



Calls to action!

Our economic system is broken. We've had a decade of wage stagnation, rising inequality and poverty. Work is no longer a guarantee of security and being able to meet basic needs.

At the same time, the reliance of our economy on fossil fuels is driving the breakdown of our climate.

The Scottish Greens are calling for a Scottish Green New Deal that uses every lever

At the heart of a Scottish Green New Deal is a belief that the Scottish Government can and must take a direct role, working in partnership with citizens, communities, and companies to deliver the change Scotland and

ROADS ACTION

Edgehead village is a settlement on a long straight road south-east of Dalkeith where vehicles speeding through the village has become an increasingly serious problem.

Over the first six months of the year, on average, 15% of the cars passing through the middle of the village drive over 35 mph. The local community want to introduce traffic calming measures and extend the current 20mph zone and are even willing to raise the funds to do this themselves.

The Edgehead Village Committee has been in contact with the police, with council officers, their local councillors and their local MSP numerous times over the last few years and have had no success. Midlothian Council has completely rejected their proposals.

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available to Scotland to respond to this emergency with the transformational change that is needed.

Scotland can:

- redirect massive investment into low carbon industries
- grow a world-leading low carbon manufacturing sector
- restore our natural environment
- give everyone a warm home
- and provide access to cheap, reliable and green transport.

But to do this we have to ditch neoliberal economics for good.

the planet so urgently needs.

The Scottish Greens have proposed an outline for a Scottish Green New Deal and over the coming year will be developing this proposal further with our members, stakeholders, the government and industry.

Please back our call for a Scottish Green New Deal now! Sign up and support our online campaign at <https://greens.scot/scottish-green-new-deal> Or get in touch with Midlothian Greens to sign up or ask for more information.

EDGEFIELD VILLAGE ACTION

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The two main reasons for this outright rejection are; firstly, the low rate of accident reports - it seems that until there are several serious accidents nothing will be done.

Secondly, lack of funding. The council has not even responded to the proposal that the village would raise funds to pay for some or all of these proposals.

It is well known that this approach, grassroots democracy

in action, is anathema to the council - it would just encourage others to do the same! So, we would like to encourage any members who are a local or close to Edgehead or those who are just concerned about your local roads becoming high speed death traps, to please contact Peter Brouwer or James Aitken. It would be great to bring local villages together to stand firm and make the council take notice.

If you'd like to know more about this campaign please

contact: Peter Brouwer at peter.brouwer99@gmail.com or James Aitken at jamesroyaitken@gmail.com. If speeding is a problem in your area and especially if you live in Edgehead or the surrounding villages then please

support this campaign by emailing your local councillors and MSP Colin Beattie.

Colin Beattie MSP
Midlothian North & Musselburgh
colin.beattie.msp@parliament.scot

Local councillors:

Kenneth Baird *Midlothian East*
Kenneth.Baird@midlothian.gov.uk

John Hackett *Midlothian East*
John.Hackett@midlothian.gov.uk

Peter Smail *Midlothian East*
Peter.Smail@midlothian.gov.uk

Midlothian Council officers dealing with road safety issues:

Cllr Derek Milligan
Leader of Midlothian Council
derek.milligan@midlothian.gov.uk

Dave Kenny
Senior Consultant Engineer
dave.kenny@midlothian.gov.uk

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Conference call

The Scottish Green Party Autumn Conference is being held in Inverness on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 October 2019.

Autumn Conference is your chance to shape party policy, priorities and rules. Book your place at Conference #SGPConf2019

The first agenda, which is the full text of all submitted and approved motions is now available, as a member you can:

- view the first agenda online or download a pdf file;
- submit an amendment to any of the motions. There are full instructions on how to do this on the members site;
- vote for the motions that you feel are most important, this will help determine the order in which they are heard.

The deadline for submitting an amendment is **noon on Thursday 12th September**. Book your place at Conference #SGPConf2019.

DEMOCRACY ACTION

European Movement in Scotland are planning a protest featuring Scottish Greens co-leader Lorna Slater, SNP MP Joanna Cherry, Labour MP Ian Murray and Liberal Democrat MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton on September 21 between 2pm and 4pm at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Information for September 21 protest can be found at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/march-to-remain-in-the-eu-for-peace-and-climate-action-tickets-67487128819?ref=eios

Our next branch meeting is on **Tuesday 10 September** at **Penicuik Town Hall**, **7.00pm – 9.00pm**, you're very welcome, there's loads to talk about!

