

Report

Proposer: Edinburgh Branch Committee (decided on: 06/20/2021)

Title: Branch Committee - Annual Report

Report

1 **Edinburgh Branch committee report**

2 *Annual Report 2021 (September 2020 to June 2021)*

3 It's been a busy 10 months for the Branch Committee. We've focused our efforts
4 on the Holyrood 2021 campaign and keeping the branch activities going despite
5 ongoing covid-19 restrictions. We would like to extend our massive thanks to
6 everyone who has been involved with the branch over the past year, particularly
7 during such difficult times.

8 We have changed the time of our AGMs to fall in line with when other branches
9 across the country have their AGMs, this report covers 10 months from September
10 2020 - June 2021.

11 **Holyrood Election 2021**

12 The biggest area of work for the Edinburgh Branch Committee over the past 9
13 months has been our Holyrood 2021 election campaign!

14 Despite uncertainty and restricted campaigning because of Covid-19 lockdown and
15 social distancing measures we had a record campaign in Lothian with returning
16 MSP Alison Johnstone and party co-leader Lorna Slater, both elected as regional
17 MSPs. The 50,000 regional votes cast for the Greens is by far the highest-ever
18 and the 12.7% vote share surpasses the 12.0% secured in 2003 to make it the
19 biggest Green vote ever in Scotland. Alison Johnstone has since gone on to be

20 elected as the first ever Green Presiding Officer at the Scottish Parliament.

21 As part of our campaign, volunteers across Edinburgh and West Lothian made more
22 than 200,000 deliveries of Holyrood election materials, and fundraised tens of
23 thousands of pounds. We saw the number of impressions of the branch Twitter
24 account rise by an average of 500% in the final 3 months of the campaign, and
25 hit a 4 year high for membership figures across Edinburgh and West Lothian.

26 We have also put in a large amount of effort to complete a thorough debrief and
27 review process, including writing handover and “lessons learned” document for
28 future elections, based on feedback from members, local teams, staff members,
29 candidates and the campaign board team.

30 We’d like to thank all of our volunteers for the amazing work that they did
31 during this Holyrood election campaign. It was a phenomenal effort with an
32 amazing result.

33 **By-elections and preparations for 2022 local elections**

34 In the past nine months we also contested two local authority by-elections. Our
35 first election was the Craigentiny & Duddingston by-election in Nov 2020- the
36 local team worked incredibly hard and secured a great result for Scottish
37 Greens, increasing our vote share by 4.1% and only 20 votes off Scottish
38 Labour’s result. Our second by-election was in West Lothian in Livingston South
39 constituency, our candidate here was Cameron Glasgow and we won 2.4% of the
40 total vote.

41 At our 2020 AGM we selected 16 candidates for Edinburgh Council elections in
42 2022. Over the past year, the 12 target candidates have been supported with a
43 Target Candidate Development Programme, which is designed to give target
44 candidates the knowledge, skills and tools to run local campaigns and be a good
45 councillor once elected.

46 **Branch events, meetings and trainings**

47 All of our events continue to be online due to covid restrictions this year. Our
48 events included:

- 49 • Big Burns Night In (BBNI) - organised by South East Edinburgh Greens sub-
50 branch. BBNI was held at the end of January 2021. It was a Burns night
51 celebration complete with music, poetry and speeches, a piping in and

52 toasting of the haggis, a prize draw raffle, even a ceilidh room. In total
53 over 144 households attended, and we raised £3,400 for the Holyrood
54 campaign. See videos here

- 55 • Also in January, we held a new members event, attended by more than 50
56 members, which was an opportunity for new members to meet representatives
57 from their local teams or representative groups, find out more about
58 Edinburgh Branch and how to get involved in the Holyrood election.

- 59 • In Feb 2021, we worked with Rainbow Greens to hold a session on the Green
60 Party's policy on trans-rights, what it means in practice and how we are
61 campaigning for trans-rights to be recognised in Scotland.

- 62 • As part of the Holyrood election campaign we held two topical branch
63 meetings on key policy areas in our 2021 manifesto - one on rewilding the
64 city with Alison Johnstone and Nadine Andrews, and one on warm homes for
65 everyone with Ben Parker, Kate Nevens and Mridul Wadhwa. In addition we
66 hosted a fabulous launch event with our top three candidates Alison
67 Johnstone, Lorna Slater and Kate Nevans and our co-leader Patrick Harvie.

