

Report

Proposer: South Edinburgh Greens (decided on: 06/13/2023)

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Report

1 Introduction

2 SEG is a sub-branch formed of two wards in the south of Edinburgh stretching
3 from Bruntsfield Links to the Pentlands. Morningside has c.200 members and
4 Colinton/Fairmilehead c.50.

5 Morningside has had a Green councillor since 2007 (Alison Johnstone 2007-12,
6 Melanie Main 2012-22, Ben Parker 2022-).

7 <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2657>

8 Morningside has four councillors in total (currently Green, Labour, Lib Dem,
9 Conservative). Colinton/Fairmilehead has three (currently Labour, SNP,
10 Conservative).

11 Colinton/Fairmilehead has never been a target ward, although we do stand
12 candidates there (Helen McCabe in 2022).

13 SEG Activity 2022- 23

14 Maintaining SEG after the 2022 election campaign

15 The first SEG AGM was held on Thursday 9th June 2022 at the Eric Liddell Centre.
16 This was a hybrid meeting. Helen McCabe and Ellie Levontine were elected as Co-
17 convenors. Emma Willson was elected Vice-convenor.

18 In addition to the three 'office bearers' (as required by the standing orders),
19 we planned to have a small group of members who were prepared to be additional
20 'Organisers'. Together they would form an active team who could support each
21 other to run SEG, and support our councillor.

22 Emma and Helen swapped roles in September 2022. Aideen McNestry joined us as an
23 Organiser, and Susan Logie continued to coordinate Green News in large parts of
24 Morningside as in previous years.

25 **Green News in Morningside**

26 In conjunction with Ben we produced and delivered two editions of Green News.

27 Autumn/Winter 2022: 6000

28 Spring 2023: 6000

29 We decided to establish a target area which we would deliver to consistently
30 this year and in the future. The Greenest polling districts were chosen - ie
31 those where we came first or second in the 2022 elections. (If we were to
32 increase our delivery capacity then we might be able to extend this area in the
33 future).

34 We had a limited number of delivery volunteers with a few people doing a large
35 amount.

36 We held four Green News Action Days in conjunction with East Lothian Greens. The
37 students helped us deliver to the tenements of Marchmont which was a great help.
38 We hope this will become a regular thing.

39 **Communication with SEG members**

40 Aideen checked the Forest database for new members and emailed them a welcome
41 letter designed by Steve West.

42 Emma monitored the SEG Inbox and replied to emails.

43 Emma sent out updates to members (via Forest) and provided SEG content to the
44 branch newsletter where possible.

45 We continued with the WhatsApp group. We have around 20 members signed up at any
46 one time.

47 **SEG Monthly Meetings**

48 All our SEG meetings were in person this year. Due to an ongoing problem of
49 finding a suitable venue in Morningside - that is accessible, interesting and
50 affordable - we initially held monthly get togethers at the Cameo Bar in
51 Tollcross. From December it was decided to hold four meetings a year at the Eric
52 Liddell Community Hub instead. Cllr Ben Parker attended all these meetings.

53 **Liaison with the Branch 2021-22**

54 Aideen, Ellie and Emma all acted as SEG reps on the branch committee during the
55 year, attending branch meetings and following activity on Slack. Emma was also a
56 Policy Officer on the branch committee. Aideen attended Local Teams and
57 Membership working group meetings - and volunteered to send welcome letters for
58 local teams without the capacity to do so.

59 We held one Green Walk for the branch (March 2023) and some of our members
60 helped organise and/or attended those run around the rest of the city.

61 **Cross team activity**

62 • SEG and SEEG ran a stall on the Meadows in Summer 2022 and held a joint
63 meeting in March 2023.

64 • SEG invited the Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart team to their December
65 social.

66 • We helped initiate a get together of local team organisers at The Crannie
67 in Spring 2023.

68 **Community activity**

69 One or two members attended some community council meetings and engaged with
70 other groups such as Living Streets and Marchmont Neighbours.

71 **Membership**

72 Diversity: it seemed that a slightly wider cross section of society was
73 represented at meetings than in previous years, although there is still a lot of
74 work to do.

75 Membership numbers remained roughly the same.

- 76 • June 2021: 242 (198/44)
- 77 • June 2022: 257 (207/50)
- 78 • June 2023: 252 (203/49)

79 **Finances**

80 SEG did not have a budget (or a Treasurer) for 2022-23. We decided to keep
81 things simple and either ask the branch for reimbursement, or ask suppliers to
82 invoice the branch directly. Members contributed to refreshments at meetings. We
83 received funds from the branch for:

- 84 • Eric Liddell Centre meeting room

85 (3 sessions @ £52.00, 1 session @£72.50)

- 86 • Refreshments for Young Greens Action Day £34.00
- 87 • Elastic bands for Green News £10.00

88 Total = £272.50

89 **2023-24**

90 **New team**

91 The second SEG AGM was held on Thursday 8th June 2023 at the Eric Liddell

92 Centre. There were 5 people in attendance and Aideen McNestry was elected as co-
93 ordinator for 2023-24. Cllr Ben Parker gave an update of his year as a
94 Councillor and the group discussed future campaigning, including thoughts about
95 the upcoming General Election.

96 **Future plans**

97 There was a smaller than average turnout at our AGM and members at the meeting
98 considered what more could be done next year to encourage people to get involved
99 whilst also being realistic about what could be achieved. It was agreed that we
100 would try to resource monthly meetings - budget / venue dependent - and also
101 review our approach to Green News delivery as 6000 has been a difficult number
102 to get out this past year. We also discussed how greater integration with the
103 wider branch might help us to galvanise more members, and we discussed a need to
104 receive support from the branch to upskill new coordinators on how to send mail
105 outs using Forest, as well as other tips / tricks of how to be an effective
106 local organising team.