

Report

Proposer: Leith and Leith Walk Greens (decided on: 06/15/2022)

Title: Leith and Leith Walk Greens

Report

1 **Report to Edinburgh Branch June 2022 AGM**

2 By Mariusz Cebulski (outgoing co-convenor)

3 **Meetings**

4 The Leith and Leith Walk sub-branch have continued to meet monthly online, but
5 for this AGM the group successfully tried to run a hybrid meeting i.e. with
6 members being able to join online or in person.

7 The 2022 sub-branch AGM was held online and face to face at the Leith Community
8 Centre on 09/06/2022, it was attended by eleven members. At the AGM it was
9 confirmed that following members will take up roles in the sub-branch:

10 • Mariusz Cebulski will continue as convenor and take up role of co-liaison to
11 the Edinburgh branch.

12 • Ian McCormick will continue as membership secretary (Ian was elected after
13 last AGM).

14 • Dirk Nols will take the role of ordinary member.

15 • Damian Sefton will take the role of ordinary member.

16 • James Paton will take the role of secretary and co-liaison to the Edinburgh
17 branch.

18 **Finances and Membership**

19 **Finance**

20 The sub-branch main expenditure was booking of Leith Walk Police Box for setting
21 up a campaign stall for Local Elections (£50) which was reimbursed as part of
22 the campaign budget. Next biggest spend was the booking of Leith Community
23 Centre for the first hybrid meeting (£15).

24 **Membership Update**

25 August 2020 – 278

26 September 2020 - 305

27 January 2021 – 299

28 April 2021 – 311

29 May 2021 – 346

30 June 2022 – 390

31 **Elections**

32 **Local Elections**

33 Members from across the sub-branch supported our two councillors – Susan Rae and
34 Chas Booth as well as neighbouring Forth ward candidate Kayleigh O’Neil in the
35 Local Elections to City Council.

36 The campaign was very active with weekly canvassing sessions, setting up stalls
37 and material delivery (newsletters, letters to first time voters, campaign cards
38 and eve of poll cards) and window poster campaign. The sub-branch has sent
39 volunteers to Forth ward to support our candidate there.

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

41 The results were very good, with Chas and Susan gaining a bigger percentage of
42 the vote than in the last elections, and the party gained it's first councillor
43 in Forth.

44 **Other activities**

45 Monthly green discussions – the branch has setup a monthly online meeting to
46 discuss various topics, chosen by branch members.

47 **Councillor Update**

48 Councillors discussed the current atmosphere in the City Council after the
49 formation of Labour minority administration supported by Liberal Democrats and
50 Conservatives.

51 While disappointing with the result of the vote to form an administration,
52 councillors are not giving up and will continue to serve the city and pass green
53 legislation where possible.

54 Our experienced councillors are also training and showing the ropes to the newer
55 members of the party in the City Chambers.

56 **Plans for the upcoming year**

57 ● Continue to meet monthly with more hybrid meetings and in different spots.

58 ● Increase membership and member engagement.

59 ● Organise more events, both social gatherings and local campaigns. For any
60 further details please contact leith.leithwalk@scottishgreens.org.uk

Report

Proposer: South East Edinburgh Greens (decided on: 06/15/2022)

Title: South East Edinburgh Greens

Report

1 This report covers South East Edinburgh Greens' (SEEG) activities over the
2 period June 2021 to June 2022.

3 **Edinburgh 2022**

4 The focus of our activity this year has been the 2022 Edinburgh Council
5 Elections.

6 We were confident that Steve Burgess was secure for Southside-Newington (SN) and
7 so we decided to focus our efforts on John Nichol in Liberton Gilmerton (LG),
8 particularly through canvassing. Although we realised that winning a seat in LG
9 was highly unlikely, we were aiming to build the vote up for a win in 2027.

10 In the end we surpassed our expectations and came within 150 votes of winning a
11 seat in LG, and came a comfortable second in SN. The LG campaign also helped to
12 build up the team in that ward enormously.

13 Below are some numbers for canvassing and deliveries.

14 **Liberton-Gilmerton**

15 We canvassed 556 people in the whole ward from 1 October 2021, and dropped in
16 'We called today' canvassing cards along the way.

17 In LG we delivered around:

- 18 • 4,250 autumn newsletters
- 19 • 2,500 'We called today' canvassing cards
- 20 • 5,800 spring newsletters
- 21 • 6,600 candidate leaflets
- 22 • 3,900 eve of poll cards

23 We also delivered around 100 window posters to supporters and members and put
24 out A-boards at 9 polling stations. We stuffed over 600 envelopes with 'warm'
25 letters for postal delivery.

26 **Southside-Newington**

27 In SN we delivered around:

- 28 • 13,000 autumn newsletters
- 29 • 10,000 spring newsletters
- 30 • 10,500 candidate leaflets
- 31 • 230 'warm' letters
- 32 • 5,500 eve of poll cards

33 We also delivered 200 window posters to supporters and members and put out A-
34 boards at 8 polling stations.

35 **Helping other wards**

36 Our volunteers helped out with deliveries and canvassing in Inverleith ward, and
37 we supported Forth ward with data entry and producing canvassing sheets. We also
38 did some envelope-stuffing for Linlithgow and Sighthill-Gorgie.

39 **Fundraising and Finances**

40 Again no capitation income was forthcoming this year. However, with Covid
41 restrictions still ongoing, we did not need this for meeting room hire and event
42 expenses. Next year we plan to resume in-person meetings, and so we hope that
43 capitation income will return.

44 We decided to have another Auction of Promises in Nov/Dec 2021 as an election
45 fundraiser, and have been raising funds through crowd-buying.

