

GREEN NEWS

AUTUMN
2016



City Centre

OLD TOWN - NEW TOWN - ABBEYHILL
BROUGHTON - WEST END - HAYMARKET

Green councillors put Edinburgh first

With landmark council elections only months away, local Green candidate Claire Miller has pledged to add to the efforts of the existing team of five Green councillors and to raise the profile of City Centre residents with the Council.

Claire said: "The City Centre is important to workers and visitors, but it's also a place where people live – and too often that gets forgotten in Council decisions. If elected in 2017, I'll bring the City Centre residents' perspective to the Council, ensuring that it is residents who are given priority.

Areas like the Old Town must remain vibrant residential neighbourhoods, attractive for both locals and visitors.

"City Centre green space is one of Edinburgh's best assets, and I'm keen to make it accessible to more people more of the time. Parks can open longer, provide better accessibility for all, and provide more spaces for exercise.



Green Candidate Claire Miller:
"If elected, I'll bring City Centre residents' perspective to the Council, ensuring that it is residents who are given priority."

"City Centre residents have convinced me that the Council must get back to basics in some key services such as household waste collections, litter bin collections and street cleansing.

"There are more and more rough sleepers in Edinburgh, particularly in the City Centre. I believe that the Council has a responsibility. I want to make

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changes that will help them transition into safe and suitable accommodation, while working on the often complex problems that led them to the street.

"Edinburgh's five Green councillors have shown the Council bold but fair ways to guide Edinburgh through challenging times. In 2017, I want to join them and focus that boldness on City Centre."

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."

New Waverley development to include community space

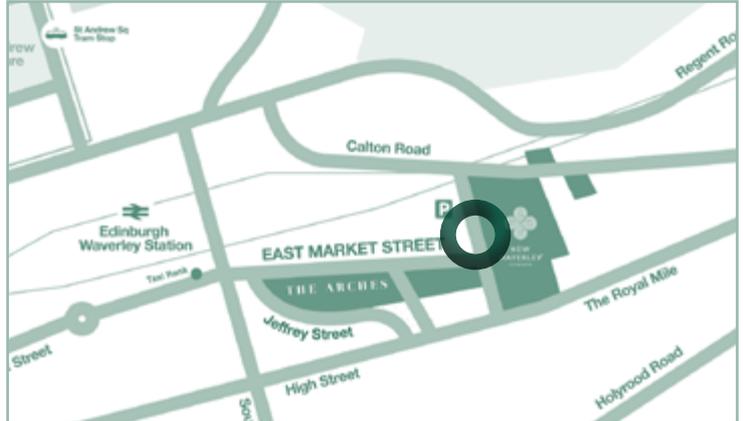
Developers of New Waverley are going to provide a community space alongside the hotels, shops and apartments making up the development between Waverley Station and the Royal Mile.

Local groups are bidding to take on the Cranston Street site, with proposals of what the space could offer the community.

City Centre Green candidate Claire Miller said: "Residents are enduring disruption from building works. So it's fair that community organisations like the

Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust are getting a chance to ensure that New Waverley provides for those who live in the area as well as visitors.

"I'm excited this will bring residents together, making the Old Town more of a residential neighbourhood again."



City Centre Green candidate Claire Miller has welcomed the prospect of a community space at the Cranston Street site (circled on map) of the New Waverley development

Greens call for bold action on cycle route

Green councillors and MSPs joined a convoy of cyclists along the proposed cycle route to show support for the bold option along the main roads into the City Centre.

Greens were disappointed when the Council recently postponed its decision on the proposed segregated cycle route linking Roseburn and Murrayfield with planned cycle infrastructure in the City Centre.

City Centre Green candidate Claire Miller said: "To reduce car use and encourage people to walk or cycle instead, we absolutely need this investment."

Concern about local business impact was a



major reasons for the delay, and need for further consultation.

Looking south, Brighton saw similar retailer concern before its Green council implemented a similar scheme to improve safety for commuters along a three mile stretch of road. Brighton's scheme reduced the dual carriageway to a single lane each way to allow space for separate cycle

and bus lanes. Since completion in 2013 cycling increased by 12.7% with no significant impact upon journey times for other road users and a 15% decrease in car journeys.

Claire Miller added: "This Brighton success shows that if our own Council had committed to the route, the whole city could feel the benefits even sooner."

Cut waste and ease bin burden say Greens

This summer already-stretched waste services failed to cope with the seasonal load, and overflowing City Centre bins went uncollected.

Local Green candidate Claire Miller said: "Refuse collection is an essential service. The Council must regain control. The solution isn't just more collections, more lorries and more landfill, but instead to encourage more households to recycle. Our recycling services are underused right now. Easing the load on landfill bin collections will give residents a better-looking and sweeter-smelling City Centre, save the Council money, and reduce the city's environmental impact."

Street parking: a green priority

Parking in residential areas around the city centre is now so oversubscribed that there are more permits than spaces, meaning residents have no guarantee of a parking space.

The Council is consulting residents about two remedies - making some existing no-parking zones into parking bays, and allowing both permit holders and meter users in the same bays.

City Centre Green candidate Claire Miller said: "It's unfair to pay for a permit and still not get a space, so parking should be made fairer. But there's a bigger picture. Edinburgh has award-winning

public transport. It's time to question the need to own a (sometimes barely-used) car at all.

"Alternatives also include active travel, like cycling, and we want better infrastructure put in place. Instead of just more car parking, some road space could become on-street weather-proof bike storage, freeing up space in tenement stairs."

CITY CENTRE RUNS SMOOTHLY AT 20MPH



Greens in City Centre are right behind the new 20mph speed limits throughout the area. Local Green candidate Claire Miller said: "The 20mph limit reflects that roads in the centre contain a balance of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, so it gives every road user a fair chance to be safe".



Your Green Candidate

Claire Miller has been selected by Edinburgh Greens as the candidate for City Centre ward in the May 2017 council elections.

Since coming to Edinburgh as a student, Claire has now lived here for over two decades. Living in London Street in the New Town, she is involved in local groups such as the New Town and Broughton Community Council.

Having worked in research, marketing and business planning for a number of Edinburgh-based companies, she is now keen to hear from all City Centre residents about how the Council can better serve them.

Contact your local Greens

Claire Miller is the Green candidate for City Centre

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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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