

# GREEN ACTION

AUTUMN  
2011



## Meadows & Morningside

# It's time for a better Edinburgh

**EDINBURGH MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN CREATING A BETTER KIND OF CITY, says new Green MSP Alison Johnstone.**

"Edinburgh is a fantastic city but much of what makes it distinctive is under threat. I want Edinburgh to be a leader. To protect and enhance the local shops, businesses and services which give our communities character. To design streets where people come first. To create new jobs in areas as diverse as renewable

energy technology and caring for the vulnerable. To reward the lowest-paid with a fair wage. To nurture our precious common spaces.

"In these ways Edinburgh can be the model greener and fairer city of the future."

"I also want to thank voters in Meadows & Morningside for the confidence they showed in me this year. I am determined to build on Robin Harper's hard work over the last 12 years."



New Green MSP, Alison Johnstone takes over the reins from Robin Harper

## Greens call time on Council privatisation plans

**GREEN COUNCILLORS HAVE SLAMMED the so-called "alternative business model" as no more than privatisation in disguise.**

The City Council currently plans to put large chunks of Council services out to tender. Green Councillor Maggie Chapman said "I fully support public services being checked to make sure they run efficiently. But I have no faith in Council managing contracts effectively and that, therefore, the current privatisation route is the right one. We risk being left at the mercy of footloose corporations which promise the moon to win contracts and then fail to deliver.

# Trams debacle shames Edinburgh, says Councillor

**A LEADING COUNCILLOR HAS BACKED A PUBLIC INQUIRY into the running of the trams project**

Councillor Steve Burgess said: "2011 saw the tram project descend into further farce. Although Greens were not on the Council prior to 2007 when the project was designed, we have backed modern trams, as enjoyed in comparable European cities, as one part of a revitalised public transport system.

"But the public is rightly angry at the way the project has been

mis-managed by the Lib-Dem – SNP Council. A public inquiry will clear the air. And, for now, we need to be confident that the skills are in place to manage the project within budget and on time."

### YOUR LOCAL GREEN TEAM

Alison Johnstone  
Green MSP for Lothian  
and Green Councillor  
for Meadows &  
Morningside



Melanie Main  
Green spokes  
person for  
Meadows &  
Morningside



## Contact your local Greens



Meadows & Morningside Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area stretching from Lauriston Place to the Braid Hills.

You can contact us at MeadandMorn@edinburghgreens.org.uk or 07775 665499

Or write to us at 37 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5QS

You can also contact your Green MSP, Alison Johnstone at alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 5000

This newsletter is also available in large print

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## Greens keep winning for local shops

**GREENS CONTINUE TO WIN SUPPORT for local businesses. Most recently Cllr Alison Johnstone secured help from the Council for local independent shops to recycle waste. And a feasibility study into an 'Edinburgh pound' proposed by Greens is now underway.**

However, Greens are dismayed that Sainsburys has been given the go-ahead to knock three shops into one large unit in Morningside despite there already being three supermarkets within a mile.

## 20mph pilot ignores community wishes

**GREENS HAVE CRITICISED THE CITY COUNCIL for ignoring community wishes in the Grange and Marchmont over 20mph zones.**

The Community response to a consultation was all in favour of including the busier residential streets where the most accidents occur, but now the Council has removed them from the pilot. Green spokesperson Melanie said:



Green Councillor and MSP Alison Johnstone backs local shops

That is why local Green campaigner, Melanie Main has welcomed innovative schemes like the Tollcross Traders' Loyalty Card. Shoppers can enter a loyalty card Christmas prize draw by visiting local shops or see details at Tollcross Traders on Facebook.

"For the busy student route between King's Buildings and Marchmont the Council is now looking at additional safety measures, when reducing speed limits would have achieved the same end. This is a missed opportunity to pilot meaningful 20mph zones. It would save lives and improve living streets in one of the UK's most densely populated residential areas."

## Your local Greens need your help!

**CAN YOU HELP US IN OUR CAMPAIGNS?** Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at MeadandMorn@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at 37 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5QS.

- I can help deliver Green Action in my street
- I'd like more information about the Scottish Green Party
- I'd like to make a donation to Edinburgh Green Party (cheques payable to Edinburgh Green Party)

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Information on this form will be kept private and used only for Green Party contact

## New build warning on historic Craighouse

**LOCAL GREENS HAVE ISSUED A WARNING over plans for Craiglockhart Hill.**

Napier University has sold the Craighouse site to Sundial, whose plans include 200 new houses. Green MSP, Alison Johnstone has already submitted objections.

Despite plans to hand over woodlands to the local community, there is concern about the involvement of Mountgrange, the company behind the failed Caltongate site.

A local campaign has been set up friendsofcraighouse@yahoo.com.