

# GREEN NEWS

SPRING  
2017



Leith Walk

PILRIG - BONNINGTON - BROUGHTON  
CANONMILLS - EASTER ROAD

## Green Councillor backs Susan Rae for Leith Walk

**LOCAL GREEN COUICLLOR  
CHAS BOOTH IS FIRMLY  
BEHIND SUSAN RAE'S BID  
FOR ELECTION AS  
GREEN COUNCILLOR  
FOR LEITH WALK**



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**ON THE STREETS:  
Green candidate puts  
quick fixes before  
grand designs**

**Green candidate Susan Rae is hoping to win the support of local people to represent them in the Council.**

"I love living and working here in Leith Walk, and enjoyed standing here as Green candidate in the 2015 by-election so much that I'm doing it again! The warm, friendly people of this ward need someone to address its long-overdue issues."

Greens have set out a bold programme to transform the capital. They have highlighted the need for residents and community groups to have more say over how the city is run. They also hope to confront the stark divisions between rich and poor in this ward and across the city that have been made worse in recent years.

Their ambitions also cover cleaner streets and protected green spaces; better connected transport and cycling infrastructure; making the city accessible for all; and promoting jobs in green energy and technology.

Neighboring Green councillor Chas Booth said: "We should be making Leith Walk better for all its residents. Greens on the Council have fought for green jobs, investment in schools, safer roads and the best for our green spaces. We need candidates like Susan who will join us to stand up for Leith Walk and our future."

# Only Greens can be trusted on city green space claim



**The future of the city green belt and green spaces hangs in the balance according to Green councillors.**

Last year, the council passed the controversial Local Development Plan (LDP), allowing development schemes expanding the city to the south and west. This will eat into the green belt, increase traffic and undermine regeneration plans. Green councillor Melanie Main blasted

other parties' hypocrisy over green spaces: "By backing the LDP, Labour and SNP credibility is in tatters. Tory councillors say they oppose the LDP but have sided with developers on individual planning decisions. Lib Dem councillors did not even bother to take up a

place on Planning Committee. We need an LDP which puts re-use of empty homes and brownfield sites first, reducing the need to travel by providing homes, shops and services near each other. If you want a city which protects its precious green spaces, the Greens are the only councillors you can trust."

**Green councillor Melanie Main: "Re-use empty homes and brownfield sites first."**

## Let's get bins right

**Green councillors have outlined a programme of improvements for the city's waste services, saying that residents need to see real change quickly.**

In the past year, residents have made frequent complaints about missed collections and overflowing communal bins. Green environment spokesperson Chas Booth said: "While the Tories carped from the sidelines I met senior officers and trade unions about steps to reduce complaints.

"Doing the right thing for the environment will actually ease pressure on the service. So reducing waste, cutting packaging and looking for long-lasting products is a win-win. We need investment in route technology, smart bins and staff training as well as rapid action when problems arise."



**Green councillor Chas Booth discusses bin collections with council waste manager Keith Martin**

## Homes not office blocks argue Greens

**A shortage of affordable homes is holding the city economy back.**

That was a major message from the recent "City Vision" project launch. It has also dominated discussion about the City Region Deal, in which Edinburgh is vying for over £1 billion of government investment.

Green councillor Gavin Corbett has slammed developers who lobby for more office space. At the council's Economy Committee, Cllr Corbett, the Green Economy spokesperson, argued that there was more than enough to last well into the future.

Green MSP Andy Wightman added: "To bow to demands for more office blocks puts them before affordable



**MSP Andy Wightman: "Development today must fit future working patterns."**

homes or space for small businesses. Over the next 10-20 years working patterns will change dramatically. The idea of thousands of people all driving into the city to sit at an office desk will be wildly out of date."

# Leith Walk housing crisis can be solved, says Green candidate

Leith Walk Green candidate Susan Rae says that the Council now has the powers it needs to start solving housing problems here.

