



Edinburgh Green Councillors Group, Report for June 2018

Susan Rae has been working on the upcoming development at Stead's Place/Leith Walk, supporting what has become an excellent community led campaign to try to retain the red sandstone frontage and small businesses and influence the development of housing, student accommodation, a hotel and retail units.

Gavin Corbett has weighed into the ongoing hotels v homes debate within the city <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/letters-fountainbridge-doesn-t-need-yet-another-hotel-1-4752613>

Steve Burgess has been challenging the council's capacity to pursue environmental sustainability, raising the issue during Leaders' question time and then meeting with the council leader and senior officers. The result was a report on 'Sustainability' to the June full council meeting which agreed that an audit with recommendations will be carried out by the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.

Chas Booth argued strongly for investment in our current road and active travel infrastructure. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/opinion/chas-booth-fix-our-roads-before-building-new-ones-1-4758326>

It was a busy month for Education Committee with key decisions to be made on future school buildings and potential school mergers. **Mary Campbell** worked with opposition parties to push for the option that kept local schools in their communities. <https://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/blog/our-future-schools-crunch-time/>

Alex Staniforth had a motion passed at full council delaying the extra costs to sports clubs to hire PPP school facilities in order to ensure they can continue to operate despite the new costs. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/rise-in-school-sports-hall-charges-to-be-postponed-1-4760951>

In Housing & Economy Committee, **Claire Miller** spoke to explain why the Greens would support the Economy Strategy – although a Green economy strategy would be a radically different one, the Housing & Economy Convenor has listened and taken on board many of our suggestions, and as a result it is a much greener economy strategy.

In Green Wards

Claire Miller met with **City Centre** residents and cycling infrastructure experts at Glengyle Terrace, just off Bruntsfield Links, to have a look at ways to make it safer. Currently it's a one way street but we need to find a way to allow cyclists to travel the other way safely. Looking at it on site made it clear to everyone that there wasn't an easy way to do this, so it's going to be included in the Meadows-Canal link project.

In **Craigtinny/Duddingston** Alex Staniforth worked with Save Meadowbank to try to save the Wheatley Elms on the Meadowbank site.

In **Southside/Newington**, South East Edinburgh Green team have delivered a Spring newsletter to all households in the Ward. Green stalls were also held at the Meadows festival and Inch park.

Although Redford Barracks are just outside his **Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart** ward, Gavin Corbett has been setting out his thoughts on how planned withdrawal by the MOD in 2022 could be a major opportunity for the wider area

<https://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/blog/redford-barracks/>

Susan Rae met with members of the Environment team to look at the serious issues with bins and fly tipping in **Leith Walk**, and through local groups., I.e., Abbeyhill Residents, and constituents who have shown a keen interest, hope to have their representation on a forthcoming team who will look at a new pilot scheme for the Leith Walk area for all types of bins and recycling collections. Parking is also a problem and she has supported both Abbeyhill and Leith Central Community Council with deputations to the Transport committee and in lobbying for controlled parking and better enforcement.

Locally, Melanie Main has seen a long term piece of work pay off, with Muriel Spark being used as the name inspiration for steps and a pathway in **Bruntsfield**.

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/edinburgh-steps-and-pathway-named-in-honour-of-muriel-spark-1-4748875>

In **Portobello/Craigmillar**, Mary Campbell has been supporting Castlebrae High School with their deputation to the Education Committee which laid out their clear case for a new build school, a key part of the regeneration of Craigmillar. She has also been working with council officers to get an AGM organised and advertised for Bingham Community Centre.