68 **Membership and local teams**

69 As of June 2021 the number of SGP members in Edinburgh was 1,678 and 126 in West
70 Lothian. At the beginning of last year we saw a small drop off in numbers, this
71 has largely been attributed to people moving out of Edinburgh and some glitches
72 with the central system, something many local team members discovered when
73 contacting volunteers for the Holyrood election campaign. During our active
74 Holyrood campaign months our membership steadily grew month on month, taking it
75 to the record four year high reported above.

76 The membership and local teams working group led the In-Real-Life (IRL) part of
77 the Holyrood campaign. A key part of this was producing a number of briefings
78 ranging from our target to win election strategy to how to use Bulk SMS to send
79 text to members of local teams. A number of phone banking sessions were also
80 arranged to help find and match volunteers to local teams.

81 In addition to the Holyrood campaign, the local team officer helped support the
82 creation of West Edinburgh Greens - a new local team, and began working with
83 them on how they can be better plugged into Edinburgh Branch's work.

84 **Communications**

85 In Autumn 2020, we launched a brand new and beautiful Edinburgh branch website.
86 One Hundred thanks to Alison Neathey, for its creation and keeping it up to
87 date. Alison also led the coordination for the content for our two Green News
88 editions in winter and spring 2021.

89 Our policy officers Yasmin and Tristan have worked with our elected councillors
90 and MSPs to submit and share monthly reports on their work with Edinburgh Branch
91 members. Thank you Yasmin and Tristan.

92 Our communication co-convenor, Harriet Hall, has worked tirelessly to produce
93 regular, monthly Edinburgh Branch email updates to members. Harriet has also
94 helped to increase our social media use across all of our platforms (Twitter,
95 Facebook and Instagram) to communicate events, opportunities, and election
96 messages to members, voters and the local community - including coordinating our
97 multilingual get out the vote videos, see here. Big thank you to Harriet.

98 Gavin Corbett has continued to support elected members and the Branch to
99 generate local media coverage of Green Party impact and policy, including
100 regular Councillor columns in the Edinburgh Evening News.

101 The talents of photographers, website designers, editors, graphic and video
102 makers in supporting the development of our communications content have been
103 much appreciated throughout the year. Special thanks to Gordon Craig for his
104 rapid editing of videos, particularly through the Holyrood campaign and to Jenny
105 Smith for all her support with Branch social media content.

106 **Other committee business**

107 Other areas of committee business in the past ten months have included:

- 108 • Establishing an Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group
- 109 • Ensuring our activities were COVID-safe and online meetings were held at
110 times more accessible to those with caring responsibilities
- 111 • Ensuring timely communications with branch members around the resignation
112 of Andy Wightman MSP in December 2020 and the resignation of Alison
113 Johnstone MSP upon her election as Presiding Officer in May 2021.
- 114 • Representing the Edinburgh Branch at all National Council meetings

- 115
- 116
- 117
- Sharing information, documents and advice with other SGP branches to support them with their activities, including on our AGM processes and debrief from the Holyrood campaign

Report

Proposer: Becky Luff, Treasurer (decided on: 06/20/2021)

Title: Treasurer - Annual Report

Report

1 EGP Treasurer's Report for AGM - June 2021

2 The Edinburgh branch finances continue to be in a healthy position, despite it
3 being an expensive Holyrood election year. This is due to the generosity of our
4 branch members – both with one-off donations for election campaigning and
5 ongoing branch regular giving. The following report gives a little more detail
6 about the branch finances. If you would like further information on anything
7 raised in this report, please email questions to
8 treasurer.edin@scottishgreenparty.org.uk.

9 Holyrood

10 The finances for the Holyrood Lothian campaign were recorded on a separate
11 budget to the main branch budget. The most significant part of the expenditure
12 was our £30000 contribution to the National campaign. In order to cover this
13 contribution, we managed to raise £22500 (plus an additional £7600 in lead
14 candidate crowd funders, which went directly to the national campaign). Although
15 we were required to use some of our reserves to cover the approx. £8000
16 difference between the amount fundraised and the amount spent, this was less
17 than the £10,000 we had predicted we would use.

