

GREEN NEWS

AUTUMN
2018



Leith

Western Harbour, Shore,
Timber Bush, Leith Links, Prospect Bank

Green pressure on holiday lets

Green MSP Andy Wightman has joined forces with Edinburgh's Green councillors in pushing for stronger action on short-term lets, following concerns from residents that short-stay visitors can make their lives a misery.

While Green councillors have pushed for the council to use existing powers to regulate more effectively, Andy has been pushing to amend planning laws to require planning permission for new short-term lets.

Andy Wightman said, 'It's estimated there are now more than 10,000 short-term lets in Edinburgh. Where these are not the main residence of the landlord, they reduce the

availability of housing for people who actually need to live in the city and this is pushing up rents as well as inflating house prices. I hope the Parliament will support my proposal to get to grips with this issue.'

Green councillor for Leith, Chas Booth, said, "I've been contacted by residents concerned about the impact of so-called 'party flats' and I've seen the effect with my own eyes. Everyone has a right to peace and quiet in their own home, and Greens will continue to work to ensure that right is respected."

If short-term letting concerns you, see Andy's 'Homes First' campaign: <https://greens.scot/homesfirst>



Cllr Chas Booth discusses regulation of short-term lets with Green MSP Andy Wightman at Western Harbour

Leith Theatre Festival success



Cllr Chas Booth speaks to Leith Theatre Trust chair, Jack Hunter

Leith Theatre has been celebrating becoming an Edinburgh International Festival venue for the first time in decades. The "Light up the Shore" series of gigs and performances featured 16 performances over 14 nights, across many genres and featuring artists including Mogwai, King Creosote and Django Django.

Green councillor for Leith, Chas Booth, is pushing for greater council support for the Theatre. He said, "It's clear Leith Theatre is already an outstanding live music venue, arguably the best in Scotland, and with investment it could be even better. I look forward to continuing to work with Leith Theatre to bring that much-needed investment to Leith."

Cllr Chas Booth now issues a bi-monthly e-newsletter, keeping Leithers up to date. To sign up, go to tiny.cc/ChasNewsletter

Greens push for better buses

Faster and more reliable buses could be just around the corner, after the council's Transport committee supported a Green call to extend bus lane hours. The council will now go to public consultation on bus lane hours of 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week, as requested by Edinburgh's bus companies themselves. Cllr Chas Booth, Edinburgh Greens' transport spokesperson said:

"Reliable buses and quick bus journey times are essential to encourage people to use buses instead of cars. Extending bus lane hours will help Lothian Buses and the other city bus companies to improve their already excellent service."

Green councillors urge action on plastic pollution

Edinburgh Council has responded to concerns about plastic pollution and pressure from Green councillors, and has agreed to a series of actions.

Measures agreed by the council include phasing out single-use plastics in school packed lunches and introducing a city-wide water bottle refill scheme. Further actions will be considered in a new working group to probe the issue. Green councillor Chas Booth said, "I share resident's concerns about plastic pollution, and it's essential the council shows leadership on this issue."

Greener buildings on the way

Action from Green councillors could see greener buildings and lower energy costs in Edinburgh, after the council's planning committee agreed to consider new rules.

Green councillors Chas Booth and Alex Staniforth successfully argued the next "City Plan" should set higher sustainability standards for new buildings, including better insulation, which will deliver warmer climate-friendly homes.

'Tourist Tax' petition



Edinburgh Greens have launched a public petition calling on the Scottish Government to allow councils to bring in a transient-visitor levy or 'tourist tax'.

Currently only residents pay for services like waste collection and city museums, but it's estimated that a 'stay-n-pay' scheme could raise £10-20million from visitors every year.

Cllr Chas Booth said, "Every major tourist city in mainland Europe recognises that visitors use local services such as waste collection, so it's only right they help pay for them too. It's well past time the Scottish Government granted these powers to councils". Please help put pressure on the Scottish Government by signing our petition: <https://greens.scot/tourist-tax>



Green councillor Chas Booth lives in Leith with his wife and two young children.

He is co-convenor of the eight-strong Green councillors group, and serves on the transport and environment committee and the planning committee.

Contact your local Greens

Your Green councillor: Chas Booth - Tel. 0131 529 3182 or email chas.booth@edinburgh.gov.uk

Weekly surgeries: Tuesday evenings (term time), 5.30pm - 6.30pm in Leith Library (no appointment needed). Twitter @CllrChasBooth Facebook @Chas4Leith

Your Green MSPs: Alison Johnstone (alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) and Andy Wightman (andy.wightman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) on 0131 348 5000

Edinburgh Greens: www.edinburghgreens.org.uk Twitter @EdinburghGreens

Leith Greens team: leith.leithwalk@scottishgreens.org.uk Twitter @GreensPersevere