46 **Auction of Promises**

47 Building on our experience of the first auction of promises, we streamlined the
48 process by setting up and running the auction on Edinburgh Greens website. The
49 selection of promises was even more impressive than in the first year, and
50 included chocolate tasting, sailing lessons and room-painting (see end of report
51 for full list).

52 We raised £657 – well up from £270 raised in 2020. The auction had a good social
53 aspect to it as well giving people the opportunity to meet the people behind the
54 promises and bids.

55 Next year, the branch have agreed to take the auction over to make it a wider
56 and bigger event.

57 **Crowd-buying**

58 For a couple of years, SEEG member John Palmer has been running a crowd buying
59 initiative for friends and other members as a fundraising initiative. He noticed
60 that a group of farmers in Spain had organised to sell their produce direct to
61 consumers. They all work on very organic, ecological and sustainable principles.
62 They sell in larger quantities, so John organised with friends to buy co-
63 operatively and then divvied up and delivered the fruit to the buyers.

64 This financial year the initiative raised £300 for Edinburgh Greens, and crowd
65 buyers also donated £300 of crowd-farming fruit to food banks in Poland for
66 Ukrainian refugees. The idea has attracted the attention of the Eco-committee of
67 Mayfield Church, who have asked John to give a presentation.

68 **Membership**

69 Our membership has increased from 220 to 233 members in our two council wards.

70 **Meetings and Socials**

71 **Meetings**

72 Our monthly sub-branch meetings have been focussed on the practical detail of
73 running a branch and consequently haven't been encouraging members to attend.
74 So, we decided to change the agenda and start the meeting with a topic, leaving
75 the business matters until the end. So far we've had:

- 76 • Reflections on COP26 – a group discussion
- 77 • Sheriffhall Roundabout plans, with Cllr Claire Miller
- 78 • 20 Minute Neighbourhoods and Cameron Toll, with Cllr Chas Booth
- 79 • Tree Protection, with Ellie Mills, Midlothian Council Tree Officer

80 We also had a surprise visit from Ariane Burgess MSP. She spoke about Scottish
81 Greens in Holyrood and in co-operation with the Scottish Government, and the
82 National Planning Framework.

83 We now have a Slack workspace for discussion and decision-making in between
84 meetings.

85 We plan to return to in-person meetings in July at the Charteris Centre.

86 **Social events**

87 Following the both the Holyrood and Edinburgh elections, we had a thank-you
88 social for volunteers at The Salisbury Arms. These were a great success.

89 We've also had a couple of successful joint events with South Edinburgh Greens:

- 90 • Astley Ainslie tree tour - Maggie Carson from the Astley Ainslie Community
91 Trust gave a very engaging tour and we had a bring-to-share picnic in the
92 grounds

93 • Meadows Festival picnic – in lieu of our usual stall which we didn't have time
94 to prepare for this year, SEEG and SEG hosted a picnic with Scottish Greens flag
95 flying

96 **Appendix 1 - The Promises**

97 Thanks to all who promised and bid in the Auction of Promises:

98 • Exploring Edinburgh's Volcano – a guided tour for two

99 • Hand Woven Double Loop Snood

100 • Jameson Black Barrel Irish Whiskey

101 • Knitted Tea Cosy

102 • Nc'Nean Organic Single Malt Scotch Whisky

103 • Pacari chocolate gift set

104 • Pacari Chocolate Tasting for four households

105 • Paint a Room

106 • Peace Lily

107 • Peeriegal Tote Bag

108 • Positive News Subscription

109 • Grow your own Raspberries

110 • Three sets of Reusable Gift Wraps

111 • Sailing Lesson and/or Sailing Trip

112 • Three pots of Money Plant Cuttings

113 **Appendix 2 – Office Bearers 2022-23**

114 The following people were elected as office bearers at our AGM on 9 June 2022:

- 115 • Ola Olsinova – Co-Convenor
- 116 • Guy Johnson – Co-Convenor
- 117 • Branch Committee Representative – Breck MacGregor
- 118 • John Palmer – Minutes Secretary
- 119 • Steve West – Membership Secretary
- 120 • Alison Neathey – Admin Secretary*
- 121 • Caroline Barr – Social Secretary*

122 *new roles

Report

Proposer: South Edinburgh Greens (decided on: 06/15/2022)

Title: South Edinburgh Greens

Report

1 **South Edinburgh Greens (SEG) Annual Report June 2021-22**

2 **Introduction**

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

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

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

9 Helen McCabe stood as the Green candidate in Colinton/Fairmilehead in 2022.

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

13 **SEG Activity 2021- 22**

14 **Setting up SEG**

15 In May 2021 Ben Parker (then 2022 candidate for the target ward of Morningside)
16 proposed that a sub branch be formed with the name South Edinburgh Greens. An

17 EGM was held for members of both wards on 10th June 2021. Members voted in
18 favour of the proposal with the aims of working together to consolidate and
19 strengthen the Green presence in Morningside (including re-electing a Green
20 councillor in 2022); and developing Colinton/Fairmilehead with a view to it
21 eventually becoming a target ward. The office bearers elected were:

22 Frances Guy and Emma Willson - Co-convenors

23 Susan Logie and Helen McCabe - Co-membership secretaries.

24 A new south.edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk address was set up. A SEG folder was
25 created on the shared Google Drive. All documents, spreadsheets and other files
26 are saved there.

27 **Communication with SEG members**

28 During the year the team aimed to develop SEG and run the 2022 election campaign
29 simultaneously, with both activities feeding into each other.

