



Scottish Green Party co-convenor Patrick Harvie MSP, Moray Greens convenor Fabio Villani, and lead Scottish Green Party candidate for Europe Elaine Morrison during a recent event in Forres

Top Greens visit Moray

Elaine Morrison, the Scottish Green Party's lead candidate for Europe, and Patrick Harvie, MSP and joint Convenor of the Scottish Green Party, paid a visit to Forres on 25 April.

They were the guest speakers at an open meeting organised by the Moray Greens in Forres House Community Centre, discussing the Scottish Greens' plans to deal with the great economic, environmental and energy challenges facing us.

Elaine Morrison explained that the Green plan for Europe offers a huge expansion in green jobs, supporting renewable energy, public transport and energy efficiency on a massive scale. While other parties are locked in the same old thinking that led to the current 'triple crunch' of economic, environmental and energy crises, Greens offer a 'green new deal' to solve the economic crisis in ways that will help to combat climate change, and end poverty at home and abroad.

Patrick Harvie, who is Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee, talked about the progress being made with trying to ensure that the Scottish Climate Change Bill is tough enough for Scotland to do its part in tackling this global challenge. He also spoke about the successes of the Scottish Greens in the current Parliament, including the securing of a Climate Challenge Fund to support local action to deal with the causes and consequences of climate change.

Forres has already secured over £184,000 from this fund, thanks to a grant awarded to local community group Forres Transition Town last October, so the discussion moved to the progress made by the group with leasing land to provide a community garden at Bogton Road, and to its plans for a farmers' market in the town.

As Fabio Villani, Moray Greens convenor and treasurer of Transition Town Forres, explained, both projects are intended to reduce impacts on the climate by reducing carbon emissions linked to food-miles (the distance food travels between the producer and the consumer), and to build local resilience, as producing and sourcing more of our food locally will make Forres less dependent on food 'imports', whether from elsewhere in the UK or from abroad.

Plans for setting up a local community energy company were also discussed, and both Patrick and Elaine were able to give very useful suggestions and information on how to take these forward, based on their knowledge and expertise on these matters.

Warm Homes: the campaign goes on



The failure of the Scottish Government to adopt the Green Warm Homes proposals is not the end, says Prospective Green parliamentary candidate Dr Eleanor Scott.

Dr Scott said "The SNP's Budget was an inadequate response to the economic and ecological crisis we face. It continues to pile resources into projects which will aggravate climate change, leave our economic problems unsolved and worsen social injustice. The prospect of a green new deal to tackle these simultaneous problems has now receded by a year, a year we can ill afford to waste.

"My Green MSP colleagues spent months setting out the need for a simple and positive measure to counterbalance these schemes. Based on the successes of Green councillors in Kirkcaldy, the proposal would have introduced an area-based home energy efficiency project, delivered free, area-by-area and door-to-door. Instead, Ministers have come back with the same tired and inadequate approach, wasting public money on means-testing, hotlines that no-one will ring, setting up bureaucratic hurdles and introducing financial disincentives.

"Greens will continue to campaign for this socially and environmentally necessary scheme".

More information about the Warm Homes proposal which has the support of environmental and anti-poverty groups as well as the construction industry, can be found at www.warmscotland.org.

This issue of **Green Space** is produced by the Moray Greens, part of the Highlands & Islands branch of the Scottish Green Party.

End Poverty – Reclaim our Economy

The credit crunch and global economic crisis are an important challenge for us all. After 10 years of getting drunk on credit, the world is waking up with a mighty headache – only Greens have a cure for that headache that isn't based on another drunken credit binge.

The Green plan for Europe offers a massive expansion in green jobs, supporting renewable energy, public transport and energy efficiency on a massive scale. Greens want to solve the economic crisis in ways that will help to combat climate change, and end poverty at home and abroad.

Elaine Morrison, the Greens lead candidate said: "Scotland had the opportunity to lead the world in energy efficiency – a plan supported by economists, house builders and environmentalists – we need more Greens elected to make the crucial difference for people – ending fuel poverty is only the start."

The two Green Members of the Scottish Parliament have delivered in excess of £15m for energy efficiency in Scotland. This is good, but with more Greens in Parliament it could have been even better. Rather than the means tested scheme that government proposes, Greens wanted a free, universal scheme to insulate all Scotland's homes, to help keep construction workers in a job and to end fuel poverty.

In Huddersfield, Greens have delivered a free universal scheme that has slashed energy bills and added hundreds of jobs and millions of pounds of investment to the area. Scotland could benefit in the same way.

The European election offers you the chance to make government take free, universal provision of energy efficiency seriously.

Only Greens want to stop boom and bust, and only Greens want to solve the economic crisis in a way that makes all the people of the world richer.

Greens will work towards ending poverty by helping you reclaim your economy - an economy that works for people and planet - not for big business.

A vote for Elaine Morrison and the Scottish Green Party in the European election on June 4th will help end poverty in Scotland and around the world.



Scottish Green Party co-convenor Patrick Harvie MSP (left) and lead Scottish Green Party candidate for Europe Elaine Morrison (right) during their recent visit to Forres. With them are Moray Greens convenor Fabio Villani and local organic farmers Nick and Pam Rodway, who attended the Forres meeting to ask about the Green Party policy on food.

The Moray Greens

Members and sympathisers of the Scottish Green Party in the Moray area set up a 'Moray Greens' group in March 2008, acting under the umbrella of the Highlands & Islands branch.

The main aim of the group is to develop a strong presence in Moray to bring about a greener, more sustainable Moray – by supporting green community initiatives in the area, by seeking to influence the policies and activities of the Moray Council, and by working to get elected Green representation in Moray.

"We are absolutely delighted to have taken this first step towards making Moray greener" said area convenor Fabio Villani. "There are a lot of green activities going on in Moray, and a lot of potential supporters, particularly in the Forres area; we look forward to giving them a voice and the opportunity to engage in the political process."

Help us make the difference

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- ... receive more information about the Scottish Green Party
- ... donate to the Highlands & Islands Green Party
- ... help with future campaigns

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Tick this box if you would prefer us not to keep your address on file.

Please complete and return to the Moray Greens, Clover, Alves Forres, IV36 2RA.

Thank you!

Green Contacts

Moray Greens

Clover
Alves
Forres
IV36 2RA

info@moray.scottishgreens.org.uk

<http://higp.scottishgreens.org.uk/>

Scottish Green Party

Thorn House
5 Rose Street,
Edinburgh EH2 2PR
08700 772207
www.scottishgreens.org.uk