

LEITH LINKS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ELECTION 2016

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Philip Attridge

I have lived in Duke Street Leith for the last 29 years, and have seen Leith go through many changes, most of which I believe have been beneficial to Leith.

I have been a co opted member of Leith Links Community Council for the past year, also current Chair of Leith Festival and Pilmeny Development Project based in Buchanan Street. Over the past 3 decades I have always made an effort to be involved in the Leith community, either as a volunteer in community organisations, and also as an elected Edinburgh City councillor for 10 years.

We have a wonderful history, both built and cultural in Leith, we should do our best to look after it for future generations.



Stephen Brennan

I have been an active member in both Toll Cross and Stockbridge Community Councils.

I am now the father of young children and this has given me a different perspective, in wanting to improve the local area for their growing up.

Our family moved to Leith Links eighteen months ago, which is a beautiful area. I am a firm believer in putting something back into my Community and trying to improve the local area for everyone.

I work for Edinburgh Council (and have done for close to twenty years). This has given me a good understanding in how the City Council operates and how to get things done across Departments.



Adrian Graham

My name is Adrian Graham. I am 50+ years young and have enjoyed living and volunteering in Leith Links Community Council area for almost twenty years. I have been a Community Councillor since June 2014. My volunteering activities include gardening, helping out and facilitating activities and friendships with local people e.g. on litter pick-ups and community events. I am on the Leith Decides Steering Group and prompt local groups to apply, as even small amounts of funding can improve well-being. Two-wheeled transport is my choice, and I believe the 20 mph roll-out is already making cycling safer and more pleasurable.



Angus Hardie

My name is Angus Hardie, I'm 58 years old and I've lived in Leith for almost 30 years. For some years I was involved with Leith Festival, helping to organise its programme of arts and culture as well as Leith Gala Day. I've spent most of my working life as a community worker of one sort or another, mainly in the voluntary sector and I'm particularly interested in trying to make local democracy work more effectively for communities. I think this is a time of real opportunity for local people to become much more active in shaping what happens in their communities. New opportunities are opening up as a result of Community Empowerment and Land Reform legislation and much of Scottish Government's current policy is focused on what communities can do for themselves. There are lots of challenges facing communities too, particularly with local government cuts and now Brexit. I have little practical knowledge or experience of how community councils operate but I am aware that we may be approaching a time of some change in terms of what is expected of community councils. As such, I am interested to see if I can contribute anything to this emerging future.



Linda Hutton

If I can make a difference to just one person's life by becoming a Community Councillor, I'll be happy with that. Thank you for your vote.



David Igoe

My name is David Igoe. I work in St Ninian's Primary School, part of whose catchment is in this area, and I have lived here since 1993. I have been actively involved in the community of Leith Links and the wider Leith community for most of that time.

I have been a member of St Mary's RC Primary School Parent Council and the Parish Council of St Mary's RC Church, which serves the Leith Links area. I am a former Chair of Leith Churches Together, a forum whereby all Leith churches work together for the benefit of the community. In the wider community I was a member of the management team of Dr. Bell's Family Centre for five years.

I have some insight into the different needs of residents that cover both deprived and affluent areas and the diverse population who live here. I believe I can bring both my personal experience of the issues facing the area and a listening ear and voice to a variety of Leithers' opinions.

If I gain a place on the council, I will work hard on behalf of all.



Andrew MacKenzie

I've been resident in Leith for just under 10 years and have two children who attend a local primary school, where I served on the Parent Council as secretary for three years. In that role I have had contact with local councillors and City of Edinburgh Council officers on a number of issues, including the poor state of the Links parkland following drainage works carried out in October 2014. I continue to play a supportive role with the PTA, the Leith Community Croft, and with local sports groups Leith Athletic FC and Leith FAB CC. My professional background is in newspaper journalism and I continue to take a keen interest in issues that affect the local community. And I believe it is important that the Leith Links Community Council continues to have a strong voice which is heard by the city council on matters that affect us all.



Abu Sayed Mohammed Meron

I born in Bangladesh, lived in Scotland for last 16 years. Being working in Leith area for last 12 years, I moved here because I love heritage and diversity of the vibrant Leith neighbourhood.

I am multilingual and have a MBA degree from UK institution. I also have extensive international experience in senior management of corporate sector and global business.

I truly believe in equality and democracy needs representation of everyone in a fair society. Therefore, I will dedicate myself to serve and empower local people from all walks of life to ensure their voice heard in making local decisions.

I am member of Edinburgh rotary club. I have a very high level of experience in campaigning, organising, community engagement and working with people which would be a great benefit to the work of Leith Links CC.

I am keen to provide my input on how everyone in the Leith Links community can be integrated with local civic society and public life and creating a cohesive society with respect and equality.

With your support, I look forward to contributing to the community council and enabling Leith Links community life to flourish.



Polling information

All eligible voters will receive polling information through their letterboxes from the City of Edinburgh Council from 19 October 2016. If you do not receive information shortly after this date and believe you should, please contact the Council as a matter of urgency on 0131 200 2000.

Sally Millar

I have lived in Leith Links for 28 years (Some people may know me as the 'No Leith Biomass woman'....), I know the ups and downs for residents in this small but remarkably diverse area, and am committed to making whatever contribution I can to serve the local community.

I have been a Leith Links Community Councillor for three years (Secretary, currently). I'm keen to carry on working hard to follow through and help to deliver the new projects that we have planned together - we have just obtained funding to support small local community projects that could help to brighten peoples lives.

Clear information and straightforward communication are vital in giving people control in their lives. I want EVERYONE in our local community to feel informed and consulted - to have a voice! - about things that affect them and their families, in everyday life. I am active on the Leith Decides Steering Group, with inclusion and accessibility as key aims.