30 We sent c.55 generic emails to members on our mailing list. (This was a very
31 high volume of emails as it was an election year!). We also sent between three
32 and five texts to members via BulkSMS (the number of texts received varied
33 according to where the member lived). We did two phone banking sessions, calling
34 approximately 75% of Morningside members who allow phone contact. In addition we
35 managed the SEG email Inbox and contacted specific members individually by
36 email, phone or text where practical.

37 In order to raise our profile and network, we encouraged members to tell us
38 about other organisations they are involved with locally. Information about
39 events run by 'green friendly' groups (for example: Critical Mass, Climate
40 Coalition, Bruntsfield Net Zero, Friends of the Earth) was included in SEG
41 emails where possible.

42 Alison Neathey (SEEG) designed a SEG Welcome Letter for new members. Steve West
43 (SEEG) created a SEG email template for Forest.

44 We encouraged members to attend meetings and events, participate in election
45 campaign activities, and follow Ben Parker and SEG on Twitter and the branch on
46 social media.

- 47 • @benparker18 (now @cllrbenparker)

48 • @southedingreens (temporary account for the election campaign, now closed)

49 We created a temporary 'SEG Election Team' WhatsApp group in November 2021 for
50 active members and supporters.

51 **SEG Monthly Meetings 2021-22**

52 We had a combination of zoom and in person meetings depending on Covid
53 restrictions:

54 Thursday 8th July 2021 - Zoom

55 No August meeting (summer holidays)

56 Thursday 9th September 2021 - Drinks at Summerhall

57 Thursday 14th October 2021 - Zoom

58 Thursday 11th November 2021- Zoom

59 No December meeting (winter holidays)

60 Thursday 13th January 2022 - Zoom

61 Thursday 10th February 2022 - Eric Liddell Centre

62 Thursday 10th March 2022 - Eric Liddell Centre

63 Thursday 14th April 2022 - Eric Liddell Centre

64 Saturday 14th May 2022 - Celebratory picnic on Bruntsfield Links

65 Thursday 9th June - AGM - Eric Liddell Centre

66 **2022 Election Campaign**

67 We started planning the Morningside 2022 election campaign in June 2021. Emma
68 Willson became Campaign Manager. We didn't campaign in Colinton/Fairmilehead (or

69 deliver Green News) as it was a non-target ward. A number of members attended
70 national and branch training sessions (including John Palmer's Doras training).

71 We created local content for Green News in Morningside and printed two editions.

72 • Autumn 2021 Green News - c.10,000 delivered

73 • Spring 2022 Green News - c.14,000 delivered

74 During the year campaign activities included social elements where possible, for
75 example meeting at cafes before and after canvassing, Action Days, and 'folding
76 letters and stuffing envelopes sessions'.

77 We organised two 'Action Days' for Autumn 2021 Green News delivery. We invited
78 members, and specifically Scottish Young Green members, to come along to support
79 Ben as a Young Green candidate. One of our aims is to have a diverse membership,
80 including people from all age groups. The campaign really benefited from having
81 more young people involved, especially during canvassing.

82 Action Days and evening canvassing sessions continued in the Spring, pandemic
83 permitting.

84 In total we canvassed c.550 people in our five Greenest polling districts.

85 In addition to Green News, we delivered:

86 • c.9000 campaign leaflets

87 • c.2000 canvassing cards

88 • c.3000 letters to first time voters, postal voters, G1 voters

89 • c.6000 eve of poll cards

90 We distributed c. 200 posters to members (by hand and by post). Plus another c.
91 50 to supporters.

92 On polling day we had A boards at all 10 polling places in Morningside ward.
93 Members stood outside our top five with rosettes during peak voting times, and
94 we delivered GOTV letters to GIs we had identified from canvassing.

95 Throughout the campaign (and the year) we were lucky to have office bearers and
96 members who were prepared to help out in many different ways, including two
97 committed organisers and two very engaged and dynamic ward candidates.

98 Ben Parker was elected on first preference votes.

99 **Green Walks**

100 The aims were: to provide enjoyable events for members; to give people a chance
101 to meet Ben Parker (as Morningside candidate for 2022); and to build up goodwill
102 and numbers of active members in advance of the election campaign. All Green
103 members, families, friends, supporters, and dogs were welcome. We organised
104 eight walks:

105 Saturday 31st July 2021 - Bruntsfield Links/The Meadows

106 Sunday 15th August 2021 - Blackford Hill/Pond

107 Sunday 29th August 2021 - Hermitage of Braid

108 Saturday 11th September 2021 - Polwarth/Canal

109 Sunday 3rd October 2021 - Astley Ainslie (with SEEG team)

110 Sunday 17th October 2021 - Mortonhall (Colinton/Fairmilehead)

111 Sunday 28th November 2021 - Gardens of the Old Town (with City Centre team)

112 Sunday 13th March 2022 - The Quiet Route: Bruntsfield Links to Hermitage of
113 Braid

114 The City Centre local team arranged for Sue Fuller to guide us around the
115 'Gardens of the Old Town'. SEEG arranged for Maggie Carson of the Astley Ainslie

116 Community Trust to guide us around the NHS site which is under threat of
117 inappropriate development. Walks around Portobello/Craigmillar and Leith had to
118 be postponed until next year due to Covid.

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

120 Susan Logie and Emma Willson acted as SEG Co-reps during the year, attending
121 branch meetings and following activity on Slack. A number of SEG members were
122 officers on the branch committee: Harriet Hall, Helen McCabe, Kate Nevens, and
123 Ben Parker. Frances Guy and Helen McCabe assisted with post-election Council
124 negotiations.

