

GREEN NEWS

AUTUMN
2016



Meadows
& Morningside

TOLLCROSS - MARCHMONT - GREENHILL - BRUNTSFIELD
MERCHISTON - MORNINGSIDE - GREENBANK - BRAIDS

Green councillors put Edinburgh first

With council elections only months away, local Green Councillor Melanie Main pledges to keep supporting local businesses, schools and green spaces.



**GREEN COUNCILLOR
MELANIE MAIN:
"EDINBURGH MUST
MOVE IN BOLD
NEW DIRECTIONS
TO SUCCESSFULLY
DELIVER THE
SERVICES THE
COMMUNITY NEEDS"**

First elected in 2012 Cllr Main vows to continue the work already started in Meadows and Morningside. Melanie said: "Preserving public access through Astley Ainslie grounds was a hard-won campaign. I led 'South Central Decides', where local people chose how to spend over £200,000 on environment and project grants to local groups. "I'm proud to be a founder and first chair of Bruntsfield's

community cooperative greengrocer, 'Dig-in', which showed me the realities facing our high street. Much more can be done to protect and champion local economies.

"I have enjoyed successfully opposing school closures, pushing for long-term planning for our overcrowded schools, pressing for controls on direct commercial advertising to pupils, and winning dedicated council staff to support

Parent Councils. By contrast, losing Craighouse to massive development was a blow. And I continually strive for road safety changes in Greenbank and Braidburn.

"Edinburgh must rethink service provision, grow out of silo working and commit to long-term planning, so we can provide new schools, social care, thriving high streets, and green and public spaces for everyone."

In this issue

GREEN MSPS: Down to work in Lothian

CITY DEAL: The Green vision

CAMPAIGN: Stair lighting repairs

GREEN SPACE: Get involved

PLANNING: Are you affected?

ASTLEY AINSLIE: Right of way secured

SCHOOLS: Strategic rethink needed

Greens seek your views on our city's priorities

Edinburgh Greens have launched a public consultation on what residents want to see in a Green manifesto for the city. Draft manifesto ideas are at bit.ly/egman and views are sought by 30 November.

Lothian Green MSPs get down to work

The Green MSPs for Lothian have been hard at work since being elected in May.

Alison Johnstone, an MSP since 2011, sits on the Health and Social Security committees, and Andy Wightman sits on the Economy and Local Government committees.

Alison has highlighted pressures on the NHS,

calling for support for staff and action on recruitment. Her 'Fans First' campaign to win football supporters the right to own their clubs received a boost with a consultation showing support for the Government to enact it.

Alison also spoke in



Parliament on the need to give young carers financial support, an idea the Government is considering.

Andy succeeded in getting Parliament to call for a ban on fracking and for a radical programme of Land Reform. Andy has

also challenged Edinburgh airport plans to change flight paths, a huge concern for local residents.

Alison and Andy joined picket lines at Heriot Watt and QMU to support UCU members in their fight for better pay.

Greens slam stair lighting withdrawal

Greens have slated a Council decision to stop repairs to stair lighting, saying public safety is being put at risk.

The Council, opposed by Green councillors, has stopped the provision of repairs to lights where the Council does not own any of the stair's properties, although it will still meet the electricity bills.

Green councillor Melanie Main said: "Our city, with thousands of tenements and common stairs, already has a massive problem agreeing common repairs to roofs or drains.

Adding stair lighting to this is a real risk to safety, especially as evenings get darker.

"Only Greens voted to keep the stair lighting repair service earlier this year. I want to see a much more practical way of managing all sorts of common repairs, such as the local Green Doors Group, now recruiting pilot tenement stairs."



Green Cllr Melanie Main is calling for common stairs to stay lit this winter.

City Region Deal must deliver on long term vision

Green councillors are pressing for a City Region Deal for Edinburgh to develop a jobs-rich, low carbon economy.

The council, along with five neighbours, has prepared a bid for an Edinburgh City Deal, as seen in other parts of the UK. The deal usually involves additional money - up to £2 billion in Edinburgh's case - later paid back through extra tax revenue and reduced benefit costs as the economy grows.

Green councillors brought together experts to debate what a "Green City Deal" would look like. Their report (at bit.ly/egcdeal) highlights the huge benefits for the region's economy of

investing in public transport, walking and cycling. It also argues that such a high-skilled city region, with five major universities and colleges, can lead on new energy developments, smart technology and revolutionising local food markets.