News Brief

Amazonia being plundered for the profit of a few

As Greta Thunberg docked at the North Cove Marina in New York to protest at the UN Climate Action Summit never more did her words ring true: 'I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is'.

Whilst Greta was making her two-week journey across the Atlantic the raging forest fires in the Amazon were headline news. MSP Alison Johnstone wrote in the *Evening News* 'Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has denied climate science and promoted the opening of the Amazon to mining, farming and logging. This has given Brazil's agricultural lobby free reign on this global resource, which has already been in decline since the 1990s. The first eight months of Bolsonaro's rule has been an environmental disaster on a global scale.

That's why it was appalling to see the UK trade

minister in Brazil last week, negotiating a post-Brexit trade deal with Bolsonaro's government. While Ireland, France and others showed EU solidarity by suspending trade talks, Boris Johnson's Brexit project was participating in a race to the bottom by looking for deregulated deals with Bolsonaro and his ally Donald Trump.

UK minister Conor Burns should have been recalled from Brazil immediately. Instead, Johnson's response contained no sense of urgency, no recognition of the Amazon's vital life-giving role and its significance in tackling the climate emergency'.

Read Scottish Green MSP Alison Johnstone's full article in the *Edinburgh Evening News*, 27 August 2019.

SPACEPORT ACTION

In August our branch heard about the proposed rocket-launch facility in North Uist. Later in the month UN House Scotland held its second Green Court event.

On Monday, August 26, UN House Scotland held its second Green Court event — an interactive environmental court that discusses issues in environmental law based on real life examples. The case in question tackled the environmental controversies surrounding the construction of a rocket-launch facility in North Uist, an island in the Outer Hebrides. Spaceport 1 is intended to be the first ever UK-based launching point for satellites and sounding rockets. This planning proposal was submitted by the Western Isles Council to the planning office of the council itself. The council is in fact part of a larger consortium of investors on this project, which includes the UK Space Agency, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, QinetiQ, and Commercial Space Technologies. However,

certain members of the North Uist community have urged the council to withdraw their planning application, since the Council purchased the land on Scolpaig Farm without consulting the constituency and submitted the planning proposal without conducting an environmental impact assessment. Two teams of two counselors each took the floor to address 4 central points at issue: First, is the local council legally required to hold a pre-application consultation for the public? Second, is an environmental impact assessment a legal requirement in this case? Third, will the proposed Spaceport development 'affect' nearby conservation areas? And fourth, will the proposed Spaceport development have a significant impact on human rights?

The Petitioners were represented by Hannah Barrett of UN House Scotland and Ian Cowan, an independent consultant on environmental and planning law. The Respondents were represented by Caitlin Mills, a current law student at the University of Dundee, and Luke Padfield of UN House Scotland. Professor James Harrison of Edinburgh Law School presided over the moot court and helped to guide an engaging group discussion following the debate. This event was made possible with the support of UN House Scotland, Artlink, the UK Environmental Law Association, and the University of Edinburgh. Keep an eye out for a follow-up 'moot court report' on the UN House Scotland website and further announcements about our next Green Court event!

Blooming marvellous!

A new Facebook group set up on the 15th of August has seen the local community come together and get their shears and shovels out to clean up their local town centre!

Dalkeith Guerrilla Gardeners was created by Denise McKenzie who has lived in Dalkeith/Woodburn her whole life. Her vision to get a community group together to maintain the streets, weeding, planting, growing fruit and veg in urban areas of Dalkeith and Woodburn has seen the group grow to 106 members in less than a month.

Denise said 'We have a local council that is stretched due to underfunding of public services and the level of maintenance they can provide is declining. Party politics aside, we as individuals have a collective responsibility to our towns, our

children who will grow up and inherit the space and our natural environment.'

The Facebook page has shared stories of their local achievements, families carrying out hand weeding in their local streets, neighbours getting together to cut back overgrown public areas that were not due to be cleared till winter. The group themselves organised their first group event and tackled Eskdail Court which was overgrown, vandalised and littered and what a great job they did! Check out their Facebook page for the 'before and after' pictures!

Denise said 'If we care about



the place we live, all is not lost; let's act to make it a more inviting, attractive place that promotes health and community wellbeing. Get your gardening gloves on and join in!' Look up their Facebook page if you would like to join in or perhaps Denise has inspired you to start your own local Guerrilla Gardening Group!

Please share your green issue Tweets and Facebook posts and please send in pieces for inclusion in this, **your** branch newsletter.



Midlothian Greens 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.

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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www.midlothiangreens.org.uk

