

GREEN NEWS

SPRING
2019



Morningside

MARCHMONT, GREENHILL, BRUNTSFIELD, MERCHISTON
MORNINGSIDE, GREENBANK, BRAIDS, COMISTON, POLWARTH

Climate Emergency



**BACK A CLIMATE
EMERGENCY BILL**

Green Councillors seek urgent action

Green Councillors have won the unanimous backing of Edinburgh Council for a '2030 Climate Emergency' proposal. The Council has agreed to set an Edinburgh climate pollution target in-line with UN recommendations and develop an action plan to reduce

the City's impact on climate change. Edinburgh is among scores of UK councils to have now declared a 'Climate Emergency'. The action plan will come back to the Council for approval in May.

Green Councillors, however, are critical of the SNP-Labour Coalition approach. Cllr Steve Burgess said; 'We have proposed a £3 million fighting fund to tackle

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BRUNTSFIELD
St Oswalds for
community use

SAVE OUR STREETS

Braidburn
Greenbank
Viewforth Bridge
Merchiston
Morningside



ASTLEY AINSLIE
Community consultation

the City's climate-changing pollution but disappointingly this has not yet been backed by any other party'. Cllr Melanie Main agrees, 'A climate emergency fund would help to deliver change on transport, food, energy and waste'. **Please support Edinburgh action on the Climate Emergency by contacting your ward councillors www.writetothem.com**



Cllr Main at Midmar Paddock

Protect the paddock for future generations

Midmar Paddock, the lovely green space beside Blackford Hill used by families, runners and dog walkers, is currently under threat of development. Green Cllr Melanie Main has been advising the Friends of Midmar Paddock in their fight to preserve this vital open space. At the Local Access Forum, the Friends presented evidence from over 1,000 people who have used the paddock over

the last 70 years and Councillor Main's request that the 6 rights of way identified be asserted by the Council, giving them the highest possible protection for rights of way, was unanimously agreed. She said 'It's over to the Council now to assert these rights of way. This will be an important step towards securing the paddock as a public space.'

ROAD RAGE RUINING RESIDENTIAL STREETS



A lorry and car face to face, with nowhere to go

Cllr Main's new South Edinburgh Save a Street Campaign has a Facebook page for residents to comment on road safety. She reports 'Most days I receive at least one email about street safety, often with a photo or video - dangerous driving, near accidents, traffic stuck on narrow streets, lorries speeding down residential streets. Let's get these photos and videos into the public domain, so the extent of the problems is in plain view and up for discussion. Time to reclaim our streets'. www.facebook.com/SouthEdinSaveaStreet



South Edinburgh Save Green Councillor Melanie Main works with



8:15: bus in Braid Cres.



Greenbank Road and Lane is also a well-known local rat-run. Cllr Main said, 'Safety improvements for Greenbank Lane are welcome. However, years ago Council officers committed to realign the pavement at the south end of Greenbank Road. We are still waiting. I will continue to argue hard for this vital safety work to be done'.



Braid Crescent suffers from too many heavy vehicles. Residents report that new road signs instigated by Cllr Main have deterred some lorries.

Cllr Melanie Main has secured Council commitment for major changes at **Braidburn Terrace**. She said, 'Road safety here has been an issue for decades and road rage is regularly reported by residents. I have been campaigning for years to ensure action is taken'. A one-way traffic layout for the terrace; traffic lights and crossing upgrade; replacement of the notorious Braid Road roundabout and a pelican crossing at The Hermitage are in the detailed planning stage, with a budget commitment for this coming year. Completion is expected by spring 2020.



Cllr Main viewing crash site on Greenbank rat run



Merchiston Ave residents approached Cllr Main last year about the increasing traffic problems. Now the Council is to include traffic mapping and proposals for the avenue as part of the Viewforth Bridge project.

Newbattle Terrace - Cllr Main won a commitment to a major upgrade and redesign of Newbattle Terrace last year, with a meeting planned for local residents, St Peter's Parent Council and local groups. Public consultation will follow and the funding is in place.



Cllr Melanie Main at the Astley Ainslie site

Astley Ainslie Delay

A delay in the NHS timeline means the sale of the Astley Ainslie Hospital is not now expected to take place before 2025. The Astley Ainslie Community Trust, who are exploring the potential for a community-led development of the site with its lovely grounds, now have more time to prepare a bid. Aided by a grant from the Scottish Government's Making Places initiative, they sought ideas and inspiration from local residents during March; see www.aact.scot for details. They particularly need the views and enthusiasm of young people in the area!

a Street Campaign h residents to improve road safety

Pedestrians Top Priority

Narrow pavements are often not fit for purpose - including **Canaan Lane** where the new primary school is due to open, and busy **Church Hill** where speeding traffic and narrow busy pavements are a dangerous cocktail. Cllr Main said 'The pedestrian is the top priority in national place planning and council commitment to widening pavements has to be seen to be delivered.' If you are worried about road safety in your street, contact melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk



Having taken forward the public petition for road safety improvements at **Viewforth Bridge**, following the opening of the new Boroughmuir High School, Cllr Main led the calls for action. £40,000 has now been secured to undertake a traffic modelling study and devise options to close or change traffic flows. Any effect on local streets, including Merchiston Ave, will need to be addressed. A decision from councillors is expected after the summer. In the meantime increased signage has been installed. Cllr Main said, 'Residents regularly report dangerous driving here. The safety of hundreds of pupils and the public on this blind summit bridge needs action, the sooner the better.'

COMPUTER SAYS 'NO'

The Council can ensure Sat Nav companies' maps show specific residential streets as unsuitable for large vehicles. The Head of Transport has agreed to trial this in Morningside, in narrow residential streets. **If you think your street would benefit from the sat-nav saying no, please contact melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk**

If you're interested in Green issues why not come along to one of the Morningside Greens meetups at The Cameo Cinema Bar? Drink. Coffee. Chat.

For more info contact us
morningside@scottishgreens.org.uk

EDINBURGH YOUNG GREENS

Aged between 16 and 30?
If you want to meet green-minded people and get involved with activities on local, national and international issues, get in touch. www.facebook.com/EYGreens

Community Bid for St Oswald's

Bruntsfield Primary School Parent Council and the Eric Liddell Centre are seeking to acquire St Oswald's church and hall, Montpelier Park, adjacent to Bruntsfield Primary.

The buildings, previously used by Boroughmuir High School, have been vacant since February 2018. Last September, Green Cllr Melanie Main helped set up meetings with Edinburgh Council. The Bruntsfield St Oswald's collaboration has now successfully achieved Stage 1 approval under The Community Empowerment Act. Consultation with

the local community is underway. Group member Katy Hayne reports, 'The first public meeting in February was very successful. People were extremely positive and excited about keeping this attractive old building in the community. There were a huge variety of ideas: from nurseries to after school clubs to a youth space. Local venues say there's need for more community space here – for performances, ceilidhs, even circus training space.'

Further information and to have your say:
www.facebook.com/bfieldstoswalds

Contact your local Greens

Melanie Main is the Green councillor for Morningside.

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


 www.facebook.com/CllrMelanieMain

 @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

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www.edinburghgreens.org.uk

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Councillor Melanie Main

Melanie has been a councillor since 2012.

The group of 8 Green members of Edinburgh Council are working together to fight for jobs, investment in schools, safe roads, green spaces and putting more power in the hands of local communities. Melanie is the Green Health and Social Care Spokesperson, sits on the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board, working to integrate and improve health and social services, and is vice-Convenor on the Council's Audit Committee.



Find out more

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

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