18 Special thanks must go to South East Edinburgh Greens for their fantastic Big
19 Burns Night In fundraiser, Alys Mumford and Gavin Corbett for their incredible
20 fundraising efforts, as well as to every member who donated.

21 **Ongoing impact of Covid-19 and general finances**

22 With the ongoing impact of Covid-19, branch activity (outwith Holyrood
23 campaigning) has continued to take place online rather than in person, meaning a
24 reduction in room hire and subsidiary costs. However, it has also meant less
25 opportunity for in-person fundraising events. As we look ahead with cautious
26 optimism for continued easing of restrictions, we hope to see more in-person
27 activity take place later in the year.

28 The overall effect of Covid-19 on the 2020 finances meant a greater decrease in
29 spending than the decrease in income. This meant that, when discounting Holyrood
30 spending, instead of having a deficit as predicted in the 2020 budget, the
31 branch ended the year with a small surplus.

32 In the first half of 2021, there has been very little branch expenditure
33 (outwith the Holyrood campaign). As such a larger proportion of expenditure in
34 the budget has been allocated to the second half of 2021. Provided that we
35 receive roughly what we expect in branch capitations at some point before
36 December 2021 (more info below), the projection is that, leaving aside the
37 election- related income and spending, we will have a small branch budget
38 surplus at the end of 2021.

39 **National Capitations**

40 Following the recommendations from the SGP Capitations Working Group, the SGP
41 National Council agreed to bring in the new Capitations model from June 2021.
42 The previous Capitations model set the branch capitations figure at 25% of their
43 branch members' fees. The new Capitations model brings in a hybrid of a fixed
44 amount for each branch with a smaller % of branch members' fees to act as a top
45 up for larger branches. The intention was to reduce the difference in
46 capitations given to larger and smaller branches. Capitations will begin
47 accruing from June 2021, but we are waiting to find out when the first payment
48 will be made. The decision on this should be made at September's

49 National Council meeting. Once Edinburgh branch has received a schedule for
50 receiving national capitations, a schedule for sub-branch capitations will also
51 be finalized.

52 **Branch standing orders**

53 As always, a massive thanks to everyone who has a standing order to the
54 Edinburgh branch bank account – this remains the primary means with which branch

55 activities can be guaranteed. If you are in a position to give a regular amount
56 to the branch each month, please complete this form -
57 [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rv5_V7HhM76l6me-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rv5_V7HhM76l6me-CfC4G31tF2sUb33jp2KSBLjHflc/viewform?edit_requested=true)
58 [CfC4G31tF2sUb33jp2KSBLjHflc/viewform?edit_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Rv5_V7HhM76l6me-CfC4G31tF2sUb33jp2KSBLjHflc/viewform?edit_requested=true) (or email
59 treasurer.edin@scottishgreens.org.uk) and the Edinburgh Branch Treasurer will be
60 in touch to discuss how to set one up.

61 **Looking ahead**

62 At September's AGM, as a committee we brought a motion to ensure that we retain
63 a level of reserves in the bank account to ensure ongoing running costs of the
64 branch. At this year's AGM we have introduced an amendment to give additional
65 detail about who holds the decision-making power over when reserves may be
66 spent.

67 Over the coming 10 months, we will be devoting our fundraising efforts to
68 support the 2022 Edinburgh Council election campaign, as well as investing in
69 capacity building for our local teams.

70 **Bank Reconciliation (2020)**

71 Bank account on 1 Jan 2020 £30,730.65

72 Total receipts in 2020 (branch only) £5722.15

73 Total receipts in 2020 (incl elections) £10,905.32

74 Total payments in 2020 (branch only) £4978.24

75 Total payments in 2020 (incl elections) £12,048.86

76 Bank account on 31 Dec 2020 £29,587.11

77 **Bank Reconciliation (1 Jan - 19 June 2021)**

78 Bank account on 1 Jan 2021 £29,587.11

79 Total receipts 1 Jan - 19 June 2021 (branch only) £2321.96

80 Total receipts 1 Jan - 19 June 2021 (incl. elections) £21,046.23

81 Total payments 1 Jan - 19 June 2021 (branch only) £1262.81

82 Total payments 1 Jan - 19 June 2021 (incl. elections) £25,099.77

83 Bank account on 19 June 2021 £25,533.57

84 ***Becky Luff, Edinburgh Branch Treasurer (20th June 2021)***

Report

Proposer: Lothian MSPs (decided on: 06/20/2021)

