

GREEN ACTION

AUTUMN
2011



Leith Walk

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 Leith Walk 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



Maggie Chapman,
Green Councillor
for Leith Walk



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 email us at 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, Alison Johnstone at alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 5000, and

Councillor Maggie Chapman on Maggie.Chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3275

This newsletter is also available in large print

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Proposed Leith Biomass is 'Greenwash'

LEITH WALK GREEN COUNCILLOR MAGGIE CHAPMAN has attacked the proposed Forth Energy Biomass Plant as "greenwash".

She pointed out that the plant would burn wood chip from trees that have come from as far away as the Americas; and that transporting this wood chip to the plant would congest roads across Edinburgh.



world to burn in a built-up area cannot be a good idea. And congesting Edinburgh's roads to carry the wood-chip makes a bad situation worse. I'll do everything I can to oppose this project."

Cllr Chapman, who objected to the plant during the planning process, said "It can never be sustainable to build a plant like this in Edinburgh. Transporting wood-chip half way across the

'Leith Decides' continues after initial success

AN X FACTOR-STYLE FUNDING EVENT for local groups goes from strength to strength.

The massively popular introductory "Leith Decides" event last November saw over 300 members of the community vote on 29 funding bids. Groups that received funding include

Pilmey Development Project's Youth Clubs, Friends of Montgomery Street Park, Leith Central Community Council, Families Together in Leith and Friends of Lorne Primary.

Green Councillor Maggie Chapman, who introduced the Leith Decides project as convener of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership said "I'm really pleased that we'll be able to run Leith Decides for another year. The enthusiasm of all of the groups at the last event was obvious, and it's great to be able to give the people of Leith Walk a say over how their money is spent."

Funding applications will open later in the year for the new fund of £15,000. Each application can be for up to £1000. There will be another event early in 2012 to decide on which projects will be funded.

For more information contact Green Councillor Maggie Chapman on Maggie.Chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3275.

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 LeithWalk@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

Address

Phone

E-mail

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