

GREEN ACTION

AUTUMN
2011



Southside & Newington

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 Southside & Newington 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



Steve Burgess,
Green
Councillor for
Southside &
Newington



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 Lutton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PD

You can also contact your Green MSP, Alison Johnstone at alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.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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Greens help secure community use for sport centre

COUNCILLOR STEVE BURGESS has welcomed news that a local basketball club and the Scottish Basketball Association are to run the recently-closed Craggs Sports Centre as a 'community sports hub'.

Steve said: "I knew everyone was very keen to see community use at the Craggs, so we talked to the Council's Sports Department, a local housing association, the NHS and the Southside community to help shape ideas for the centre. I'm impressed with how much work the Basketball group has already done to involve so many people."



Local club, Boroughmuir Blaze draws players from across the south of the city and will use the main games hall at evenings and weekends for basketball. The facilities, at the Pleasance, can then be used for other activities during the day. Simon Turner, who is leading the Blaze bid, said: "We've already talked to local Primary schools and other youngsters about getting involved in the sport and using the kick-pitch behind the building."

Council backtracks on 20mph pilot

GREENS HAVE CRITICISED the Council's Transport Committee for removing main roads, including Blackford Avenue, Kilgraston Road and

Grange Road, from the proposed forthcoming 20mph pilot aimed at improving road safety.

Councillors' in-trays were flooded by residents from Marchmont and Sciennes who supported the wider pilot, pointing out it would be cheaper and mean fewer signs if the whole area was included. It was also argued that, as Grange Road has the most accidents, police should spend time preventing these than having to react to them when they happen.

Cllr Steve Burgess who originally raised the idea of 20mph limits two years ago said: "I'm pleased there's a pilot but disappointed the Committee wasn't bold enough when weighing the views of the local community against the weak arguments from Road Traffic Police and Lothian Buses. Hopefully when the pilot is a success, it can be extended to include other streets."

Your local Greens need your help!

CAN YOU HELP US IN OUR CAMPAIGNS? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Email us at southandnew@edinburghgreens.org.uk or write to us at 19 Lutton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PD

- 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