Title: MSP Group - Annual Report

Report

1 Annual Report (Lothian MSPs)

2 *****This report has been compiled by the branch Co-Convenors, Ben Parker and Kate***
3 ***Nevens*****

4 The Lothian MSP team has changed over the past year following the resignation of
5 Andy Wightman in December 2020, the election of Alison Johnstone MSP as
6 Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament in May 2021 and the election of
7 Lorna Slater MSP in May 2021. As a result, this report has been compiled from
8 the monthly reports MSPs submitted over the year, and a latest report from Lorna
9 Slater MSP after her first month in office. Full reports from our MSP and
10 Councillor group can be read on the branch website:

11 <https://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/msp-and-councillor-reports/>

12 • ***October 2020***

13 Campaigning on the future of outdoor education centres, Covid-19 testing
14 capacity and care home testing, ban on winter evictions, Mossmorran plant,
15 and more. [See the full report here.](#)

16 • ***November 2020***

17 Campaigning on banning winter evictions, preparing for an unusual festive
18 period, looking at the impact of COVID on gender, and more. [See the full](#)
19 [report here.](#)

20 • ***December 2020 / January 2021***

21 In December 2020, former Lothian Green MSP Andy Wightman resigned from the
22 party. Alison Johnstone MSP was on leave for health reasons during this
23 time so no reports were received.

24 • **February 2021**

25 Campaigning on action for the homeless, legal protections for mountain
26 hares, addressing the climate emergency, and more. [See the full report](#)
27 [here.](#)

28 • **March/April/May 2021**

29 March April and May were focused on the Holyrood 2021 election campaign,
30 where Alison Johnstone joined Lorna Slater and Kate Nevens as our top
31 three candidates. We were delighted to secure the best ever Green result
32 in Lothian achieving 50,000 votes and electing 2 Green MSPs for the
33 region.

34 • **June 2021**

35 Newly elected MSP Lorna Slater has written her first monthly report for
36 the branch. [It can be read in full here.](#) As Lorna's report references, re-
37 establishing the process for MSP reporting to the branch will be a
38 priority for the new committee.

Report

Proposer: Green Cllr Group (decided on: 06/21/2021)

Title: Councillor Group - Annual Report

Report

1 **Report to Annual General meeting**

2 **Edinburgh Green Councillors Group: Melanie Main, Alex Staniforth, Gavin Corbett,**
3 **Steve Burgess, Mary Campbell, Susan Rae, Claire Miller, Chas Booth**

4 Since the last AGM in Autumn 2020 Council and Committees resumed responsibilities
5 and met on-line throughout the year. Councillors have continued to work from
6 home, on-line and rarely met officers face to face. Community meetings, notably
7 Community Councils and Parent Councils, have also resumed on-line but not in
8 person. For parents, attendance and participation at meetings has generally
9 increased as on-line meetings give more flexibility for busy parents in the
10 evenings. Councillors have not been able to visit schools or other sites in
11 person in general.

12 However, this has been another year of uncertainty, with a second and third
13 lockdown setting back agendas for a second year. There was hybrid working in
14 Council where the CEO and officers retain some emergency authority but with
15 Council and committees continuing, and the move to recovery as we come out of
16 the pandemic the priority.

17 This year have worked with Cllr Derek Howie, who sits as an independent but is a
18 SGP member, supporting his focus on equality and disability access issues.
19 Although the Green Group numbers 8, Derek has voted with the Greens and Greens
20 regularly deliver 10 votes with support from another independent.

21 Climate change continues to be the priority, the full Green group meeting as a
22 group and individually for each portfolio with lead officers to input into the
23 strategy for the council itself and a discussion on plans for implementing the
24 20-minute city with the Director Place. **Steve Burgess** is the Group lead on the
25 Climate Crisis. He represents the Green Group at the All Party Oversight Group
26 on Sustainability & Climate Emergency discussing council plans for achieving net
27 zero for both the Council and the City. The aim is to get a city-wide net zero
28 strategy in place before the UN climate conference, Cop26 in Glasgow in
29 November.

