

# Let's paint a better future

**VOTE PETE GREGSON — YOUR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR:**

- ✓ - More social activities for young and old
- ✓ - Supporting asset transfer to give Corstorphine Community Centre a permanent home
- ✓ - Proper CCWEL pollution monitoring and cycle counts
- ✓ - No CCWEL through Corstorphine; use removable bollards, with investment directed to fixing cycling blackspots
- ✓ - Adding Council roadworks to online maps
- ✓ - Better roads and pavements, fewer potholes, through regional delivery of transport
- ✓ - Smaller class sizes, better pupil support through regional delivery of education
- ✓ - Setting up a student lodging scheme
- ✓ - Allotments at Pansy Walk and mural at Balgreen Tunnel

## FOR AN EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE COUNCIL

Vote for this NHS worker who has lived in the area for over 20 years and knows Balgreen, Broomhall, Carrick Knowe, Corstorphine, Murrayfield, Ravelston, Roseburn and Saughtonhall.

A candidate who acts for what's best for the area, rather than blindly following the party line and everything the Council officers propose.

Edinburgh, the most officer-driven Council in Scotland, with the highest number of mandarins on salaries over £100,000, ignores the electorate too often.

**Vote for a candidate that puts Corstorphine/Murrayfield first!**



**Power Here...not Here**

Residents vote for Councillors (who are paid as part-timers on £19,500k pa) to govern, but most admit that it is unelected officers (on £30k-plus) that run the show. Our local politicians usually accept the recommendations of their highly-paid unelected corporate managers, sometimes to the city's detriment. Pete Gregson promises to work for what's best for voters.

The weakness of local democracy in Edinburgh is exemplified in white elephants like at least half of the CCWEL (£20M) and the poorly designed Trams (£1Bn) which never deliver the benefits officers promote. Your elected Councillors have for the past 20 years nodded through these projects, with disastrous results for shops and road users.

Vote for a candidate that will dig into the detail and make a difference. Your Tory, SNP and LibDem Councillors have consistently voted through these poorly conceived schemes, only realising very recently the damage they do to trade. Pete has been campaigning against Council mismanagement for many years, with numerous petitions and flying campaigns against madcap projects, short-sighted decisions and bad bureaucracy.

### CCWEL TO CORSTORPHINE?

The City Centre West to East Link (CCWEL), the protected cycleway that runs from Roseburn to Picardy Place, has wreaked havoc. It's too late to stop the Roseburn to Haymarket stretch, but if it doesn't deliver the promised benefits, there's no way it should be extended to Corstorphine. When it was first mooted in 2014, officers told Councillors that it would lead to an 88% increase in cycling. The last survey that Murrayfield Community Council did, in Nov 2019 measured 420 cycle journeys a day in Roseburn Terrace. If this doesn't increase to 790 once the CCWEL is "bedded-in", we should declare the project a failure.

To do this, we need a proper impact evaluation. The Council's £340,000 monitoring scheme so far ignores two key bits of data from our shopping parade: cycling count and NO2 pollution levels.

One of the side-effects of the CCWEL is **increased pollution**- your candidate was ejected from the City Chambers in 2019 for pointing out the increased risk to those living and working on Roseburn Terrace, (including Ruth Davidson's baby, if she brought it to work!), where the NO2 level was almost at the legal maximum of 40 µg/m3.

Since the Council removed the south side parking, the 22,000 motor vehicles that pass through the Terrace daily are 3m closer to homes, leading to higher pollution. But Council officers have **moved the pollution monitor to a less-polluted location**, in order to manipulate the impact of the CCWEL. Pete will lobby to get it put back, as he fears pollution there will breach UK Air Quality Standards (see video at [www.tinyurl.com/roseburnplume](http://www.tinyurl.com/roseburnplume)).



Cost £1K

Cycling officials are determined to build protected cycle tracks on main roads. If they insist, let's use removable bollards - at a fraction of the cost. It's cheaper and easily removed if cyclists don't use it.



Cost £20M

### POTHOLES AND BLOCKED GULLIES



Your cycling candidate says

**NO MORE CCWEL!**

As your Councillor, Pete will push to get the Roseburn cycling and pollution data collected.

Pete supports active travel but wants more carrot and less stick. As well as fighting expansion of the CCWEL, Pete will **push for more routine maintenance**- decent pavements, filling in potholes, safer junctions and crossing points, with new infrastructure projects built on genuine public consultation and proper impact assessment. Change must be trialled- cycling bollards are cheap and removable.

