

GREEN NEWS

AUTUMN
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City Centre

BROUGHTON, GAYFIELD, GREENSIDE



Green MSPs Andy Wightman and Alison Johnstone are committed to increased affordable housing for the capital.

MSPs pledge action on housing crisis

Green MSPs Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman are leading the way in tackling the housing crisis gripping the capital.

Edinburgh has by far the largest problems of housing shortage and high housing costs of anywhere in Scotland.

Working alongside Green councillors and community campaigners, the MSPs have created a five-point plan. The initiative, which is part of a wider 'Homes First' campaign, has the following aims:

- 1** Retaining more houses as homes by reducing the number that are turned into holiday lets;
- 2** Bringing derelict land and empty property into use;
- 3** Improving arrangements for repairs in flats and tenements;
- 4** Curbing soaring rents in the private rented sector;
- 5** A reduction in reliance on temporary accommodation for homeless people.

Andy Wightman said -

"Edinburgh has the most serious housing problem in Scotland. That is why I am determined to lead on reforms which would make sure homes are available here for everyone who needs one: of the right kind, warm and safe, and at a price people can afford. It's the least a capital city can do."

Alison Johnstone added -

"The housing crisis affects us all, directly or indirectly. Younger people and people on lower incomes who cannot afford Edinburgh's eye-watering prices are being priced out. People are being forced to leave the city in search of somewhere to live and that increases traffic and affects the local economy. Edinburgh must do better."

TAKE ACTION – Homes First Campaign: www.greens.scot/homesfirst

A stronger low emission zone for Edinburgh

The council has published a two-part low emission zone proposal that will see Queen Street mark a boundary of the city centre zone.

All older polluting vehicles, including privately owned cars, will be banned from the city centre, while city-wide restrictions will be placed on buses, HGVs, taxis, and other commercial vehicles. Owners will be allowed a grace period prior to enforcement.

This is part of a Scottish Government initiative to improve air quality in our cities. A growing body of scientific evidence links air pollution with ill health, with around 200 early deaths in Edinburgh each year as a result. Reducing pollution will improve the health and wellbeing of everybody, particularly children, older people, and those with health conditions.

Green Councillor Claire Miller said - "These low emission zone proposals are not set to be fully implemented until 2025 and are simply not strong enough. We must take more urgent action to protect our health and the environment by making city centre air cleaner. I will be arguing for far more urgent and radical change."



REACHING OUT: Green Councillor Claire Miller wants to see the community involved in generating ideas for the development of public space at Picardy Place Gyratory

Space for improvement

Green Councillor Claire Miller is hosting a workshop at Picardy Place focussed on how to reclaim public space.

As work nears completion on the new road layout at Picardy Place, Claire is working with local businesses, residents and stakeholders, such as St Mary's Cathedral, to generate ideas for the future use of the public realm. It is hoped that the ideas will help shape an improved environment that will benefit everyone.

She said - "I'm looking forward to helping local people develop their ideas. I know that nobody wants an empty space left in the middle of the junction, so I'm going to invite everyone along to discuss our options and to then create a community response."

If you would like to be involved, contact Claire for an invitation.

TAKE ACTION – contact Claire: c.miller@edinburgh.gov.uk

Contact your local Greens



Your Green councillor: Claire Miller | @CllrCMiller | c.miller@edinburgh.gov.uk | 0131 529 4396 | The City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ

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