

# Southside & Newington 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*



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

www.  
edinburghgreens.  
org.uk

## Greens hit the ground running

### Greens make City Council election breakthrough

**New Councillor Steve Burgess has been working hard for the people of Southside & Newington since voters in the ward helped elect one of the first Green Councillors in Scotland.**

Two other Greens were elected to City of Edinburgh Council – Alison Johnstone for Meadows & Morningside and Maggie Chapman for Leith Walk. Green MSP Robin Harper was re-elected to the Scottish Parliament for a third term.

Steve Burgess said, "Thank you to everyone who voted Green in May! It's been a very busy and exciting first six months – meeting and working

with so many people who are active in our community. Greens are already making a difference on the Council, with initiatives on recycling, housing and healthy food in schools. Action on climate change continues to be a top priority for us. I've also had a large mail bag about individual problems and have taken up a wide range of these with Council officials, from maintaining cycle lanes to disabled access and street lighting in Dumbiedykes. Please get in touch with me if you have a problem in your area of Southside & Newington ward - and remember that also covers Dumbiedykes, the Grange, Mayfield, Prestonfield and Sciennes."

## School closures halted *but cuts threaten community services*

**Greens supported the swift and vigorous action by parents and community groups that put on hold a proposal by the LibDem/ SNP Council Administration to close 22 schools and 4 community centres across Edinburgh including in Southside & Newington ward.**

However, Greens are still concerned about the effect of £14million of cuts from the Council budget such as by reducing nursery school places and community centre staffing.

Greens voted to oppose these cuts at the August meeting of Edinburgh Council. Proposals affecting

Southside/Newington include possible closure of both Cameron House and Princess Elizabeth nursery schools in Prestonfield and staffing cuts affecting Southside Community Centre and Cameron House Community Centre.

Green Councillor for Southside/Newington, Steve Burgess said; "Greens oppose closures and cuts that will harm communities, cause hardship for the most vulnerable or lead to compulsory redundancies. The Council finance leaders have to look to other ways of budgeting that won't have a serious social impact."

# Meet the Greens

## Cllr Steve Burgess Surgery times

On the 1st Wednesday of every month during the school term at:

6pm - Southside Community Centre

6.45pm - Cameron House Community Centre

7.30pm - Sciennes Primary School

or telephone 0131 529 3274 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 Southside & Newington Green Team, both at 19, Lutton Place Edinburgh EH8 9PD

## Council latest from Cllr Steve Burgess

### New Community Council for Grange & Prestonfield

A new community council has been set up that covers the Grange & Prestonfield. This was the only area of Southside/Newington ward that didn't have a community council. Southside and Marchmont & Sciennes already have community councils. If you are interested in being active in your community, details of how community councils work can be found on the Council website at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/city\\_living/Your\\_neighbourhood](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/city_living/Your_neighbourhood) or by phoning 469 3838

### Newington drops kerbs for disabled people

High kerb stones at intervals along pavements can be a real headache for disabled people in wheelchairs and buggies, as well as parents with small children. The height of kerbs makes it difficult or even impossible to cross at street junctions and vehicle entrances. As a result disabled people

and parents often have to take to the road in busy traffic in order to get places. Now thanks to Green Councillor, Steve Burgess, Ratcliffe Terrace in Newington is to have kerb stones lowered to allow people in wheelchairs and disabled buggies to get from the Southside to Newington Library.

Councillor Steve Burgess said: "On contacting transport chiefs about the problem they agreed that the kerbs on Ratcliffe Terrace should be lowered and will now take this forward. The situation for disabled people and also for parents pushing prams is gradually improving in the ward but there are still areas where problems like this need attention."

*Do you have a problem with high kerb stones? Contact Councillor Steve Burgess at the address below.*

Steve Burgess is Green Party spokesperson for Environment on Edinburgh Council. Please phone him on 529 3274, email [burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:burgess@edinburgh.gov.uk) or write to Green Group, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ

### **Southside & Newington 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 19, Lutton Place Edinburgh EH8 9PD or email [southandnew@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:southandnew@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**

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