

# Five things you need to know today



[The Sunday Herald](#) published an article yesterday about those MSPs who are still councillors until the next council elections in May 2012, and who are therefore entitled to a salary as an MSP of £58,000 and as a councillor which is about £16,000. Edinburgh councillor, Alison Johnstone MSP, has confirmed that she does not collect her council salary, but not all erstwhile councillors can say the same as one-third of those who hold both positions still collect both salaries.

[Midlothian Council](#) is using a new method of getting repairs to council homes notified to them which they hope will save about £1.4m over the next five years.

[Hutchison Community Council](#) meets tonight according to [Councillor Andrew Burns](#) (who should know about these things!)

The freshnlo Pedal For Scotland took place yesterday along with a variety of other cycling events. Did you take part? Do you have any photos? then upload them to our [Flickr Photostream](#) or send them to us [by email.](#)

If you have a free hour then we recommend the [photography exhibition at the Botanics](#) which shows the destruction to the Boreal Forest in Canada by tar sands extraction.

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