

Southside and Newington

# 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



**Steve Burgess,**  
Green Councillor  
for Southside &  
Newington

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

Southside/Newington Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in this ward which also includes Dumbiedykes, Sciennes, Prestonfield, Grange and Blackford.

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

Or write to us at 19 Luton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PD

You can also contact your Green MSP, Robin Harper on robin@edinburghgreens.org.uk or 0131 348 5000

and

Councillor Steve Burgess on steve.burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3291

This newsletter is also available in large print

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## Local Greens oppose closure of community facilities

**Southside/Newington Greens have criticised budget cuts that led to the planned closure of two important community facilities in the area – the Princess Elizabeth Nursery School in Prestonfield and the Craggs Sports Centre in Southside.**

Green Councillor, Steve Burgess said: "Southside/Newington ward has already seen the first effects of deep budget cuts. But there is an

alternative. That is to keep community facilities open and, instead, reduce the UK deficit by taxing the super-rich who caused the financial mess in the first place and clamping down on tax evasion by big companies. Greens would also replace the Council Tax with a fairer form of local taxation based on land value."

For more information on Land Value Taxation visit [www.scottishgreens.org.uk/publications](http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk/publications)

## Green MSP candidate hails community action on local environment

**Steve Burgess, local Green Councillor and candidate for the Scottish Parliament has hailed the work of groups fighting for the local environment and pledged to seek more backing for them.**

Steve says: "From Edinburgh Community Backgreens Association, the Bike Station, the Grange Association to Transition Edinburgh South, we are very fortunate to have

dedicated groups of volunteers and not-for-profit organisations working to enhance our area. In the current parliament Green MSPs secured a "Climate Challenge Fund" worth over £37 million to support these local environmental projects and many more like them across Scotland. Alison Johnstone and I will seek to ensure that backing continues if elected as Green MSPs."

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

Can you help with our campaigns? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Email us at southandnew@edinburghgreens.org.uk or write to us at 19 Luton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PD

- 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)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

**2nd VOTE GREEN**