Green Economy spokesperson Cllr Gavin Corbett said: "The only future for the regional economy lies in a green economy. The City Region Deal is a unique chance to reject out-of-date ideas about how real wealth is created."

Local Green councillor Melanie Main says that short-term fixes to schools crises must be replaced by better long-term solutions.



Astley Ainslie: the path is clear!

Rights of way across Astley Ainslie hospital grounds have been secured, following a four-year campaign initiated by local Green councillors.

The Council has now agreed to assert the rights of way across the site, and is obliged to protect and maintain them. Local Green councilor Melanie Main commented "Thanks to the Community Councils, the Grange Association and Parents Councils for their support, but most importantly to hundreds of people who gave evidence of their use of the routes.

Contact Cllr Melanie Main for information and advice on campaigning for rights of way.

Local schools hit by short-term planning

South Edinburgh continues to be hit by problems with school capacity and planning.

- The Council is still seeking a way to fund a much-needed new South Edinburgh primary school
- Two new high schools (Boroughmuir and James Gillespies) are already at full capacity
- James Gillespies High School narrowly averted disaster, increasing intake when S1 was oversubscribed this year
- Head teachers of both Boroughmuir and James Gillespies have increased overall capacity by 180 pupils for the next few years, but to cope with expected demand, from 2018, both schools will become part of an experiment making use of Darroch school to accommodate increased catchment numbers.

Green councillor for Meadows and Morningside Melanie Main said: "Edinburgh cannot afford this short-term silo based planning and spending year after year, and neither can our young people. We must start to see long-term strategic planning for our educational estate."

Details of public consultation for proposed school changes can be found at edinburgh.gov.uk/education.

Be a friend to the Meadows

With the Council's community liaison group on the Meadows and Bruntsfield links now disbanded, Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links stands as the only focus for residents' views on this major city park. FOMBL, as it's known, has the backing of local Green councillor Melanie Main:

"In the present climate of funding cuts, it is so important that our green spaces are available and usable by all sections of our community. Just as everyone can benefit from our green space in their own way, so can everyone give back as much or as little time as they can."

Learn more about FOMBL here: www.fombl.org.uk



Volunteers from Edinburgh Students Housing Cooperative join FOMBL and earn the appreciation of Green councillor for the area, Melanie Main

Are you affected by planned developments?



BRUNTSFIELD: The Old Boroughmuir High School

Following the school's relocation, the old site will be sold if planning permission is obtained, to Cala Homes, who plan over a hundred flats, some luxury,



some affordable. Cala undertook public consultation during the summer holidays, undermining public confidence in the plans, already under fire for adding to the load on schools and parking in the area.

MYRESIDE: Edinburgh Rugby at George Watsons

Edinburgh Rugby continue their search for a new Edinburgh base, having tried and rejected nearby Meggetland. Planning applications have been made for temporary stands at the George Watsons School playing fields, so that six trial matches can be played there from January 2017, bringing thousands of spectators into a residential area with concerns about traffic and crowd management.

Your Green councillor



One of the four councillors who represent Meadows and Morningside is Melanie Main.

Melanie is one of five Green councillors in the city and serves on committees dealing with education and families, council scrutiny and access, and Police and Fire services.

Melanie lives locally with her husband and daughter. Since being elected she has actively supported local traders, worked to protect local green spaces and helped hundreds of constituents with problems.

MARCHMONT: Sick Kids Hospital Site

Following its imminent move to Little France, the children's hospital will vacate a site ripe for redevelopment, with major impact on local shops and surrounding community expected. Local residents have set up a Planning Action Group for the Sick Kids Site, which is reachable at pagsk2017@gmail.com.



Contact your local Greens

Melanie Main is the Green councillor for Meadows & Morningside.

Contact Melanie on 07775 665 499, 529 3181 or melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk. Meetings by arrangement.

 www.facebook.com/CLlrMelanieMain

 [@melaniemain](https://twitter.com/melaniemain)

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

 www.facebook.com/EdinburghGreens

 [@EdinburghGreens](https://twitter.com/EdinburghGreens)

www.edinburghgreens.org.uk

Find out more

Get involved in Green activity in Meadows & Morningside and around the city.

SUBSCRIBE to regular email updates from Edinburgh Greens: bit.ly/egsubscribe

LEARN MORE by visiting our web site for more news and regular updates from your Green councillors and MSPs www.edinburghgreens.org.uk

HELP US deliver Edinburgh Green News in your area bit.ly/egvolunteer

DONATE and help fund Scottish Green campaigns in Edinburgh and Lothians bit.ly/egdonate