30 February is always focussed on the budget in Edinburgh Council and as such a lot
31 of councillors' time is taken up with that, in particular **Gavin Corbett's** as our
32 finance spokesperson. This year we managed to work with other opposition
33 councillors to ensure that rent for residential council properties was frozen
34 for this year, ensuring those on low incomes in council houses – who may have
35 been on furlough and only 80% of their usual income – get a year's respite from
36 rising rents. **Gavin Corbett's** overall budget was a 'Green Recovery' budget which
37 put more into parks and greenspace than any other budget as well as serious
38 investment in the city's zero-carbon 2030 goal; setting the target line for
39 other parties seeking to prove that their budgets take the climate crisis and
40 other environmental concerns seriously.

41 In the Spring Council business became notably quieter as Holyrood election
42 campaigning got well underway and Green Councillors joined volunteers working to
43 elect Green MSPs.

44 Some committee highlights from the past months:

45 **Mary Campbell** brought forward a motion to Education committee to push the
46 council to do more on deferred school starts. This will involve trying to be a
47 pilot authority in 2022 for government-funded deferred places, pushing for
48 premature children to be considered in the legislation, and for funded places to
49 be given for all applications this year. You can read more [here](#).

50 At Transport and Environment Committee, **Claire Miller** tabled a detailed
51 [amendment \(see p25\)](#) to the yearly report on the air quality figures for
52 Edinburgh. The air quality action plan is now 13 years out of date and
53 desperately needs to be rewritten. The city has 5 "air quality management areas"
54 (AQMA) where nitrogen oxides breach the national agreed levels for clean air and
55 a sixth AQMA for small particulates. The amendment passed after a vote, which
56 means that the committee will be prioritising the actions needed to clean up the
57 city's polluted air.

58 **Steve Burgess** brought a motion to Transport-Environment committee on the urgent
59 need for temporary toilet facilities on the Meadows to cope with the huge
60 numbers of people going there in good weather – it was a relief that these
61 facilities were agreed (*all puns intended*) and they opened 21st June.

62 **Alex Staniforth** proposed a motion at Council making clear Edinburgh Council's
63 opposition to the introduction of photo ID for voting on the grounds of
64 disenfranchising voters and informing government ministers of that position.
65 Despite Conservative opposition the motion passed and Edinburgh City is formally
66 opposed to requiring photo ID for voting.

67 **Melanie Main** succeeded in getting a Climate Change Charter 2030 for the
68 Edinburgh Integration Joint Board agreed, bringing services from A&E to GP
69 services, care homes to uppaid carers support, into line with Edinburgh's
70 Climate Commission recommendations. She was also appointed a Climate Champion.

71 Through Sub-Licensing, **Susan Rae** finally secured a section in the Taxi Training
72 on safety around cyclists, has been working hard on helping black cab drivers
73 get permission to upgrade their engines to Cat 6 and in relation to short-term
74 lets, encouraging a robust approach to licensing HMO premises.

75 In the Housing Committee, **Chas Booth** has been pushing the Council to mainstream
76 work to bring empty homes back into use and urging stronger action to tackle
77 land banking.

78 **Across the city in local wards this year some actions long fought for came to**
79 **fruition and others are just getting started:**

80 After almost a decade of pressing on dangerous parking and road safety in
81 Fountainbridge-Craiglockhart, **Gavin Corbett** has welcomed the next steps towards
82 controlled parking in his area: [Phase 1 Approved!](#)

83 **After thirty years of residents complaining about dangerous driving and rat**
84 **runs, but only 8 years pressing herself, Melanie Main secured no entry signs to**
85 **Braid Crescent, and won agreement to close Canaan Lane as part of the Quiet**
86 **Route, effectively removing the Woodburn Terrace rat run.**

87 **A week after being elected in May 2017, Alex Staniforth began pressing for**
88 **Northfield Allotments, in Craigentiny & Duddingston, to have a water supply and**
89 **it was connected in April 2021.**

90 In the city centre ward, **Claire** has picked up her previous work on creating a
91 buffer zone around the Chalmers Sexual Health Centre on Lauriston Place. In 2018
92 **Claire** had raised the issue of anti-abortion protests outside the health centre
93 and had been successful in bringing all partners together to agree how to
94 collect information/evidence on the problem. With a new public petition, the
95 subject came back to the council for debate, and **Claire** has supported calls for
96 a national approach and is actively working with colleagues in [COSLA](#) to find
97 solutions for Scotland.

