

## **Edinburgh Green Councillors Group, Report for Branch meeting March 2018**

As finance lead for the Green Group, Gavin Corbett's main work has been on the [council budget](#) which was agreed on 22 February. Greens secured agreement on shared priorities - £2m extra for homelessness; plus energy efficient lighting, disabled children play-scheme, equipment for venues and action on high private rents – as well as distinctive Green ideas on funding new schools, helping young people who have been in care and funding for parks among others.

Cllr Claire Millar seconded the Greens' budget motion at Council in February, and in her speech emphasised the importance of spending to prevent homelessness, and on projects that would pay back on investment in both monetary and eco terms.

At full council early in the year Claire pressed for the working group on holiday lets to be convened with urgency, and when the working group met during February she was successful in getting agreement for a range of stakeholders to be consulted, in order to ensure residents and key local representative groups are at the table.

As a planning spokesperson Alex Staniforth has been helping pro-trees protestors with what sections of the Meadowbank development plan they can object under and has been involved with the planning of the community councils' consultation on the Meadowbank development.

Alex also began convening the policy and procedures sub-group of the CCTV working group with a view to ensuring Edinburgh's CCTV meets the gold standard for privacy, human rights and data protection.

Cllr Mary Campbell worked with Green colleagues to get North East Locality meetings moved to a time that will be more accessible to members of the community, and will be doing further work on making sure community and partnership voices are heard on the committee.

In Health & Social Care Melanie Main lead the resistance from the IJB, when NHS recently attempted to lead on the implement of the new GP contract, emphasising that responsibility lies with the new integrated services, which can thus be influenced by Councillors.

Cllr Steve Burgess joined a deputation of Transition Edinburgh and Friends of the Earth Edinburgh to Council Leaders to press that the agenda of sustainability and particularly climate change be taken seriously by the Council coalition. At the council's overarching policy committee, Steve spoke in opposition to the withdrawal of claims for housing benefit submitted in writing, and in favour of further consultation.

## **In Green Wards**

In Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart, Gavin Corbett has spent lots of time helping co-ordinate community efforts at snow clearing, as well as speaking at an event on greening Fountainbridge and looking forward to the first Clean Green Hutchison community clear up on 24 March. Huge thanks to his local team for delivering a new-style mini ward newsletter for all of Hutchison in February.

In Leith & Leith Walk Susan Rae and Chas Booth were involved in preparations for pioneering participatory budgeting event 'Leith Chooses'

Representing Morningside ward, Melanie was elected vice-convenor of the SE Locality; caught an oversight' of 106,000 missing for health care developers contribution for local planning application, and cleared and cajoled others to clear lots of snow through a vlog.

In Portobello & Craigmillar Cllr Mary Campbell has been working to support local community centres through changes with janitorial cover.

For City Centre ward, Claire convened the City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership which had updates on the locality improvement plans in the area and a report on managing the impact of festivals in the area.

In Craigtinny/Duddingston ward, at the start of Feb Alex Staniforth helped those living at Urban Eden set up a residents association.

In Southside-Newington ward, Steve and members of South East Edinburgh Green team went door-to-door canvassing residents about rent levels and short-terms lets in support of Green MSP Andy Wightman's 'Homes First' campaign.