

Leith walk green action

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**Euro Election
special**

Your Green Team

*Your Voice in the
Scottish
Parliament*



**Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians**

*Your Voice on
the Council*



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

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Reclaim our economy: a special message from **Elaine Morrison**, lead Green candidate for Europe.



The European Parliament seems very remote to communities in Edinburgh. But there has never been a more important time to send a Green representative there, joining the existing group of 34 Green MEPs.

Elaine Morrison, the Greens' lead candidate on 4 June says: "Scotland has the opportunity to lead the world in energy efficiency – a plan supported by economists, house builders and environmentalists and building on a successful scheme pioneered by Greens in Huddersfield. We need more Greens elected to make the crucial difference for people – ending fuel poverty is only the start."

The global economic crisis is an important challenge for us all. After 10 years of getting drunk on credit, the world is waking up with a mighty headache – Greens have a cure for that headache that isn't based on another credit binge.

The Green plan for Europe offers a massive expansion in green jobs, supporting renewable energy, public transport and energy efficiency on a

huge scale. Greens want to solve the economic crisis in ways that will help to combat climate change, and end poverty at home and abroad.

Only Greens want to stop boom and bust, and only Greens want to solve the economic crisis in a way that makes all the people of the world better-off. A vote for Elaine Morrison and the Scottish Green Party in the European election on June 4th will help reclaim our economy in Scotland and around the world.

Elected Greens get things done!

Green MSPs, Robin Harper and Patrick Harvie, have delivered £30m for energy efficiency in Scotland. This is good, but with more Greens in Parliament it could have been even better. Greens wanted a free, universal scheme to insulate all of Scotland's homes, to help keep construction workers in a job and to end fuel poverty.

The European election offers you the chance to make government take free, universal provision of energy efficiency seriously.



EUROPEANGREENS.EU
United green parties of Europe

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

Or write to us at
Edinburgh Green Party,
Thorn House, 5 Rose
Street, Edinburgh, EH2
2PR

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

This newsletter is also
available in large print

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Latest news from Councillor Maggie Chapman

Greens Oppose New Tesco

Local Green Councillor Maggie Chapman has opposed the application for a new Tesco supermarket on Picardy Place.

Cllr Chapman said: "I don't want Leith to turn into a trolley town. Leith Walk has a wonderful range of retailers, and is a vibrant place to shop. I don't want to sacrifice that to a new supermarket. It has been shown that each new supermarket like this can suck as many as 276 jobs out of the local economy, and that local retailers are likely to lose as much as three quarters of their market share."

Greens propose free home insulation scheme to save money and create jobs

A universal, free insulation scheme has been the priority for Green Members of the Scottish parliament including Lothians MSP Robin Harper, as described overleaf.

Green Councillor for Leith Walk Maggie Chapman has proposed a similar scheme for City of Edinburgh Council, using government funds. She said "It is absolutely essential that we pursue this scheme to put money back in people's pockets and provide jobs. It would help protect the environment and stimulate the economy. There is no reason to hold back, and I will continue to push the council for this scheme."

Paying a Living Wage

Leith Walk Green Councillor, Maggie Chapman has raised the prospect of the City Council paying a living wage to all of its employees, following the lead of Glasgow City Council which has adopted this policy from 1 April 2009. The Green Party in London made a similar pledge a key policy priority in the Mayor elections of 2008.

So far the Council has failed to meet Cllr Chapman's request for an estimate on how much it would cost to raise the wage of all Council employees to at least £7 an hour. In Glasgow it is intended that the additional costs will be recouped through reduced absenteeism, and there is no reason why similar arrangements could not be made in Edinburgh. At the same time, there would be savings to taxpayers overall through reduced costs on means-tested benefits and tax credits.

Diary dates

The Leith Walk area has several community events and activities:

29 Aug - Friends of Montgomery Street Park Summer Fayre

Leith Festival 2009 runs from 5th - 14th June, with the Gala Day and Parade on Leith Links on Saturday 13th June

If you have a community event you want to highlight please let us know.

Edinburgh Greens need your help!

Can you help with our Euro Election campaign? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at Edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk or at Edinburgh Green Party, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PR.

- 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