

Leith Walk Ward green news

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Winter 2007

Your local Green Team

*Your voice in the
Scottish
Parliament*



Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians

*Your voice on
the Council*



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

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Greens hit the ground running

Greens make City Council election breakthrough

New Councillor Maggie Chapman has been working hard for the people of Leith Walk ward since voters in the ward helped elect one of the first Green Councillors in Scotland in May of this year.

Two other Greens were elected to City of Edinburgh Council – Alison Johnstone, elected in Meadows & Morningside and Steve Burgess elected in Southside & Newington. Green MSP Robin Harper was re-elected to the Scottish Parliament for a third term representing Lothians Region, alongside Patrick Harvie,

who was elected for a second term as Green MSP for Glasgow.

Maggie Chapman said, "I feel very privileged to have been elected to serve the people of Leith Walk. I have already started to work with residents and traders in the ward on a variety of issues, from transport to back-greens, to make Leith Walk a healthier and happier place to live and work. I know that many people in the ward have a real desire to be a part of shaping the future of their community, and I hope I can assist them in this process over the next few years."

Trams are approaching fast

The day when trams will return to Edinburgh is getting closer and closer. The sophisticated new tram cars have been chosen ... on time and under budget!

The route approved by the Council and Scottish Government will run from Newhaven, past Ocean Terminal, up Leith Walk, to the West End. It will go on to Edinburgh Park and the Gyle and then to the airport. Maggie Chapman, the city's Green transport spokesperson said, "It is great news that the tram project is progressing so well. The citizens of Edinburgh deserve a first class, environmentally friendly and efficient public transport system. These trams are very different

from the trams of 50 years ago, and take advantage of all developments in light rail technology over the last few years to deliver the best possible service for Edinburgh.

What we need to do now is to ensure that the project continues to deliver, on time and on budget and with minimum disruption. I have been working in the Council to make sure the tram scheme keeps the needs of local people and local shops in mind. With the right design, the tram can bring huge benefits to everyone who lives in the area. I will also be working hard to ensure that people's ability to walk and to cycle along Leith Walk is not undermined."

Meet the Greens

Cllr Maggie Chapman Surgery times

Lorne Primary School
2nd Wednesday
(during school term)
6:30 pm - 7:30pm

McDonald Road Library
4th Wednesday
6:30pm - 7:30pm

or telephone
0131 529 3275 for
an appointment if
these times or venues
are inconvenient

This leaflet
is also
available in
large print

Printed and
promoted by Nigel
Bagshaw on behalf
of Leith Walk Green
Team, both at 3 Lyne
Street, Edinburgh
EH7 5DN

Council latest from Cllr Maggie Chapman

Stable schools come from sustainable communities

I was involved in local campaigns against the proposed school closures, and supported pupils, parents and teachers of Abbeyhill, Bonnington and Drummond Schools at meetings and demonstrations. I am glad that the proposals were chucked out, but I am worried they may soon be back in a slightly revised form.

We must ensure that schools remain a viable, vibrant focus for children, families, after-school clubs and all the other community activities that happen in school buildings. For this to continue, other decisions, like building affordable family homes within the city, need to happen. Of course school rolls will fall if high property prices force families out of the city. We need joined-up thinking to generate and maintain healthy inner-city communities.

A better place for our money

Socially responsible investment is at the heart of social and environmental sustainability, and in September I asked the Council

to invest its Pension Fund in companies concerned with both good financial return and the long term sustainability of communities.

Unfortunately the Lib-dem led Administration refused to back its own national policy on ethical investment, but I will continue to promote economically, socially and environmentally sound investments.

Green back-greens

I am developing a back-green improvement scheme applicable to all tenement stairs in the ward. Secure green spaces are important relaxation and play places, as well as providing habitats for non-humans. Watch this space for more as this develops!

Get involved

Leith Walk Ward is part of the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and is also represented by local Community Councils.

If you want to get involved in local decisions, apply for grants for local events, or have a say about local developments, contact me for more information: 0131 529 3275 or email maggie.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk

Leith Walk Greens would like to hear from you!

Is there an issue that affects where you live? Let us know about it and what we can do to help. Contact us at 3 Lyne Street, Edinburgh EH7 5DN or email leithwalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk

- I can help deliver **Green News** in my street
- I'd like more information about **Edinburgh Green Party**
- I'd like to make a donation to **Edinburgh Green Party**

(cheques payable to Edinburgh Green Party)

Name _____

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