

Edinburgh Green Councillors Group Branch Report for January Branch meeting 2018

On the day of publication of the Scottish Government's draft Budget, Green Group Co-convenor Steve Burgess tackled the Council Leader on strengthening local authority powers to raise revenue including tourist tax, workplace parking levy and levels of council tax, see https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/293929/start_time/4644000

In Health & Social Care, Melanie Main has taken on Convenorship of primary care strategic oversight group for integrated Health services (that's local surgeries and community services) - a new long-term strategy is currently being developed. Melanie has also been supporting a campaign for access to Wi-Fi in school from high school Parent Councils and MYSPs.

With his Transport hat on, Chas Booth shadowed a parking attendant to get a better understanding of the practical challenges of parking enforcement in the city. He has tabled a number of questions to help the push for improved reaction to illegal and problem parking.

Under the Culture and Communities portfolio, Alex Staniforth drafted a proposal calling for a code of best practice for volunteers and volunteering to be applied to all future council procurement contracts.

Mary Campbell has been working with parent groups across the city, consulting on Council proposals for schools in the West and for GME education. At the December meeting of the Education, Children and Families committee she put forward amendments to improve information available to parents during consultation, to get a report about further improvements to school meals, and on introducing a senior school student as a committee representative.

As City Canal Champion, Gavin Corbett has been busy with a programme of meetings with canal partners, reviewing how the various canal bodies work and kickstarting a stocktake of the canal strategy.

Claire Miller put forward a motion for Pensions Committee to begin webcasting the meetings - although she wasn't able to get this agreed by the other Parties, she is still keen to work on increasing transparency of public committee meetings and will be looking again at how best to achieve this.

In Green Wards –

In Craighentiny & Duddingston, Alex Staniforth has moved ahead with the project to get a water supply for Northfield Allotments including a meeting with allotment users.

In Leith and Leith Walk, Susan Rae and Chas Booth have been supporting the 'Leith Chooses' process, which aims to distribute more than £100,000 through a "participatory budgeting" event on 3 March.

In Morningside, Mel has held local resident meetings about Road Safety and street parking and started a residents' campaign to raise £20,000 to replant trees in Newbattle Terrace as part of a streetscape and road renewal programme. The local Team completed delivery of autumn newsletter and is holding a fundraising Burns Supper on Saturday 27th January 6 for 6.30pm tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3200526>

In Portobello & Craigmillar Cllr Mary Campbell has been working with officers to improve key litter trouble spots. She has also attended a training session at St John's Primary organised by Children's Parliament, where children trained as community ambassadors to teach adults about children's rights.

In Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart, Gavin Corbett has been in clean-up mode, leading community events in Harrison Park and Shandon Railway Path, with events looming on the canal towpath and in Hutchison. He also worked with residents to get a dangerous junction crossing taken to Transport Committee and changes approved.

In City Centre ward, Claire Miller kicked off the Central Edinburgh Development Working Group which had its first meeting and started off work looking at the issues that need to be covered – such as active travel, air quality, access to housing, tourism impacts, and festival impacts

In Southside-Newington ward South East Green team held a 'Homes First' short-term lets campaign stall with Green MSP Andy Wightman – there was good support for the campaign and tackling the impact of short-term lets on the housing supply.