

Greens secure tram changes

Chas Booth, Green councillor for Leith has secured design changes for the completion of the tram line to Newhaven, to improve conditions for those walking and cycling.

Green councillors made clear they would support the completion of the tram line to Newhaven only if it included high-quality walking and cycling provision. This has now been secured, with segregated cycle routes on Leith Walk, pedestrian priority at junctions and wider footpaths. A study to identify further walking and cycling improvements in the Leith area, together with funding, has also been secured.

Speaking after the council decision to proceed with the completion of the line to Newhaven, Green councillor Chas Booth said,

"I'm pleased the council has agreed to complete the tram line to Newhaven with an improved design. Green councillors will continue to scrutinise the project closely, to ensure the mistakes of the first tram project are not repeated. I have listened closely to local residents' concerns about the project, and will continue to do so."

The tram completion project is due to start construction in late 2019, with the line fully open for passengers in 2023.



Cllr Chas Booth has secured changes to the design of the line to Newhaven to improve walking and cycling facilities.

Greens push for better bins



Cllr Chas Booth discusses bin improvements with Leith Walk Green Cllr Susan Rae

Green councillors have pushed for improvements to recycling and landfill bin collections, following a spate of recent complaints about the service.

Missed bin collections and communal recycling bins being too full are regular complaints pursued by local Green councillor Chas Booth. And now Greens have sought urgent action to improve the service.

Chas Booth said, "Lifting the city's bins is one of the most basic tasks of the council, so it's essential we get it right. And if we're going to cut down our waste and increase recycling, as we must to reduce our eco-impact, we need a reliable service. Greens will continue to push for a better bin service."

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

Greens call for urgent action on climate change

Green councillors and MSPs are pushing for urgent action from the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Council in the face of the climate crisis. Green MSPs have proposed a "Climate emergency bill" in the Scottish Parliament to urgently cut emissions, while Green councillors have urged Edinburgh council to prioritise pollution reduction.

Cllr Chas Booth said, "I was inspired to join hundreds of young people at the climate strike at the Scottish Parliament recently. Their world will be radically different if we don't take urgent action to make our city climate-friendly."

Immigrants welcome here

Green party councillors and MSPs have expressed solidarity with international residents of Edinburgh at a difficult time in the wake of Tory Brexit chaos. Green councillors backed a bid to offer Edinburgh Council support for EU citizens completing the Tory Government's Kafkaesque "settled status" application, and condemned recent inflammatory rhetoric about EU citizens from Theresa May.

Cllr Chas Booth said, "We should be honoured that people born outside Scotland have chosen to make their home here. They are warmly welcome."

Action on empty homes

Edinburgh Council took a step towards addressing the homelessness crisis recently when a Green proposal to tackle empty homes was accepted. The new Empty Homes Officer role will help bring back to use an estimated 1,500 empty homes in the city.

Green councillor Chas Booth said, "I'm glad the council has listened to Green proposals on this, but much wider action to tackle homelessness is still needed and Greens will continue to press this."

Bus stop success



Green councillor for Leith, Chas Booth, has secured the repainting of several bus stops around Leith Links, following complaints from locals and bus users they were being parked in.

Bus users were finding it increasingly difficult to get on and off buses around Leith Links due to inconsiderate drivers parking in the bus stops, and council parking attendants were initially unable to take action because the bus stop lines were too worn to allow enforcement. Now the lines have been repainted, drivers who park in the bus stops can be ticketed or towed.

Cllr Chas Booth said, "I'm delighted that council officers have repainted these bus stops following my request. It's essential we take all reasonable steps to ensure our bus stops remain clear so that our excellent Lothian Buses service can be accessed by everyone."



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

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