see in its place? One characterised by "McJobs", feeding on high consumption, waste-today-forget-tomorrow?

"That's no kind of policy at all. Not for people and not for the planet. We need a thriving public sector working with a responsible private sector to make genuine long term choices for Scotland – on housing, transport, education, on energy provision and the sweep of policy.

"That's the alternative Greens offer. And that's why I believe that tens of thousands of voters will back us with their second vote."

*Follow Alison's campaign on Twitter @AlisonJohnstone*

## First Green MP backs Alison Johnstone for Parliament

**The UK's first Green MP, Caroline Lucas, has paid tribute to retiring MSP Robin Harper and backed Alison Johnstone as his would-be successor in the Scottish Parliament.**

Caroline said that Robin had been a breath of fresh air when first elected as MSP in 1999 and added:

"I was hugely impressed by Alison when I met her recently in Edinburgh. She shares my own conviction that social justice and environmental



protection go hand in hand. I look forward to welcoming Alison to that growing band of Greens who are elected to fight for a greener and fairer world."

**2nd VOTE GREEN**

## Contact your local Greens

Leith Walk Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area from Easter Road to Bonnington

You can contact us at [LeithWalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:LeithWalk@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@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:robin@edinburghgreens.org.uk) or 0131 348 5000

and

Councillor Maggie Chapman on [Maggie.Chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Maggie.Chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk) or 0131 529 3291

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

# Greens Push on Fairer Pay

**Local Green Councillor Maggie Chapman has proposed that the City Council reduce the gap between the highest and lowest paid staff.**

She has suggested that the highest paid employee should receive a salary no more than twenty times that of the lowest paid staff member. Since all council employees currently fall within this range, Councillor Chapman has further suggested that the gap be reduced to 10:1 in the next few years, meaning the maximum salary would be £123,000 a year.

Maggie also argued that the same standards should apply to private bodies with which the Council does business, adding: "Equality is good for everyone. Reducing the differential to 10:1 is an excellent way to ensure that the Council shows leadership on equality. We've all seen the damage that excessive greed can do and this is a way to stop greed."

"We should also ensure that the companies we do business with commit to wage equality. Companies working for the Council should work to the same rules as the Council itself."

## £eith Decides Success!

**The first "£eith Decides" event has been declared a big success.**

Championed by Leith Walk Green Councillor, Maggie Chapman, the initiative gave the local community a direct say on how £16,000 of Council money should be distributed to 21 local projects.

Councillor Chapman, who won "Politician of the Year" in the Greener Leith Awards as a result, hailed the scheme as "participatory budgeting in action" adding "it was fantastic to see over 400 Leithers of all ages involved in this city pilot".

### Can you help us with the election campaign?

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

I can help deliver **Green Action** in my street or display a window poster

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)*

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

**2nd VOTE GREEN**