

Meadows & Morningside 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*



Alison Johnstone,
Green Councillor
for Meadows &
Morningside

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Edinburgh is going Green

Greens make City Council election breakthrough

Meadows & Morningside became the first ward in Edinburgh to elect a Green Councillor, underlining the strong awareness in this area of the need for a Green voice in the City Chambers.

Alison Johnstone, Green Councillor for Meadows & Morningside, said, "I am delighted and consider myself privileged to have been elected to serve this unique ward. I have been meeting and working with residents and businesses throughout the ward on a variety

of issues from recycling to travel improvements. Real change occurs when local people are involved in the decisions that affect their daily lives and it is clear to me that people in Meadows & Morningside have a real desire to shape the future of their own community.

I am delighted to report that I have two Green Councillor colleagues! Southside & Newington, and Leith Walk wards also elected Green Councillors, Steve Burgess and Maggie Chapman respectively".

Getting a handle on plastic bags

Greens plan to make Edinburgh plastic-bag-free city

Following a Green Party proposal, the Council is investigating how best to help Edinburgh become the first plastic-bag-free city in the UK.

Earlier this year Modbury in Devon became Europe's first plastic-bag-free town. This was achieved without a change in the law, but through the determination of local traders and townspeople. Here in Scotland, Dunoon and North Berwick are competing to become the first plastic-bag-free Scottish town. Edinburgh could make history by becoming the first plastic-bag-free city in the UK and areas like Bruntsfield, Marchmont, Tollcross and Morningside, with

their rich variety of local shops and village atmosphere, can play a really important part in this initiative.

Plastic bag facts

Each one of us goes through approximately 170 plastic bags each year - that's 10 billion each year in the UK.

Plastic pollutes from production to disposal and beyond.

Plastic can take up to 1,000 years to decompose.

100,000 marine mammals die each year from swallowing plastic.

Meet the Greens

Cllr Alison Johnstone Surgery times

Bruntsfield Primary School
1st Wednesday of the month
(during school term)
7:00pm - 8:00pm

South Morningside Primary School
4th Wednesday of the month
(during school term)
7:00pm - 8:00pm

or telephone
0131 529 3291 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 Meadows & Morningside Green Team, both at 34 Arden Street (1F/2), Edinburgh EH9 1BW

Council latest from Cllr Alison Johnstone

Tollcross on the agenda

The Council has commissioned a study into increasing access to shops and services in Tollcross and improving the surroundings. This report is too important to simply sit on a dusty shelf! It contains just the kind of proposals we need to keep Tollcross vibrant. I will be working with the Neighbourhood Partnership to try to make sure it's implemented. Local shops are such an important part of a truly sustainable community. It's vital that we support them – shop locally whenever you can!

Parklife – the Green way

In July I called upon the Council to investigate the introduction of recycling facilities in all our parks. The report is underway and I'll summarise its findings in my next newsletter and online. The city continues to underperform in the recycling league and it's vital that we build on the growing amount of domestic recycling by making sure people can keep up the good work when they're out and about.

Planning matters

August: Representing constituents views at the Planning Committee, I was delighted with the decision to refuse permission to extend Ashley Court Nursing Home on Craighouse Terrace, as parking, access and waste disposal problems would result. However, the developer has appealed and the case will now be heard by a Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers. Please contact me for details.

October: The Planning Committee refused permission to develop 3 large townhouses in Merchiston Park on the site of an existing bungalow. I represented constituent's views at this meeting, with my Councillor colleagues, and welcome the Committee's support for preservation of this important conservation area.

There are 4 Community Councils in Meadows & Morningside ward - you are welcome to attend any and all of their meetings. For further details please call me on 0131 529 3291

Meadows & Morningside 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 34 Arden Street (1F/2), Edinburgh EH9 1BW or email meadandmorn@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)

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