Local communities may have a bigger role in future, so I'm onside for a Community Council ready to speak up for everyone, to protect what's good, and to fight for what's needed.



Grace Murray-Cavanagh

Although I'm originally from Northern Ireland, I've been living in Leith for the past ten years and have recently moved to Leith Links. I love living here and am always keen to take part in things that are happening nearby - from smaller community events to large-scale things like the Leith Gala Days, the Mela or the recent Hibs victory parade.

After moving to the Links, my attention was first captured by the Community Council meeting leaflets that dropped through my letter box. I think that it would be really interesting to represent our area and this is a role that I feel that I would be good at. I am a primary school teacher so I am aware of the issues faced by young families in the area as well as being interested in other current community issues like the impending large-scale planning application, the Salamander St prostitution situation and the Seafeld sewage plant issues.

I am keen to help keep improving things in our area to make Leith Links an even better place to live and I would be delighted to play an active role on the Community Council if I was elected.



Christine Reid

I am 63 years old, divorced, born in West Lothian, but living and working for most of my life in Edinburgh. I have lived in Leith for 20 years - first in Ryehill Terrace and currently in Salamander Place.

Leith is my home – the people here, in all their diversity, are the friendliest I know. There is so much about Leith to enjoy – our fascinating history, great places to eat, drink and socialise, an annual Gala, a Jazz and Blues festival, the Mela. And as a Hibbie, I was this year part of the tremendous turnout to bring home the Scottish Cup.

But we also have our issues. Over 600 houses are being built north of Leith Links, so we need to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is there. The smell from Seafield sewage works has been a concern for many years. Responsible behaviour by dog owners is always important.

Now retired, my career was with the Scottish Government now based at Victoria Quay, where I worked and met with a wide range of voluntary organisations on housing, health and education matters. My personal interests include drawing (class at Leith Art College) and Yoga (Leith Academy).



Jacqueline Rogers

I was born in Leith and grew up in West Lothian, I returned to Edinburgh to attend Moray House where I graduated as a teacher in 1998. My current post is Depute Headteacher.

I have lived in Leith for the past 20 years and am married with a son who attends St Mary's Primary on the Links.

I have a strong interest in our local community and social issues and was involved with the Splashback campaign to reopen Leith Waterworld and support Leithers Don't Litter, having adopted my street and pledged to help keep it litter free!

If I was elected I would like to find ways to involve the young people in our schools and help them play an active part in local democracy, canvassing their views for improvements to facilities within the area. I am eager too, to explore ways in which Leith Links playpark can be upgraded and attract more visitors.

I hope that I will be able to work alongside members of our community to help make Leith Links a community that we can all be proud to be part of.



www.twitter.com/LeithLinks_cc



www.leithlinksc.org.uk



www.facebook.com/leithlinksc

James Scanlon

My name is Jim Scanlon and I've lived and worked in Leith for over 30 years. I have been active in Leith Community Council for 10 years and currently hold the post of Chair. I have built up a good working relationship with the other community councils, elected politicians and voluntary organisations in the area. I'm passionate about Leith and its community and raised concerns over the planned biomass plant in Leith docks, working with other members of the community we developed a campaign which resulted in the withdrawal of the application. I currently monitor planning and licensing applications and have been involved with Leith Decides since its conception.

I am a member of the Neighbourhood Partnership and Safer Leith groups and attend meetings of the Custom House Community Heritage Group which works towards the public use of this special building. I currently hold the post of Vice-Chair with Leith Local History Society and until recently also that of treasurer.

Leith Links Community Council has a great future, engaging with the local community, taking forward their concerns and making Leith a vibrant community that looks to the future. I would like to ask you to vote for me to allow me to continue working for you.



John Tibbitt

I first came to Edinburgh in 1974, working as a researcher for the Scottish Government. Now retired, I have an honorary research post at Glasgow University working on place-based policies. I am married with 3 grown-up children. We have lived in Leith for 5 years. Leith is a diverse community with some excellent amenities, especially around Leith Links. I would like to assist the community council to encourage the best use of these amenities for the benefit of all, to improve the attractiveness of the area and build a positive, welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

I enjoy walking and the outdoors, looking after my allotment and doing my best to follow Watford FC. I have always been interested in current affairs and politics. I was at one time chair of a School Board.



Michael Traill

I first joined Leith Links Community Council earlier this year after living / working in Leith for over ten years and would be honoured to be elected at this election.

Over the next three years I want to be part of an active Community Council, one which engages with our community and is as much proactive as it is reactive to emerging community issues. So far this year we have taken many steps towards this but there is still work to be done.

I want to ensure our Community Council is one that works hard to make a difference to the lives of those who live in our community, one that makes our community an even better place and one which people know can be relied upon to stand up for everyone in our community, especially those whose voices may otherwise easily go unheard.



Eleanor Williams

I've lived in and around Leith for most of the last 20 years. I'm friendly, creative and diligent. I enjoy reading, gardening, strategy games and playing frisbee when it's not too windy!

What I would like to do if elected as Community Councillor is find out what the Leith Links local people would like to do and then help plan and organise those projects and events they've picked. I'm also keen to see if we could start a local newsletter to keep people informed on local news and events. With Leith Links itself, the Leith Links and Claremont Park allotments, two community plots in our area and so many locals with private gardens, I'm sure we could create a local gardening club for all to enjoy.

For a career, I've worked as a Freelance Double Bass Player for over 20 years, playing concerts in Scotland, England, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Italy. More recently I stopped working to start a family. Off season day jobs over the years include Housekeeper, Sales Assistant, Installation Project Manager, PA and Legal Clerk. I've also done various charity work over the years.



Other candidates

One candidate did not submit a statement or photograph for inclusion in this document;

- Eileen Simpson