125 We organised the November 2021 branch online meeting (with the help of branch
126 Co-convenor Zoe Clelland). This was a COP26 event and included guest speakers:
127 Frank Hebineza (Global Green Green MP in the Rwandan Parliament), Lottie van
128 Grieken (RSPB Scotland), Emily Blackmore (Stirling University). 2022
129 Drumbrae/Gyle council candidate Anne Scott hosted the event. Frances Guy chaired
130 the Q&A.

131 We suggested local teams organise inter-branch Green Walks - to help members
132 from across the branch get to know one another, socialise, and explore the city.
133 The City Centre ward walk went ahead, but the idea was mainly put on hold due to
134 the pandemic and the election campaign.

135 We took an Edinburgh Greens banner to the COP26 demo in Glasgow on Saturday 6th
136 November, to join up with SGP members from the branch and across Scotland.

137 SEG-SEEG had an informal Green presence (SGP flag and impromptu members' picnic)
138 at the Meadows Festival on Sunday 5th June 2022.

139 **Membership numbers**

140 Membership numbers were 198 for Morningside and 44 for Colinton/Fairmilehead in
141 June 2021. At the time of the 2022 AGM on 9th June, we have 207 in Morningside
142 and 50 in Colinton/Fairmilehead.

143 **Finances**

144 SEG did not have a budget (or a Treasurer) for 2021-22. We decided to keep
145 things simple and either ask the branch for reimbursement, or ask suppliers to
146 invoice the branch directly. Election campaign leaflets, letters and posters

147 were covered by the branch. Members contributed to election crowdfunders and
148 covered miscellaneous costs (i.e. refreshments, stationary, stamps, transport).
149 We received funds from the branch for:

150 Bulk SMS £69.00

151 Eric Liddell Centre meeting room (4 sessions @ £52.00) £208.00

152 Coffee £35.30

153 Paper/printing/ink £37.92

154 Total = £350.22

155 **2022-23**

156 **New style team**

157 The first SEG AGM was held on Thursday 9th June 2022 at the Eric Liddell Centre.
158 At the AGM we gave thanks to Melanie Main, retiring Councillor for Morningside
159 and Susan Logie who stepped down as Membership secretary after five years. The
160 new office bearers elected for 2022-23 are:

161 Helen McCabe and Leo Levontine - Co-convenors

162 Emma Willson - Vice-convenor

163 In addition to the three 'office bearers' (as required by the standing orders),
164 we plan to have a small group of members who are prepared to be additional
165 'Organisers'. Together they will form an active team who can support each other
166 to run SEG, and support our councillor.

167 **Future plans**

168 1. Build up membership in Colinton/Fairmilehead and prepare the ground for
169 the council elections in 2027 (ideally it would be a target ward).

170 2. Join in with branch-wide campaigning activity to help deliver Green policy
171 (including action in our wards).

- 172 3. Build relationships with other progressive groups in our communities as
173 far as possible.
- 174 4. Continue the Green Walks in our area (and around the city) - and develop
175 new ideas for other kinds of events that would appeal to a wide range of
176 people.
- 177 5. Try to broaden and diversify our membership.

Report

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee (decided on:
06/16/2022)

Title: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Report

1 **Annual Report 2022 (July 2021 to June 2022)**

2 The past year has been an incredibly busy and an incredibly successful one for
3 the Branch. Despite the ongoing challenges of online working and adapting our
4 activities as we emerged from COVID-19 restrictions, the committee has done an
5 amazing job of coordinating and supporting our members to achieve our best ever
6 local election result, and lots more besides. We would like to take this
7 opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has played a part in
8 this success.

9 **Local Election 2022**

10 The focus for the Branch Committee over the past year has been the Council
11 Election, particularly for our Election Campaign Team, ably led by Kate and
12 Fraser. Our enthusiastic campaign consisted of thousands of hours of volunteers
13 by hundreds of branch members. We want to thank and pay tribute to our
14 candidates, core campaign organisers, local team campaign managers and activists
15 who helped in any capacity - we wouldn't have been able to do it without local
16 members' efforts!

17 One of the largest elements of work in the campaign was producing the manifesto,
18 which was led by Yasmin and Helen. With help from councillors, candidates and
19 members from across the branch, this excellent piece of work provided the basis
20 for the negotiations group to speak with other parties after the election, with

21 much of our manifesto eventually making its way into the coalition agreement
22 with the SNP.

23 All the time spent canvassing, delivering leaflets, putting up posters,
24 transporting A-boards, stuffing envelopes, social media, donating money and many
25 other tasks paid off with our most successful local election to date. We elected
26 a record 10 councillors in Edinburgh, including our first ever councillors in
27 Sighthill/Gorgie and Forth, and regained a councillor in Inverleith. We also saw
28 a significant gain in votes in West Lothian, and narrowly missed out on electing
29 our first councillor in Linlithgow.

30 Overall, many elements of the campaign were particularly successful, with a
31 supportive atmosphere amongst candidates and activists. We have held debrief
32 meetings with candidates, local teams, staff and the core campaign team, and are
33 in the process of drawing together lessons learned for future campaigns.

34 **Branch events and meetings**

35 This year we kept all of our meetings online as COVID restrictions and concerns
36 continued to make this the safest and most accessible format. However, some
37 local teams and sub-branches started to hold small meetings or outdoor events,
38 in line with government guidelines.

39 This year our branch events calendar was really varied - thanks to Ben and to
40 everyone else who contributed to organising these.