98 **Steve Burgess** brought a motion to Transport-Environment committee on the urgent
99 need for temporary toilet facilities on the Meadows to cope with the huge
100 numbers of people going there in good weather – it was a relief to residents who
101 have put up with urination and worse on their doorsteps for over a decade, that
102 these facilities were agreed (*all puns intended*) and they opened 21st June

103 **Mary Campbell** has been working to ensure community involvement in the future of
104 Portobello Town Hall, and set up a public meeting which led to the creation of
105 Portobello Central.

106 **Chas Booth** has been tackling noise and air pollution from ships in Leith port.

107 Susan Rae continues to ensure that the feithChooses, first public participation
108 event, goes from strength to strength. After a successful 2021, with the highest
109 ever vote and zero complaints, the Group is now developing both their outreach
110 and funding sources further.

111 Despite the pandemic, Councillors have deal with literally thousands of requests
112 for help from residents and supported and initiated numerous local projects. [You
113 can read our full monthly reports which give highlights/examples.](#)

Report

Proposer: South East Edinburgh Greens (decided on: 06/16/2021)

Title: South East Edinburgh Greens - Annual Report

Report

1 **South East Edinburgh Greens Annual Report 2020-** 2 **21**

3 This report covers the period August 2020 to June 2021. It was a shorter year
4 because 2019-20 was extended, in line with Edinburgh Branch, because of the
5 Covid-19 pandemic.

6 **Green News**

7 As usual, we produced Liberton/Gilmerton and Southside/Newington editions of
8 Green News in the Autumn. Owing to concerns from delivery co-ordinators about
9 not having enough volunteers because of the pandemic, we delivered fewer than
10 usual:

- 11 • Liberton/Gilmerton: 3,500

- 12 • Southside/Newington: 10,000

13 The Spring edition was produced by the national office for the Holyrood 2021
14 campaign.

15

Fundraising and Finances

16 With no capitation income this year we set a £300 fundraising target to cover
17 potential costs, however the only expenditure that we had this year was for a
18 staple gun, used for putting posters on A-boards for the elections.

Auction of Promises

20 We asked branch members to submit a promise – something that they'd make (e.g. a
21 crumble), or have already created (e.g. a handmade bag), or could do for someone
22 else (e.g. cello lessons).

23 Promises were put up for auction via Facebook between 8 and 18 December, when
24 the highest bids were announced.

25 £270 was raised.

26 <https://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/events/auction-of-promises/>

Big Burns Night In

28 SEEG undertook this event on behalf of the branch as a Holyrood 2021 Campaign
29 fundraiser, with Robin Liebmann (BOE) providing professional support. Originally
30 we had hoped the event would be in person but it soon became clear that it would
31 have to be online. This meant a steep learning curve for SEEG volunteers and
32 Robin.

33 However, the online event turned out to be a wonderful occasion, and more than
34 matched expectations. It drew together large numbers of people in creating the
35 event, fostered a real sense of team unity.

36 £3,464 was raised.

37 <https://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/big-burns-night-in/>

Transgender Policy sessions

39 The resignation of Andy Wightman in December drew attention to the party's trans
40 rights policy with members wanting to understand more.

41 SEEG were the first group to host the party's educational workshop and followed
42 that up with our own, more informal, discussion group.

43 **Holyrood 2021**

44 This campaign was all about delivering printed materials, as we were unable to
45 canvass or have street stalls. The national campaign office produced a long list
46 of materials to be delivered in a relatively short space of time.

47 Initially we were pessimistic about how much we could achieve. However, the
48 Lothian campaign support officers were good at increasing our volunteer capacity
49 (e.g. through phone banking) and in the end we delivered well over 25,000 items,
50 made up of:

- 51 • Spring Newsletter

- 52 • Election Special Newsletter

- 53 • Postal vote letters

- 54 • Campaign cards

- 55 • Eve of poll cards

- 56 • Day of poll cards

57 We also delivered 250 window posters to supporters and members and put out A-
58 boards at 17 polling stations.

59 Following the election, we had a thank-you social for volunteers at The
60 Salisbury Arms. This was attended by around 28 people, including many new
61 volunteers who got involved for the first time during the campaign.

