GREEN NEWS

City Centre

OLD TOWN, DUMBIEDYKES, HOLYROOD

SCOTTISH GREENS

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.

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

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."

Council says "no" to holiday flats

Edinburgh Council has refused planning permission for a number of holiday flats in the city centre, following pressure from Green councillors.

The 'Homes First' campaign, started by Green MSP Andy Wightman, called on the Scottish Government and the council to act on the holiday flats problem.

Local Green Councillor Claire Miller has argued for the council to use all the existing controls it can and has pushed for the creation of a team to investigate holiday flats suspected of operating without permission.

Claire said more needs to be done to turn these holiday homes back into real homes, but Greens welcome this step in the right direction. She added –

"I want to see a larger team in the council, big enough to contact all the owners of the thousands of holiday flats in Edinburgh. We have a housing crisis in the city so the council must act now and urgently turn holiday flats back into homes."

Rubbish bins need overhaul

Local concerns about inadequate bin collections and street cleaning have led Green Councillor Claire Miller to call for better quality bins and more city centre recycling services

Greens welcome new bus service for Dumbiedykes

A regular, reliable, all-day bus linking Dumbiedykes and the Old Town with the Southside and the rest of the city looks set to begin, to the delight of local residents.

Green councillor Claire Miller has been supporting the residents of Dumbiedykes and the Old Town in their call for better public transport links for some time.

Claire said – "I welcome the recent proposals from the council for a 'hopper' bus, responding to my repeated calls for a better bus service for this neighbourhood. The current service just isn't good enough. We have to ensure that good quality bus services are provided, especially in areas where there are many older and disabled residents."

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

Your Green MSPs: Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman | @AlisonJohnstone | alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk | @andywightman | andy.wightman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk | 0131 348 5000 | The Scottish Parliament, The Royal Mile, EH99 1SP

Edinburgh City Centre Greens: @EdinCityGreens | edin.city.centre@scottishgreens.org.uk
Edinburgh Greens: @EdinburghGreens | facebook.com/EdinburghGreens | edinburghgreens.org.uk

SCOTTISH GREENS