41 ● Our first event of the year in July focused on Radical Democracy, with some
42 excellent external speakers and a chance for members to hear about different
43 approaches to democracy, including an introduction to citizens' assemblies and
44 participatory budgeting.

45 ● In September we spent time on Party matters - preparing for Autumn Conference,
46 hearing an update from Lorna Slater on her MSP work and new role as Minister,
47 and discussing Branch priorities to help inform our work plan

48 ● A month before COP26 our meeting focused on this crucial event with a range of
49 external speakers and member Q&A, allowing people to hear activists aspirations
50 for this event and how to get involved themselves

51 ● In November, a group of Edinburgh members joined the mass climate march in
52 Glasgow as part of COP26 - helping to take our Green message to world leaders

- 53 ● 2022 started with a new members' welcome event in January
- 54 ● An Election launch in February which was a chance for members to meet our
55 fantastic council candidates
- 56 ● In March we were able to launch our Manifesto in an event that not only
57 showcased this inspirational platform for our campaign but also allowed members
58 to express a view on the highest priorities for them
- 59 ● At the end of May we held the important meeting to vote on a cooperation
60 agreement with the SNP, which was overwhelmingly approved by the branch membership

61 **Membership and local teams**

62 As of June 2022, the number of SGP members in the Branch was 1996, including 152
63 in West Lothian, which represents an impressive 19% increase on last year. Our
64 Branch work plan set a target of 2000 members by the end of the year, which may
65 yet be met by the date of the AGM.

66 Local team support this year has focused on providing activists with the skills,
67 training and tools to run a successful election campaign. We also provided
68 support to establish and develop local teams in target wards with lower numbers
69 of members, and encouraging supportive joint working between local teams. Thanks
70 to Kate for all her work to support members in this way.

71 **Communications**

72 This is a big aspect of the committee's work that has been largely delivered by
73 a small number of people. The quality and frequency of communications from the
74 branch is high and a particular thanks is due to Harriet, Alison and Steve for
75 their work on this - our website, social media and printed materials have played
76 a big part in the election success.

77 Thanks also to our policy officers Yasmin and Helen for working with our elected
78 councillors and MSP to submit and share monthly reports on their work with
79 Edinburgh Branch members.

80 **Elected Representatives and Committee Working Group**

81 At the AGM last June, a motion was passed asking the committee to set up a
82 working group to review the relationship between the branch and elected reps and

83 to draw up proposals for change, if required.

84 A group was established and one meeting held in January, with some useful
85 initial discussions. Unfortunately, the demands of the election campaign
86 significantly reduced capacity to work on this and the group did not continue to
87 meet or reach the point of drawing up proposals for change. We know this will
88 disappoint some members but feel that the implications of this have been
89 mitigated considerably by the following actions:

- 90 ● Lorna Slater attending branch meetings twice to update members and answer
91 questions
- 92 ● Having a direct line of communication between the Branch Co-cos and Lorna
- 93 ● Regular attendance at Branch and Committee meetings by Councillors
- 94 ● Close working between Branch and Councillors on the post-election negotiations
- 95 ● An aspiration to work jointly on future campaigning activity between
96 Councillors and Branch has been captured in our work plan

97 We would therefore like to suggest that we do not try to re-establish this
98 working group but instead, ensure that continuing to strengthen and improve our
99 working relationship between MSP, Councillors and Branch is a core part of the
100 Branch committee's role in 2022/23.

101 **Other Committee Business**

102 Other committee activities over the past year have included:

- 103 ● Representing the Edinburgh Branch at all National Council meetings ● Holding
104 two workshops to develop our Branch work plan and priorities for the short and
105 medium term
- 106 ● Carrying out a restructure of the Branch committee for the 2022 internal
107 elections, with the aim of making roles more manageable and attractive to a
108 greater number of members
- 109 ● Creation of a negotiation support group of committee and branch members to
110 support the new Councillor Group during post election negotiations

Report

Proposer: Green Group of Edinburgh Councillors (decided on:
06/18/2022)

Title: Green Group of Edinburgh Councillors

Report

1 This Green group year started with our AGM in June 2021 when Claire Miller and
2 Steve Burgess succeeded Melanie Main and Alex Staniforth as Green group co-
3 conveners. There was also a minor reshuffle of portfolios between councillors
4 with Susan Rae taking over housing lead, Chas Booth moving to culture &
5 communities and Alex Staniforth replacing Mary Campbell on planning.

6 The council went into recess at the end of June until early August and then
7 resumed its meetings online.

8 Notable issues in August included a concerted campaign against spaces for people
9 cycle provision introduced during lockdown, where Claire Miller worked with
10 local supporters of the temporary segregated cycle lanes on Lanark road that
11 were in danger of being scrapped.

12 At Finance committee Gavin Corbett led on support for a co-housing bid for the
13 council-owned Comiston farmhouse. Unfortunately councillors from all other
14 parties backed a higher commercial bid.

15 In September, Edinburgh Council continued to meet online. At Full council, with
16 the latest UN IPCC report being described as a "code red for humanity", Steve
17 Burgess challenged the council leader that the council's approach to the climate
18 emergency needed a greater sense of urgency as advocated by Edinburgh's Climate
19 Commission.

20 In the week before the United Nations COP 26 negotiations in Scotland,
21 Edinburgh's Green councillors again led on the climate emergency at the council
22 meeting, with Green co-convenor Claire Miller raising the national embarrassment
23 of the climate-busting UK government budget and challenging the council leader
24 over the council's questionable record on cutting climate changing pollution.
25 Greens also formally proposed that the councils pension fund should rapidly
26 divest from fossil fuel companies but this was once again voted down by all
27 other political parties.

