



Green Group of Councillors Report for March 2014

Here's the Green Councillors' Spring report. The big focus over the last month or so was the annual council budget with the Greens putting forward a wide-ranging package of capital and revenue proposal. In the event our [proposals](#) were the only ones accepted by the Administration.

In other news the Deputy Transport & Environment Convenor and Sustainability & Cycling champion has resigned the SNP group to sit as an independent - a poor reflection on the support for these issues within the Coalition. We hope his successor fares better!

Opening up Edinburgh

Steve Burgess [highlighted](#) the continuing battle for the Council to listen to residents' concerns.

Gavin Corbett worked with Craiglockhart Community Council to bring a petition on the state of [Redhall House](#) to Petitions Committee, with over 500 signatures



Supporting Communities & Neighbourhoods

Melanie Main [supported parents](#) in calling for existing green space to be protected after new nurseries were proposed in the grounds of two primary schools.

A successful year of active community engagement on the old Fountainbridge Brewery sites, was marked as Gavin Corbett [joined](#) dozens of members of the Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative for its AGM.

Creating Employment

At full council Nigel Bagshaw raised concerns about new arrangements for funding voluntary organisations, in particular the potential displacement of smaller local third-sector

organisations by larger national organisations, and his amendment to address the problem was accepted by the administration.

At Economy Committee Gavin Corbett's motion was also passed, on seeking to ensure that the council review any commercial relationship with payday lenders.

Transport

Chas Booth wrote an [opinion piece](#) for the Edinburgh Evening News on why Leith should feel some gain, having taken much of the pain of tram works

Gavin Corbett joined the parents and children at Craiglockhart Primary School for a special bike breakfast to mark the end of Big Pedal, where the school came first in the Capital and third in Scotland.



Energy

Steve Burgess [blogged](#) on Green councillors continuing to press the council to seize the potential to set up an Energy Services Company (ESCO) to generate renewable energy and revenue to invest in hard-pressed council services.

And in Green Councillor's wards...

In **Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart** Gavin Corbett teamed up with local residents to draw attention to neglected land at the [Corn Exchange](#).



In **Inverleith** Nigel Bagshaw has been supporting local people seeking to preserve St Stephen's church for community use, helping resolve conflicting plans for Warriston cemetery, and working closely with the group opposed to large-scale redevelopment of Raeburn Place.

In **Southside-Newington** Steve Burgess toured Southside Community Centre with the centre manager and pledged his support for exciting refurbishment plans that will see the centre modernised and made more accessible for local people. Steve also spoke at a planning hearing in support of residents opposed to a 200-bed student residence at Lutton Court which was refused on the grounds that over 50% of residents in the surrounding area are students.