**Leith Walk has more than its share of housing problems and the city council already has the powers it needs to solve them, according to the ward's Green candidate in the elections this May.**

Green candidate Susan Rae said: "Housing is too expensive in this most densely-populated ward in the city. Many tenants have no security due to prevalent short-term tenancies, and young people cannot afford a deposit to rent an overpriced one bedroom

private let, let alone a mortgage on a so-called 'affordable' home. The Council can already make a real difference with its powers under the 2014 Housing (Scotland) Act and impose standards on landlords to protect tenants and tackle this basic inequality."



## Geekfest 2017 the game is on!

**Leith Walk Greens' annual fundraiser, Geekfest 2017, is all set for Friday 7 April.**

Quiz freaks and geeks from all over Scotland will compete in the games, which this year will include The Great Galaxy Bake-Off, beaming down at Hibernian Social Club, Sunnyside, stardate 19:00 hours. Teams from local charities, community groups and the voluntary sector will take part and 20% of funds raised will go towards the next stage of the Leith Walk Tardis Art Project ([facebook.com/LeithWalkPoliceBox](https://www.facebook.com/LeithWalkPoliceBox)).

Costume is encouraged and, as usual, the prizes are epic. Sign up on [facebook.com/weepict](https://www.facebook.com/weepict) or [@greengeekfest17](https://twitter.com/greengeekfest17) #thequizisthequest



Cult bounty awaits winners and runners up in Leith Walk Green's fundraising contest.

## Leith Walk students - get involved

**With council elections coming on 4 May, Young Greens are encouraging Leith Walk's student population to make their voice heard.**

### Register to vote

Everyone resident in Scotland aged 16 or over who is a British citizen, European Union citizen or member of a qualifying Commonwealth country is eligible to vote in the council election. This includes most students, so it's very important to make sure you are registered. Edinburgh City Council provides vital services to student life, including city transport, housing and libraries.

Registering is quick and easy at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

### Get involved

With services including libraries and housing under threat, Greens need your voice and energy.

The Leith Walk team meets regularly, mail: [leithwalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:leithwalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk) for details.

The Edinburgh Branch meets monthly and Young Greens will hold exciting events and activities in the run up to the election. Find us on Facebook [@EYGreens](https://www.facebook.com/EYGreens) or mail: [young.greens@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:young.greens@edinburghgreens.org.uk).

# Greens call for clean sweep

Greens in Leith Walk are calling for the Council to prioritise making the streets of the area more clear, more clean and more easy to use, as local residents' living quality is eroded by litter and obstacles.

Local Green candidate Susan Rae said:

"I love living and working here. But I despair every time I leave my home to a view of overflowing bins, filthy streets and a seemingly endless supply of mattresses. Leith Walk has also suffered from relentless digging, filling and temporary barriers in the quest to implement the Leith Programme of improvements to the area.

"The lesson for the Council is that regardless of the mid-term vision for the area, it's the day to day experience of living here that has to be immediately addressed.

"Managing the process of street cleaning would be a great start. Supporting local groups like Leithers Don't Litter and Friends of Pilrig Park would help both Council and residents."



Green candidate Susan Rae argues that Leith Walk can be cleaned up now, rather than waiting for grand plans to complete.



## Your Green Candidate

Susan Rae is the Green candidate for Leith Walk, where, in 2015, she secured the highest ever Green by-election vote.

A founder of Inchkeith Residents Association/Community Allotments, she has worked with CEC's Tenant's Advisory Group, is a Director of SCVO Credit Union and a Stonewall Ally. As a co-ordinator of Greens Persevere Group she played a key role in the Leith Walk Tardis Project, helping cement its identity as an enviable community hub.

An activist and feminist with a record of campaigning on local, national and international issues, Susan has campaigned with Women's Aid, Women 50/50, Edinburgh Toys for Gaza and Edinburgh Anti-Cuts groups fighting fuel poverty, poll tax, bedroom tax, council cuts and austerity.

## Contact your local Greens

Susan Rae is the Green candidate for Leith Walk

leithwalk@edinburghgreens.org.uk

 @susan4leithwalk

You can also contact your Green MSPs, Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman, at alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk and andy.wightman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 5000

## Edinburgh Greens

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## Find out more

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