28 On planning committee, Chas Booth also pushed for the council to rule out
29 climate busting airport expansion from the forthcoming city plan and pressed
30 hard to make the plan a better fit with the city's net zero ambitions.

31 October also saw Cllr Gavin Corbett's last council meeting as he stepped down to
32 take up a Scottish Government post working with the two new Green ministers,
33 after over nine years of dedicated work as a Green councillor.

34 Following the UN COP 26 meeting in early November, Green councillors highlighted
35 the failures of the UK government and the need for cities like Edinburgh to
36 forge ahead with their plans to reduce climate-changing pollution.

37 Claire Miller also led on the Green group approach to the independent enquiry
38 led by Susan Tanner QC into serious abuse perpetrated by a former Council
39 employee which resulted in a suite of recommendations to ensure that lessons are
40 learned and that changes to practices will mean that such abuse can't remain
41 hidden or unchallenged ever again.

42 In Education, Mary Campbell met with the new head of education children and
43 families to discuss Green group priorities particularly expanding outdoor
44 learning, climate education, and inclusion.

45 At Full council, Alex Staniforth successfully proposed that tenants rights
46 should be at the heart of any improvement to standards for Houses of Multiple
47 Occupation (HMOs).

48 In the new year, 2022, thoughts began to turn to the forthcoming council budget
49 and the next council election in May. In Education, Mary Campbell proposed
50 better support for school staff and recognition of the difficult circumstances
51 they were operating under as a result of lockdown. Steve Burgess was successful
52 in getting council agreement to sign up to the global "Fossil Fuels Non-
53 Proliferation Treaty" campaign.

54 In February, Alex Staniforth led on producing a Green group budget for 'Climate
55 and Social justice'.

56 Only the SNP–Labour coalition budget secured enough votes to pass but Green
57 councillors lobbied hard to prioritise funding for action on the climate
58 emergency and helping those most in need with the cost of living crisis.

59 In March, Edinburgh Council started winding down its political decision-making
60 prior to the pre-election period in April before the council election on the 5
61 May.

62 At its last Full council meeting, the significant contribution to the council
63 over the last five years by councillors Melanie Main and Mary Campbell, the two
64 Green councillors who were standing down at the election, was highlighted during
65 the meeting.

66 The Council then went into the pre-election campaign period in April and on May
67 6 election results were announced at the EICC.

68 After a hard fought election campaign by volunteers and staff of the Edinburgh
69 Green party, Greens were successful in electing a record 10 Green councillors in
70 Edinburgh. This included councillors in two wards that were previously not held
71 – Kayleigh O’Neill in Forth ward and Dan Heap in Sighthill – Gorgie ward. Jule
72 Bandel was also successful in winning back Inverleith ward.

73 The only disappointment was that Gavin Corbett's tight 3-member ward,
74 Fountainbridge–Craiglockhart, was not held despite Megan McHaney attracting 20%
75 of first preference votes. Alys Mumford in Portobello – Craigmillier and Ben
76 Parker in Morningside made up the five new faces in the Green group, joining
77 continuing councillors Claire Miller, Susan Rae, Alex Staniforth, Chas Booth and
78 Steve Burgess.

79 Following the election, after speaking with most parties it became clear to the
80 Green group of councillors that, given the Labour group could not enter any
81 formal arrangement with any other party, that the most beneficial possible
82 outcome for the city would be an SNP-Green minority coalition. Green
83 councillors, supported by the negotiating support group from the Edinburgh
84 branch then worked hard to draft a coalition agreement with the SNP.

85 After overwhelming approval by the individual members of the Edinburgh Greens,
86 this coalition agreement was brought to the Edinburgh council meeting on the 26
87 May. However it was defeated by a proposal to form a majority

88 Labour–LibDem–Conservative administration.

89 At June's policy and sustainability committee meeting, interim Green group co-
90 convener, Steve Burgess questioned the new Council Leader, Labour's Cammy Day,
91 about the lack of a political program for the new administration. It remains to
92 be seen if anything will come forward to the first business meeting of the new
93 Council at the end of June.

94 Meanwhile the new Green group on Edinburgh Council pledged to push for action on
95 the priorities of transport, housing, poverty and inclusion, and the climate
96 emergency along with other progressive policies in the Green manifesto and the
97 SNP-Green coalition agreement.

98 An early win, in the absence of a policy program from the Lab-Lib-Con
99 administration, was a joint SNP-Green initiative to propose that officers
100 marshal council resources and report on the two priorities of poverty and
101 inclusion and climate emergency in the lead up to the council budget in
102 February.

103 As ever, there was far too much Green councillor activity over the year to
104 report fully here, particularly the work by Green councillors in their wards –
105 you can find the full monthly reports for the year here:

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

Report

Proposer: Edinburgh Green Party Branch Treasurer (decided on:
06/20/2022)

Title: Treasurer's report

Report

1 The Edinburgh branch finances continue to be in a healthy position – despite
2 having been through two consecutive years of big elections. This is due to the
3 careful planning and budgeting of the campaign teams, as well as the ongoing
4 generosity of our branch members through crowdfunders, regular giving, and
5 larger one-off election donations.

6 As I am not re-standing as Treasurer this year, this will be my final report. If
7 you would like further information on anything raised, please email questions to
8 treasurer.edin@scottishgreenparty.org.uk.

9 **Local Council Elections 2022**

10 As has become the norm, the finances for the 2022 council election were recorded
11 on a separate budget from the ongoing branch figures. The total spend on the
12 election was £27,000 (including donations in kind).

