

Your Green Team

Your Voice in the Scottish Parliament



**Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians**

Your Voice on the Council



**Alison Johnstone,
lead Green candidate
for Lothians in 2011
& Green Councillor
for Meadows and
Morningside**

www.
edinburghgreens.
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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



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

Picture: David Rintoul

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".

Contact your local Greens

Meadows and Morningside Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area stretching from Lauriston Place to the Braid Hills.

You can contact us at

MeadandMorn@edinburghgreens.org.uk

Or write to us at 37 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5QS

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

and

Councillor Alison Johnstone on alison.johnstone@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3291

This newsletter is also available in large print

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No green flag for Meadows

Local Greens have expressed disappointment over the failure of the Meadows, once again, to join over a thousand green spaces in the UK which have secured prestigious "Green Flag" status. Meadows and Morningside Green Team say they

recognise the work of our community organisations in trying to preserve the park for everyone's benefit. The problem, they argue, is that there are still too many commercial events run with industrial-scale equipment which is damaging the park for other users.

Greens urge action for cyclists

Summer might be a distant memory now but when the evenings were still light local Green councillor, Alison Johnstone, joined cycle campaigners SPOKES on a bike ride to "reality-check" some of the problems that beset the city's growing number of cyclists.

The City has signed up to the Brussels

Charter that aims to have 15% of all journeys made by bike by 2020. But that evening confirmed how much we need to do to get there. And that means starting early. Green councillors recently obtained figures showing that only 16% of primary school children receive cycle training. We can do so much better!

Green amendment reduces school charges

As Green education spokesperson, Alison was contacted by a number of schools concerned about a change in council policy which would have increased charges for school groups to use their own school even when raising money for that school! Many local schools raise tens of thousands of pounds every year, money which

buys a wide range of equipment from smart boards to school sports strips. The Greens argued that we should celebrate and encourage such good work, not tax it! Councillor Johnstone managed to press the City Council to do a u-turn on that proposal and says she will continue to press for common sense to prevail in the future.

Meadows and Morningside Greens need your help!

Can you help with our campaigns? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at MeadandMorn@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at 37 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5QS.

- 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 _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

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