

Report

Proposer: Leith Leith Walk Greens (decided on: 09/14/2020)

Title: Report: Leith & Leith Walk Greens

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1 Leith and Leith Walk Greens

2 Report to Edinburgh Branch September 2020 AGM

3 By Fraser May and Jenny Smith (outgoing co-convenors)

4 Meetings

5 The Leith and Leith Walk sub-branch have continued to meet monthly, initially at
6 the Kirkgate before moving online from April 2020.

7 The 2020 sub-branch AGM was held online on 13/08/2020, attended by eleven
8 members. At the AGM it was confirmed that Kate Joester and Mariusz Cebulski
9 would share the role of convenors, with Mariusz acting as membership secretary.
10 It was agreed that Maggie Holland would act as the liaison to the Edinburgh
11 branch.

12 Finances and Membership

13 Finance

14 The sub-branch main expenditure has been room hire at the Kirkgate for meetings,
15 over this year this has been paid directly by the branch. The only other
16 expenditure this year has been the hire of a stall at the Eco Fair (£30) which

was covered by donations on the day.

Membership Update

July 2019 – 303

April to May 2020 – between 295 and 305

August 2020 – 278

Elections

General Election

Members from across the sub-branch supported the December 2019 Westminster General election campaign, with activity primarily focussed on the neighbouring Target to Win wards of Forth and Inverleith. The campaign activity included material delivery but was largely targeted on canvassing.

Within the wards the sub-branch also coordinated A-Boards and had members being visible outside polling day.

Other activities

- Leith Gala Day Until the cancellation due to Covid, the sub-branch had planned to host a stall at the 2020 Leith Gala day.
- Leith Chooses A number of sub-branch members volunteered at the February 2020 edition of Leith Chooses, with 950 attendees from across the community attending on the day.
- Eco Fair In November 2019 the sub-branch hosted a stall at the eco fair at Out of the Blue. The general feedback from the public was extremely positive with good support from Pete at the national office in provision of materials for the stall.

Councillor Update

As the second part of the year was dominated by the Covid lockdown, it meant that the council stopped working normally, with things like advice surgeries and

meetings cancelled. The planning committee restarted a couple of months into the lockdown and two full council meetings have now been held online.

The planning committee have been working on the city development plan, looking at making the city more for people rather than for cars.

As Edinburgh is twinned with Krakow in Poland the council is working with allies there to show support for the LGBT community there to demonstrate that LGBT-free zones are unacceptable.

Leith chooses has continued to meet and are looking at an alternative methodology for not being able to have a big event in 2021.

Since the 2019 sub-branch AGM the Save Leith Walk campaign successfully achieved their main aim, with the developer resubmitting plans including space for housing and social enterprises rather than the student flats. The campaign had hoped to achieve a community buy-out, however was told that there was a lack of funding available.

Plans for the upcoming year

- Continue to meet monthly (either online, in person or a hybrid)
- Support the 2021 Holyrood campaign and build capacity for electing Green councillors in both wards in 2022
- Host a stall at Leith Gala Day in 2021

For any further details please contact leith.leithwalk@scottishgreens.org.uk