13 In the planning stage of the campaign, the branch committee agreed that up to
14 £6000 of branch reserves would be available to supplement fundraising for the
15 council elections. This decision took into account the branch reserves policy
16 that required reserves for two years' branch running costs to remain in the
17 bank, the healthy bank balance going into the election campaign, and the
18 principle that election campaign spending – on campaigns with significant chance
19 of returning elected representatives - is a valuable use of reserves.

20 In the end, the total branch reserves used was just under £3000. Given the
21 success of the campaign, which resulted in the increase of the Edinburgh Council
22 Green Group to 10 councillors, I believe this was a good use of branch reserves.

23 Special thanks must go to our Election Agent Alan Duggan for the huge amount of
24 work that he undertook in ensuring accurate spending returns were submitted in
25 good time. Thanks also to Fraser May for his tireless help with the campaign
26 budget, Steve West for his meticulous printed materials record-keeping, as well
27 as everyone involved on the core campaign team, local teams and branch committee
28 for their help in managing and tracking expenses, and for running such a
29 fantastic and enjoyable campaign.

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

31 The ongoing impact of Covid-19, along with the focus on election campaigning,
32 has meant that branch spending has been relatively low in the first half of
33 2022. However, as we look ahead to the second half of the year, it is with
34 optimism that we will be able to return to in person meetings and events. This
35 will mean an increase in spending (on room hire etc.) but also a greater
36 opportunity for fundraising.

37 The projection, leaving aside the election-related income and spending, is that
38 we will have a small branch budget surplus at the end of 2022.

39 **National and Sub-branch Capitulations**

40 In 2021, following the recommendations from the SGP Capitulations Working Group,
41 the SGP National Council agreed to bring in a new Capitulations model. Although
42 one capitulations payment has been made in this time, I am concerned that the new
43 process will not lead to regular capitulations payments. As someone who was on the
44 Capitulations Working Group, and worked on the new model, I am disappointed that
45 the new process is still not fully operational. I hope to raise and revisit this
46 issue with the SGP Finance and Fundraising Committee over the coming months
47 (albeit not as branch Treasurer).

48 The process for implementing sub-branch capitulations began but was then stalled,
49 largely by a lack of capacity due to election activity. An outgoing task will be
50 to restart these conversations with representatives from sub-branches, as well
51 as with the incoming branch Treasurer, Co-Conveners and Local Teams Officers.

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](#) (or email
57 treasurer.edin@scottishgreens.org.uk) and the incoming Edinburgh Branch
58 Treasurer will be in touch to discuss how to set one up.

59 **Looking ahead**

60 With no immediate elections on the horizon - and having come through two
61 expensive elections while retaining a healthy bank balance – now may be the time
62 for the branch to spend time and resources on strengthening capacity and
63 widening active membership.

64 One opportunity might be to allocate an amount to be used for a participatory
65 budget project – allowing for local teams and sub-branches to have greater input
66 in the spending of the branch budget. Another discussion that may be worthwhile
67 is whether there is more that the Edinburgh branch can do to provide one-off
68 support to other branches (and / or the national party) who might be struggling
69 financially following the election campaign periods.

70 However, these are not my decisions to make. After five years as the Edinburgh
71 Greens branch treasurer, it is time for me to move on. Over the years of my
72 involvement with the branch committee, I have been incredibly impressed by the
73 energy and expertise of those who volunteer with the branch – as well as the
74 respect and good humour brought to meetings. Looking at the candidates for the
75 upcoming committee, it is evident that this is still very much the case and that
76 the immediate future of the branch is in good hands.

77 **Bank reconciliation (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2022)**

78 **Bank account 1 Jan 2021 £29,587.11**

79

80

81

82 Total receipts in 2021 (branch only) £7,678.20

83 Total receipts in 2021 (incl. elections) £26,402.47

84 Total payments in 2021 (branch only) £4,779.81

85 Total payments in 2021 (incl. elections) £29,036.97

86 Net surplus / deficit (branch only) £2,898.39

87 Net surplus / deficit (incl. elections) £-2,634.50

88

89 **Bank account on 31 Dec 2021 £26,952.61**

90 **Bank reconciliation (1 Jan – 19 June 2022)**

91 **Bank account 1 Jan 2022 £26,952.61**

92 Total receipts 1 Jan – 19 Jun 2022 (branch only) £2,533.96

93 Total receipts 1 Jan – 19 Jun 2022 (incl. elections) £26,287.51

94 Total payments 1 Jan – 19 Jun 2022 (branch only) £1,281.79

95 Total payments 1 Jan – 19 Jun 2022 (incl. elections) £27,353.70

96 Net surplus / deficit as at 19 Jun (branch only) £1,252.17

97 Net surplus / deficit as at 19 Jun (incl. elections) -£1,066.19

98 **Bank account on 19 Jun 2022 £25,886.42**

99 **Becky Luff**

100 **Edinburgh Branch Treasurer**

101 **19th June 2022**

Report

Proposer: Lorna Slater MSP (decided on: 06/20/2022)

Title: Lorna Slater MSP report

Report

1 The past year has been a new challenge for my team and me, as I was first
2 elected to parliament and then made a Scottish Government minister in a short
3 period of time. Each month I write a report for the branch which summarises my
4 work and updates with my office you can find them here:

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

6 **• July/ August 2021**

7 Most of the month was spent in cooperation talks with the Scottish Government.
8 We hosted a number of events that were open to party members and have continued
9 to do so in the months that have followed. One of the benefits of being a global
10 movement is that it allowed us to have constructive talks with our friends from
11 the New Zealand Greens and other Green parties from around the world, who were
12 keen to share their experiences of being in government.

