

Edinburgh Green Councillors Group Branch Report October – November 2017

It's been a busy couple of months for Green councillors. Here are some highlights.

At the start of October the Green Councillors put the case for Edinburgh Rent Pressure zone and published a full report by Edinburgh Young Green Ben Parker. <http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/blog/rpz-report/>

When news broke that the Lloyds Banking Group intended to close the Museum on the Mound Cllr Alex Staniforth was quick off the mark to condemn the move and campaign successfully for a reversal.

<http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/news/museum-u-turn>

Within his Finance portfolio Cllr Gavin Corbett has been following up on his successful motion for Edinburgh to take part in a Basic Income trial with other councils, as explained in his blog.

<http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/blog/citizens-income/>

Cllr Steve Burgess has been working on reducing the City's contribution to climate-changing pollution – meeting with senior council officers about action in this vital area, and taking part in the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership's workshops on a Zero Carbon Edinburgh.

Cllr Claire Miller Voted to postpone the council's budget consultation for a week so that more information could be shared with members of the committee before making a decision, including proposed changes to the City of Edinburgh Music School <http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/news/music-school/>

With her Licencing portfolio work Mary Campbell has pushed for a new approach to setting the Licencing Board Statement of Policy, which will influence how alcohol is sold in Edinburgh for the next five years. She has called for public hearings so that interest groups like community councils and emergency services can contribute directly.

Cllr Melanie Main's secured agreement that all Health and Social services, from NHS hospital wards to community care providers, will be required to sign up to John's Campaign by 31 January 2018, to improve care for dementia sufferers, and give staff who already use these principles the recognition they deserve.

<http://johnscampaign.org.uk>

Cllr Chas Booth has been making the case for an electric transport revolution.

<http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/blog/electric-transport/>

In Green Wards

In **Portobello and Craigmillar** Cllr Mary Campbell has been working to support residents looking to influence the sale of Council land in Portobello. She has helped to set up a public meeting, and is working with ward colleagues on a Place Standard exercise so the community can feed in their desires for the area, to influence future planning applications.

In **City Centre** many residents & organisations in and around Lower Gilmore Place are concerned about proposed redevelopment of the whole block. Cllr Clair Miller has supported residents to get their planning comments submitted, is liaising with local charity the Pregnancy and Parenting Centre and a Kung Fu school both located there,

In **Southside/Newington** ward the team has been getting good feedback on the articles in our autumn Green News, including commuter parking in residential areas. They also held a campaign stall – their survey found a majority of residents are in favour of a Rent Pressure Zone and will be holding a 'Homes First' short-term lets campaign stall on Sat 2nd December on Nicolson Street.

In **Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart** Cllr Gavin Corbett has been working with a parking action group in Shandon to improve parking pressures and safety. A 300-strong petition was heard by Transport Committee in October, with agreement that officers will now work up detailed options for tackling the problem.

In **Morningside**, Cllr Melanie Main, has worked successfully with the local food bank to set up a local donating group who receive a weekly email with list of what stock is needed. The rights of way campaign at the Bank of Scotland, Holy Corner the Local Team has gathered over 60 individual pieces of evidence which is now being 'assessed' Council's Access Officer.