

# Greens call for genuinely affordable housing

**GREEN COUNCILLORS and MSPs have continued their push for more genuinely affordable housing in both Leith and Edinburgh, following the success of the #SaveLeithWalk campaign to oppose demolition of the “new shops” and insertion of student housing at Stead’s Place.**

Greens are demanding changes to planning policy to require all new housing developments contain social rented or housing association homes, as well as stronger controls on student housing and regulation of short-term lets.

Green councillor for Leith Walk, Susan Rae, an active member of the #SaveLeithWalk campaign, said, “It’s clear from the energy and enthusiasm around the campaign that what Leith needs desperately is more social rented housing – council houses or housing association homes for rent. It beggars belief that a proposal for student housing, which was not supported by the community, was recommended



**Cllr Susan Rae, Edinburgh Greens' Housing spokesperson, with Cllr Chas Booth, Green councillor for Leith ward**

by planners to be approved. I’m grateful the Planning Committee rejected the proposal. We need a change to planning policy to require more social rented homes in new applications, and a much better balance with any student housing.”

Andy Wightman, Green MSP for the Lothians, whose “Homes First” campaign is pushing for better regulation of the short-

term letting industry, said, “Edinburgh’s housing crisis is being exacerbated by the rampant nature of the short-term lets industry.

“The growth in Edinburgh in the past year will be galling to the many residents whose neighbourhoods have been fragmented, and families being squeezed out in their search for affordable homes.”

**GREEN COUNCILLOR** Susan Rae, who lives in Leith Walk, was elected as councillor for the ward in May 2017. She is Green spokesperson on Housing and on Equalities, and chairs the Leith Neighbourhood Partnership and Leith’s local participatory budgeting event, Leith Chooses. Susan is a trade unionist and has long campaigned to end gender-based violence, is a Stonewall Advocate and a mentor for women who want to become involved in politics at all levels.

## Greens victory for community access to greenspace

**GREEN COUNCILLOR Susan Rae has secured victory in a battle to preserve community access to greenspace.**

The council has performed a U-turn in the proposal to allow the Ladyboys of Bangkok and La Clique Cabaret to occupy Pilrig Park for 31 days during August, following pressure from Cllr Rae. The event will now be based at a site in Fountainbridge.

Cllr Rae said, "The Ladyboys is a spectacular show, but access to high-quality greenspace is vital for our physical and mental health. Pilrig Park is well used by local schools and sports clubs, and it wasn't acceptable to deny community access to it for so long.

"Greens are working hard for improvements to our parks and play equipment, to ensure that everyone in Leith can get the benefits of local green areas."

## Tackling nuisance parking

Green councillors have secured a commitment to stronger enforcement of illegal and irresponsible parking, with an agreement that repeat offenders will have their vehicle towed.

Green Councillor Susan Rae said, "I'm grateful to my Green colleagues on the council's Transport Committee whose pressure has led to this change. Those parking illegally are a danger to other road users, and are unfair on responsible drivers who park properly. Greens will continue to push for robust action against those breaking the law."

## Supporting community voices in planning

Green councillors have fought to preserve community voices in the planning process, after moves from the SNP-Labour coalition to make it harder for local residents to make their voice heard were agreed with Tory support.

Cllr Susan Rae said, "I'm really disappointed that the council has pushed through this change to planning rules to make it more difficult for community voices to be heard. Greens will always be on the side of communities in the planning process."

## Greens value EU citizens

**Green councillors have moved to support EU citizens in the city during the Tory Brexit chaos.**

Greens have secured council support to ask the UK Home Secretary to scrap the controversial "settled status" scheme requiring EU citizens to register.

Cllr Susan Rae said, "Greens will continue to value and support EU citizens here as integral members of our community, and oppose the "hostile environment" approach of the Tories."



**Cllr Susan Rae:** "Greens value and support EU citizens as integral members of our community."

## Contact your local Greens

**Your Green councillor:** contact Susan Rae - Tel. 0131 529 4446 or email [susan.rae@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:susan.rae@edinburgh.gov.uk) Twitter @susan4leithwalk Facebook @susan4leithwalk

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

**Edinburgh Greens:** [www.edinburghgreens.org.uk](http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk) Twitter @EdinburghGreens

**Leith & Leith Walk Greens:** Twitter @GreensPersevere Facebook @GreensPersevere

