

MIDLOTHIAN GREENS BRANCH NEWS



Scottish Green Party

SPRING 2019

SNP and Tories cave in to developers – again!

On February 19, all the SNP and Tory members of the Planning Committee, supported by Labour Chair Russell Imrie, approved plans to build 493 houses on the site of the former Rosslynlee Hospital despite those plans having previously been rejected by both the local community and council officers. And the developers refuse to build any affordable homes on the site!

The owners of the former hospital, which has been empty for nine years and is of historic importance, intend to restore the building and develop the land surrounding it with housing and commercial properties. Council officers had already renegotiated with the developers who did not agree to the usual requirements, ie 25% of the housing to be affordable homes. The developers also only proposed to fund just over 50% of the cost of the extra classroom spaces which would be required by new residents.

The officers returned from a second meeting with the offer from the developers revised once

more; they offered to pay for all of the classroom funding but no affordable homes, no money for other community facilities or transport infrastructure upgrades.

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Scottish Green Party Spring Conference 2019 and Extraordinary General Meeting

Saturday 6/Sunday 7 April
Craiglockhart Campus,
Edinburgh

Over the past couple of years the Scottish Green Party has been consulting with members over the future shape and structure of party.

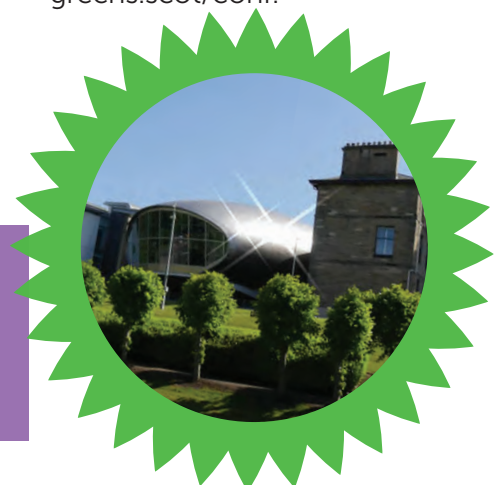
From this, it is now ready to propose a draft new constitution and accompanying procedures, which will set the rules for governance of everything the Party does in the future.

This will be discussed and voted on at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members to be held on Saturday 6 April.

Sunday 7 April will be a day of general workshops and ideas.

You can still register to attend from the SGP website: <https://greens.scot/conf>.

Our next branch meeting is on
**Thursday 11 April at Loanhead
Library, 7.00 – 9.00 pm**



Good legislation means good food!

Good Food Nation consultation update

With everyone so busy with Brexit the various consultations are probably lacking responses so top priority is to get as many people as possible to fill in the consultation (see below) because the more voices are heard the better the quality of the legislation that will serve us in the future.

Most effective responding is through the Government's **Good Food Nation consultation portal (the official consultation is given more weight) - <https://consult.gov.scot/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>.**

There is a valuable guide to responding at the **Scottish Food Coalition website**, and if you are stuck for time they have also created a quicker **e-action**, both here: <http://www.foodcoalition.scot/guide-to-responding.html>.

Midlothian Greens are happy to support the Scottish Food Coalition's calls for an ambitious new Good Food Nation law, which as a first step:

- provides oversight of the whole food system through a food commission which scrutinises all policies on food, making sure our policies don't contradict one another, and that we don't take backwards

- steps from becoming fairer, greener and healthier;
- incorporates the right to food for all;
- produces a National Plan for Food;

- introduces legally binding targets for all aspects of the food system;
- and places new obligations on public bodies. And crucially, to make any changes, we need as many people as possible interested in the possibility of big changes – to build a big movement for a Good Food Nation.

NB The deadline to submit consultation responses has been extended to **April 18th**. So, if you have not had a chance to contribute at either of the two Midlothian events, **Penicuik's Big Food Bleather** or the **Good Food Summit** in Dalkeith, you still have a chance to tell the Government what you think would make Scotland a **Good Food Nation**.



Rosslynlee development

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Shockingly, this was accepted by the Council, with 10 members voting for and four voting against. This offer was called 'intolerable' by Labour Councillor John Hackett who urged the committee to do as the council officers had originally proposed and not allow the development even though he supported the need to repair and improve the former hospital building.

It was apparent that Tory Councillor Peter Smail's main concern was that the hospital building would not get repaired if this didn't go ahead and that as usual property, albeit a building of historic interest, was more important than people.

This is the most unsustainable housing development yet approved in Midlothian. It will have no public transport and will disgorge hundreds of car commuters every day on to roads that the developer has refused to upgrade.



Did you know..?

... for the past two years, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world. Its citizens are relaxed and cheerful, enjoying life in a progressive, technologically advanced society, without becoming overly stressed.

The Finns themselves attribute this to their connection with nature and their instinct to go outside whenever anxiety rears its ugly head: 'When others go to therapy, Finns put on a pair of rubber boots and head to the woods.'

Source: treehugger.com

Please keep on sharing your green issue Tweets and Facebook posts and send in your short pieces for inclusion in this, **your** branch newsletter.



Cocky Conservatives: a continuing series
Part 94: David 'Chutzpah' Cameron

Midlothian Green Party Branch Meetings 2019

We meet once a month, on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The meeting is open to everyone. Below you can see the planned meetings for the rest of the year and the venue. If you need transport please get in touch and we can arrange a lift for you.

Thursday 11 April	Loanhead Library
Tuesday 14 May	Penicuik Town Hall
Thursday 13 June	Loanhead Library
Tuesday 9 July	St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith
Thursday 8 August	Loanhead Library
Tuesday 10 September	Penicuik Town Hall
Thursday 10 October	Loanhead Library
Tuesday 12 November	St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith
Thursday 12 December	Loanhead Library



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