

## Edinburgh Green Councillors Group, Report for Branch meeting May 2018

At the South East Locality Committee, **Claire Miller** won support across all the political groups to investigate ways to create 'buffer zones' around clinics offering sexual health and pregnancy services, which would mean anti-abortion "vigils" couldn't take place outside clinics, ensuring a safe environment for patients and staff. [https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/344028/start\\_time/10286000](https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/344028/start_time/10286000)

**Mary Campbell** submitted a motion to full council to call for 'No Ball Game' signs to be removed from housing land, to help encourage the use of those spaces for physical activity.

**Alex Staniforth's** main focus continues to be on Meadowbank Stadium and working with Save Meadowbank to try and improve the proposals and the consultation regarding the stadium and the proposed housing and business use beside it.

**Steve Burgess** has been working with a student from Bristol University on a project investigating what can be done to reduce the impact of single-use coffee cups in Edinburgh. Steve also represented Green Councillors at the regular meeting of Scotland's Council Leaders at COSLA and at the board of Edinburgh Solar Co-operative where a new project is being explored.

**Gavin Corbett's** main focus has been on Union Canal matters, with meetings at Ratho Hub, with Scottish Waterways Trust and being kayak-based for the most recent canal clean up.

Melanie Main leader's questions at Council focussed on the recently reported foodbank figures showing steep rises in use in Edinburgh. You can see it here: [https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/293934/start\\_time/2909000](https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/293934/start_time/2909000) Melanie also continued her work with the Edinburgh Partnership looking at the future plans and structures for local community planning with EVOC, Police, Fire and the NHS.

### In Green Wards –

In the city centre ward, **Claire** has been working with council officers to improve the layout of the temporary cycle lanes on George Street during the summer festivals, looking for different ways to allow deliveries while maintaining the cycle lane, looking for ways to avoid potentially dangerous designs, and ensuring that any anti-terrorism infrastructure is positioned correctly.

At local level, **Steve** lead on a green motion to the Council's new South East Locality (SEL) meeting proposing Community Councils should be included in discussions at SEL meetings and receive committee papers in time for CCs to discuss in advance. Sadly this was blocked and kicked into the grass by a Tory counter motion – boo hiss.

In Bruntsfield, **Melanie's** local campaign with Morag Jones to have the path across former Bank of Scotland land declared a right of way celebrated success when the path was added to the national register held by Paths for All at the Council's request.

In local matters **Alex** has assisted Parsons Green Primary School to navigate council procurement in order to buy replacement stage curtains

In Portobello and Craigmillar ward, **Mary** has been volunteering her time to help with local groups events, like the Portobello Timebank coffee morning and the Community Growing Space Action Day.

In Fountainbridge Craiglockhart **Gavin** has been working with parents and councillors of other parties to ensure the repair of Oxfangs Primary School is fully sorted. Gavin has also been supporting and promoting successful community fundraising for local school student Kira Noble who has been battling neuroblastoma.