

GREEN NEWS

SPRING
2017



City Centre

NEW TOWN - WEST END - TOLLGROSS - OLD TOWN -
DUMBIEDYKES - BROUGHTON

Green MSP backs Miller



**LOTHIAN GREEN MSP ANDY WIGHTMAN IS FIRMLY BEHIND
CLAIRE MILLER'S BID FOR ELECTION AS GREEN COUNCILLOR
FOR CITY CENTRE**

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Green candidate Claire Miller is pleased with support from local people and hopeful of winning a seat to represent them in the Council.

"I've been out talking to residents on the doorstep. Like me, they love living in Edinburgh's city centre, but they have also told me about problems with bins and recycling, tensions between residents and some businesses, parking pressures and party flats. I am already working to improve neighbourhoods in the city centre and hope to continue if I am elected to the Council in May."

The current group of Green councillors have a strong record over the last 10 years and have set out clear plans for Edinburgh's future including jobs in green energy and technology, integrated

transport plans, an increased focus on walking and cycling in the city, and investment in essential public services such as schools. On 4th May, Greens hope to double their number of councillors and deliver on these plans.

Green MSP Andy Wightman said: "Edinburgh is a great city but we should be making it better for all its residents. Green councillors have fought for green jobs, investment in schools, safer roads and the best for our green spaces. We need candidates like Claire to join them to stand up for Edinburgh and our future."

Only Greens can be trusted on city green space claim



The future of the city green belt and green spaces hangs in the balance according to Green councillors.

Last year, the council passed the controversial Local Development Plan (LDP), allowing development schemes expanding the city to the south and west. This will eat into the green belt, increase traffic and undermine regeneration plans. Green councillor Melanie Main blasted

other parties' hypocrisy over green spaces: "By backing the LDP, Labour and SNP credibility is in tatters. Tory councillors say they oppose the LDP but have sided with developers on individual planning decisions. Lib Dem councillors did not even bother to take up a

place on Planning Committee. We need an LDP which puts re-use of empty homes and brownfield sites first, reducing the need to travel by providing homes, shops and services near each other. If you want a city which protects its precious green spaces, the Greens are the only councillors you can trust."

Green councillor Melanie Main: "Re-use empty homes and brownfield sites first."

Let's get bins right

Green councillors have outlined a programme of improvements for the city's waste services, saying that residents need to see real change quickly.

In the past year, residents have made frequent complaints about missed collections and overflowing communal bins. Green environment spokesperson Chas Booth said: "While the Tories carped from the sidelines I met senior officers and trade unions about steps to reduce complaints.

"Doing the right thing for the environment will actually ease pressure on the service. So reducing waste, cutting packaging and looking for long-lasting products is a win-win. We need investment in route technology, smart bins and staff training as well as rapid action when problems arise."



Green councillor Chas Booth discusses bin collections with council waste manager Keith Martin

Homes not office blocks argue Greens

A shortage of affordable homes is holding the city economy back.

That was a major message from the recent "City Vision" project launch. It has also dominated discussion about the City Region Deal, in which Edinburgh is vying for over £1 billion of government investment.

Green councillor Gavin Corbett has slammed developers who lobby for more office space. At the council's Economy Committee, Cllr Corbett, the Green Economy spokesperson, argued that there was more than enough to last well into the future.

Green MSP Andy Wightman added: "To bow to demands for more office blocks puts them before affordable



MSP Andy Wightman: "Development today must fit future working patterns."

homes or space for small businesses. Over the next 10-20 years working patterns will change dramatically. The idea of thousands of people all driving into the city to sit at an office desk will be wildly out of date."

Action on pavement parking

City Centre Green candidate Claire Miller: "I have asked our Green MSPs to call for the (Footway Parking) Bill to be considered in the Scottish Parliament. If I am elected to the Council, I will press for proper enforcement action within Edinburgh against selfish pavement parkers."

Pavement parking causes nuisance, often creates danger, and costs us all money in extra repairs to damaged pavements.

A vehicle parked on a pavement will restrict or prevent access by blocking the way or by covering a dropped kerb. Older people and parents with pushchairs are most at risk, being forced out on to the street and into danger in order to get past. Long term damage is often caused to pavements, which aren't designed to support vehicles. This causes trip hazards, and the cost of repairs falls on Council Tax payers. The heavier the vehicle, the more damage.

We have to tackle this problem, say Greens. Scotland now has the power to pass laws dealing with this. Last year, the "Footway Parking and Double Parking (Scotland) Bill" was drawn up. Greens say that proper enforcement of the bill once it is passed could ensure that parking attendants are required to deal with vehicles causing an obstruction, and empowered to involve the police where parked vehicles cause danger.

Let St Andrew Square recover say Greens

City Centre Greens are concerned about intensive use of St Andrews Square for special events.

Green candidate for the ward, Claire Miller, said: "St Andrew Square has been used for events throughout the year since it was opened to the public. Some of these events are great and local residents enjoy them, along with visitors. However, we have become increasingly concerned about what has become over-use of the park as an events space, because it prevents people from regularly using it as a general green space for leisure, and also because of noticeable damage to the grass and trees.

"In the last year, for example, the grass was



'Green candidate Claire Miller: "Fewer and shorter events in St. Andrew Square will let grass and trees grow back in between them."

fenced off for re-seeding after the Fringe but still hadn't recovered and was still fenced off when the winter festival events were being set up in November. Between the events there was no usable lawn.

"Essential Edinburgh commissioned a survey by the Potter Tree Consultancy which has found worrying soil compaction due to

heavier foot fall during events, and vehicle traffic from setting up, taking down and servicing these special events.

"We would prefer to see fewer and shorter events in St Andrew Square so that the garden can be used by everyone during the whole year, and so that the trees and grass can be at their best for them when they do."

Online letting concerns

Greens are pressing Edinburgh Council to act on problems from increased use of sharing-economy accommodation rental websites and apps, such as Airbnb.

Green Councillors have called for a report on their impact on public finances, housing availability and management of community facilities.

Misuse - such as the letting of entire properties - is causing many residents concern over community cohesion and disturbance. Green candidate Claire Miller said: "City Centre residents deserve Councillors who work to ensure their communities are neighbourly, not transient, and bring balance back to communities."

Green candidate pledges to improve care system



Green candidate Claire Miller says that a lot more can be done to improve the experience of care, for both service users and carers.

Claire said: "Care jobs require compassion, common sense, confidence and autonomy, yet can be quite poorly paid and under-appreciated."

Local authorities lack budget to attract and retain enough carers to provide for all the clients who need the services. "If elected, I will fight for improvements to the care

system. We must provide a respected and well paid career for carers, appealing and rewarding enough to attract the numbers we need for our ageing population. I am delighted that my Green councillor colleagues proposed a 'Living Wage Plus' for care workers. This would attract more carers and reduce the high

staff turnover.

"I will continue to call out the effects of repeated budget cuts and fight for increases to public spending to fund these essential public services."

Read about Claire's first-hand experiences with the overloaded care system at bit.ly/2iXHBID



Contact your local Greens

Claire Miller is the Green candidate for City Centre

claire.miller@edinburghgreens.org.uk
Twitter: @clairehimiller

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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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.

Find out more

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