13 **• September 2021**

14 I was appointed as Scotland's first ever Minister for Green Skills, Circular
15 Economy and Biodiversity following the historic vote within our party to enter
16 government at the EGM. This month included a lot of meetings with stakeholders
17 across the government and industry that helped me to understand the structures
18 of government and further my understanding of my portfolio.

19 • **October 2021**

20 In my Ministerial capacity I announced a review into incineration, which has
21 since reported back and recommended an end to planning permission for new
22 incinerators in Scotland. I will be responding to the report on behalf of the
23 Scottish Government in the weeks ahead, but it was a very rigorous piece of work
24 and one I was proud to commission.

25 I met with the then Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development,
26 Jenny Gilruth, to discuss how we can improve the accessibility and nature of
27 Holyrood Park. This followed meetings with constituents, car-free campaigners
28 and our fantastic Edinburgh councillors who have been pushing for improvements
29 to be made. This meeting has resulted in a longer engagement with Historic
30 Environment Trust, which I hope to update the branch about in the months ahead.

31 • **November/ December 2021**

32 I was very proud to announce the Scottish Government's plan for transforming
33 gender identity services. This laid out our plans to put trans people at the
34 heart of decisions about their healthcare while reducing waiting times to bring
35 them in line with national standards.

36 Although a positive COVID test meant that I was unable to attend the first week
37 of COP events in person, I did get the chance to visit stalls and exhibitions in
38 the "blue zone". I gave a speech at the WWF event and met people who are working
39 hard to protect animals and their inhabitants around the world.

40 In my role as a Minister, I was delighted to announce a £55 million nature
41 restoration fund to tackle biodiversity loss and rewild our green spaces. I got
42 the opportunity to meet with a lot of interesting people during COP at the Green
43 Hub which the Party organised in Glasgow. While there, I met with fellow Green
44 Ministers from around the world, activists from countries on the front line of
45 Climate Change and so many other amazing people.

46 I also visited Linlithgow and Dunbar to meet with local candidates and discuss
47 their campaigns for the local elections.

48 • **January 2022**

49 I was proud to announce a £12.5 million investment to protect our species,
50 woodlands, rivers and seas. This builds on a £5 million fund that we launched in
51 November and is part of the biggest investment in nature restoration that any
52 Scottish Government has ever made.

53 We committed to funding 54 projects across the country, from cities to towns and
54 villages. This includes support for the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust to
55 improve biodiversity in Edinburgh's urban parks and for Edinburgh City Council
56 to build a coastal meadow network.

57 I was also delighted to see the introduction of free bus travel for everyone
58 aged 21 or under, this was a key part of the cooperation agreement that we
59 negotiated with the Scottish Government.

60 • **February 2022**

61 I joined and spoke at protests outside Parliament and the Russian Consulate.
62 Unfortunately the powers of the Scottish Parliament are very limited, but I
63 worked with the Scottish Government as well as my Green MSP colleagues and
64 councillors to call for visa restrictions to be lifted and ensure that Scotland
65 did as much as we could.

66 As part of the Bute House agreement, the Scottish Government published the
67 Gender Recognition Act reform. This will allow self-identification for trans
68 people and will remove some of the bureaucracy and trauma from the existing
69 system.

70 • **March 2022**

71 In my Ministerial role, I launched the Scottish Government's new anti-food waste
72 campaign. This was launched at the Ripple in Restalrig, a community organisation
73 that provides vital services to some of the most deprived communities in our
74 city.

75 I was also very proud to announce the steps that we are taking to ban the
76 destruction of unsold goods and make sure they make it into the hands of those
77 that need them. This will be part of the Circular Economy Bill that I will be
78 taking through Parliament.

79 March also marked six months since we entered government. It was a good time to
80 reflect on what we have achieved in that time. It has been a busy time, with
81 free bus travel for everyone under 22, a record investment in active travel and
82 biodiversity, £145 million for additional teachers and support staff, the
83 doubling of the Scottish child payment, and a ban on many of the worst single-
84 use plastics. I am also hopeful about the longer-term changes we are delivering,
85 including GRA reform and better rights for tenants, including rent controls.

86 **• April/ May/ June 2022**

87 Over the election period I spent time campaigning with target candidates across
88 the region and nationally. It was great to see so many new faces elected as
89 Green councillors in the Lothian region, taking our Edinburgh Councillor group
90 to 10 and the addition of the Scottish Greens first ever councillor in East
91 Lothian Council. We saw growth in West Lothian as well despite falling short in
92 Linlithgow.

93 I was delighted to see so many Young Greens and women elected into our Edinburgh
94 group. I look forward to spending the next 5 years working with them to make the
95 Lothian region fairer and greener. I have already met with some of our new
96 councillors and have plans to meet them all as a group regularly in weeks and
97 months to come.

98 **• Looking ahead**

99 Over the next few months my team and I are going to be working with branches on
100 local projects to push forward the Green agenda and increase recognition of the
101 party within communities. In West Lothian we will be working to clean up
102 Linlithgow Loch. East Lothian we will be campaigning for a nature based flood
103 defence rather than the proposed concrete option and in Edinburgh we will
104 continue our work on Holyrood Park.

105 The months ahead will be very busy for my ministerial portfolio with the
106 conciliation for the Circular Economy Bill, more beaver translocations, the
107 Biodiversity Strategy to be published in the autumn and the further progress
108 towards naming Scotland's next national park. You can keep up to date with my
109 work on social media or in my monthly reports to branches.