62 **Membership**

63 We now have 220 members in our two council wards. This is an increase of 10% in
64 the past year, and is at its highest for over 5 years.

65 We've developed a welcome information letter for new SEEG members, taking the
66 branch version as a starting point.

67 **Plan for 2021-22**

68 The coming year will undoubtedly be dominated by the council elections in May
69 2022. Liberton/Gilmerton is a target ward for the first time with candidate,
70 Leda Sharkey, already in place.

71 Southside/Newington have also been working on a ward plan of community action.
72 SEEG members submitted ideas for issues they would like to work on and voted on
73 them with the following coming top:

- 74 • Initiative to tackle overflowing bins
- 75 • Cameron Toll as 15 minute neighbourhood
- 76 • Make Southside solar
- 77 • Implementing the Deposit Returns Scheme
- 78 • 'Clean Air for Southside' campaign

79 With the Holyrood Campaign taking priority, detailed planning of these was put
80 to one side until the summer.

81 **Representation on the Branch Committee**

82 John Nichol, who has been SEEG's representative on the Branch Committee since
83 2018, resigned from the post at this year's AGM.

84 Our newly elected representative is Breck MacGregor.

Report

Proposer: Leith / Leith Walk Greens (decided on: 06/20/2021)

Title: Leith / Leith Walk - Annual Report

Report

1 Leith and Leith Walk Greens

2 Report to Edinburgh Branch June 2021 AGM

3 By Mariusz Cebulski (outgoing Co-Convenor)

4 Meetings

5 The Leith and Leith Walk sub-branch have continued to meet monthly online.

6 The 2021 sub-branch AGM was held online on 10/06/2021, attended by nine members.
7 At the AGM it was confirmed that following members will take up roles in the
8 sub-branch:

- 9 • Mariusz Cebulski will continue as convenor and take up role of liaison to
10 the Edinburgh branch.
- 11 • Rickey Blankenbaker will take the role of membership secretary.
- 12 • Dirk Nols will take the role of bookkeeper.
- 13 • Molly Wilson will take the role of Social Media coordinator

- 14 • Oscar Barclay-Binning will take the role of Secretary

15 **Finances and Membership**

16 Finance

17 The sub-branch main expenditure was usage of bulkSMS to contact members during
18 the Holyrood campaign (£57) which was reimbursed by Edinbrugh branch.

19 Membership Update

- 20 • August 2020 – 278
- 21 • September 2020 - 305
- 22 • January 2021 – 299
- 23 • April 2021 – 311
- 24 • May 2021 – 346

25 **Elections**

26 Holyrood election

27 Members from across the sub-branch supported the 2021 Holyrood General election
28 campaign. Due to Covid restrictions, the campaign activity included almost
29 exclusively material delivery (newsletters, postal vote letters, campaign cards)
30 and window poster campaign. More than 40 volunteers delivered about 50 thousand
31 materials.

32 Within the wards the sub-branch also coordinated A-Boards on election day.

33 **Other activities**

34 Monthly green discussions – the sub-branch has set up a monthly online meeting
35 to discuss various topics, chosen by branch members. Topics included among
36 others: Treatment of the trans community, Doughnut Economics, Cleveland Model,
37 Madrid Superblocks, End of Monarchy.

38 **Councillor update**

39 Edinburgh council budget was amended to include 21 mil of extra Covid support
40 funding. While most was directly spent on fighting the virus, 2mil was directed
41 to fight homelessness and 800k on bike hire schemes. Other projects including
42 funding were recycling, green energy and cycling support for the disabled.

43 Housing committee will analyse how to reduce energy usage from council housing.

44 Discussion where to locate the Gaelic secondary school, with our councilors
45 supporting location in Leith, close to the existing primary school.

46 **Plans for the upcoming year**

- 47 • Continue to meet monthly (for the foreseeable future online, in longer term
48 analyse a potential hybrid model)
- 49 • Support the 2022 Council campaign in Leith and Leith walk
- 50 • Increase membership and member engagement

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