



Edinburgh Green Councillors' Report, March 2017

With about six weeks to go, the focus of the council and councillors is the Council election that will determine which Parties are responsible for delivering vital public services from schools, roads and recycling, to welfare advice and social work, and also which individual councillors are elected to represent the residents of each of the 17 wards. [Gavin Corbett has stressed](#) that Green councillors will contest the upcoming council elections with a track record of positive achievement, with a stack of ideas to improve council services and with a real appetite to work tirelessly on the local priorities which people want to focus on for the next five years.

Improving Public Participation - Opening up Edinburgh



[Melanie Main this month outlined](#) that there is much that Green councillors can do to put power over schools into parents' and pupils' hands.

[Gavin Corbett used question](#) time at March full Council to highlight the need for a step-change in the amount of the council spending that is decided by residents through participatory budgeting.

Supporting Communities & Neighbourhoods

In February Melanie Main and Steve Burgess pushed the special council meeting on [school building failures](#) to acknowledge the contribution of the PPP model towards the lack of construction oversight.

[Steve Burgess was reported](#) in the Evening News lamenting the rising number of evictions of council tenants in Edinburgh despite a background of high rents and savage welfare cuts. Steve followed up by [questioning the Council Leader](#) about rising rents and poor standards in the private sector.

[Chas Booth's proposal](#) that Edinburgh become an official 'City of Sanctuary' for refugees was unanimously agreed by the March full Council.



Cleaner, Greener Energy

Earlier in the month [Steve Burgess pointed to a Low Carbon](#) Cities conference in Edinburgh to highlight that "low carbon" is actually less about carbon than what works best for people and communities.

[Chas Booth told the Evening News](#) the Lothian Pension fund must divest from fossil fuels as a report showed £104m invested is contributing to pollution which is destroying wildlife and killing people.

Greener Jobs

[At full Council Melanie Main](#) asked what the council was doing to ensure Edinburgh Colleges would be training a workforce better equipped to build public infrastructure.

Highlights from Green Councillors' wards



In **Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart** Gavin Corbett secured commitments from major local retailers ASDA and Marks & Spencer to take part in the Clean, Green Hutchison campaign.

In **Southside-Newington**, the 'Skelf' bike park in Southside that Steve Burgess has been supporting is nearly complete with an [opening party](#) on Friday 31st March with live music, BBQ and bike competition