**Edinburgh's potholes are notorious** because we have a Council that has diverted cash away from road repairs to the CCWEL, yet cyclists suffer from potholes as much as anyone. Tyres are punctured; suspension and shock absorbers damaged- thanks to Council mismanagement. Labour convener Cllr Scott Arthur blames a limited budget, but he has helped make it so; £20M (half from Council coffers) has disappeared into the CCWEL hole. Let's keep the Council on its toes: report blocked gullies to officers at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gully](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/gully) and potholes and bad pavements at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roadproblem](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roadproblem)



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## BETTER ROADS AND PAVEMENTS



Edinburgh is beset by **endless roadworks**; better management of these is needed- their scheduling seems almost random. We should not see a situation where arteries close together are clogged by digs making passage slow and tortuous. Pete will push for effective oversight and scheduling of roadworks so that traffic moves smoothly.

Drivers need to know which roads are being worked on; the Council list of roadworks is not user-friendly. Pete will lobby to get the Council adding roadworks to online maps, so you can plan ahead. We have the technology to make our journey easier- we just need to start using it.

Pete supports various measures to fund better roads and pavements- the regional delivery of transport and roads would save millions. Pete believes the tourism tax would bring in £24M to smarten up our city.

## PETE'S BACKGROUND

Pete has been an active member of Murrayfield Community Council since 2016. He has organised numerous fun days and community consultations in the Roseburn area. After raising 6,000 signatures against the CCWEL, in 2016 he led the "Roseburn Vision" initiative which proposed an alternative scheme, following a crowd-funded consultation he ran with the shops and 260 residents- which the Council completely ignored.

In 2013, as a Council employee, he successfully petitioned Cllrs for a whistleblower hotline to report bullying and mismanagement- but got fired for his pains. The Council now boasts of its success (if it had been in place a decade earlier, many of the mistakes of the trams would have been avoided). This and his many other campaigns are featured on his [www.kidsnotsuits.com](http://www.kidsnotsuits.com) website.

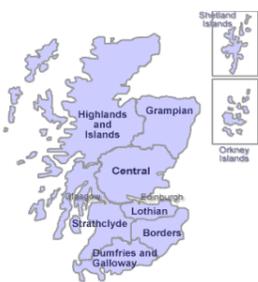
Prior to working at Edinburgh Council as a Project Manager in Regeneration, Pete set up and ran Young People Speak Out, a youth work project. Before that he was self-employed making videos for charities and commerce; he started his career at the BBC. He has a degree in Biochemistry and postgrad degrees in IT and community work.

Pete has long been a campaigner for free speech. This has led to his being attacked for his criticisms of Israel. His activism led to his being expelled from the GMB union on bogus antisemitism charges under the IHRA Definition, even though he was defended by Rabbi Cohen- see the film at [www.tinyurl.com/gmbihra](http://www.tinyurl.com/gmbihra).

Rabbi Dovid Weiss of Neturei Karta International-Jews Against Zionism has described Pete as a campaigner who "has tremendous respect for Jews and Judaism, while maintaining his moral position of sympathizing with the oppressed people of Palestine." Pete is chair of the Edina-Gaza Twinning Association and One Democratic Palestine.

## SMALLER CLASS SIZES AND BETTER PUPIL SUPPORT

If education was delivered on a regional basis across Scotland, it would allow £500M pa of resources to be redirected into our schools, reducing classroom sizes at a stroke with more learning support assistants too. Pete's Parliamentary petition of 2016 spells out how it would work. Result? - happier teachers and pupils and higher attainment levels.



Pete would also like to see more adventurous teaching methods- more practical science- with a return to traditional methods of experimentation and less powerpoint education. We need greater use of the net to encourage language learning, with class links to foreign schools (Zoom has made so many more activities possible). We need to **reverse cuts in Education Welfare staff at schools**- who help with young people's mental health issues, cutting down bullying and truanting.

## BETTER YOUTH FACILITIES

Pete will campaign for **better youth facilities in Corstorphine/Murrayfield**- basketball hoops, multi-use games areas, teen shelters; youth clubs too. For over 10 years Pete has helped run the 150<sup>th</sup> Craigmount Scout Group, as Treasurer and fundraiser.

## BRING BACK ALLOTMENTS AT PANSY WALK

This land has for many years been used by the Council as a works depot for the trams, the flood prevention works and CCWEL. We must oppose Council plans for housing here and get this land given back to the community; the waiting list for allotments is enormous.

## BALGREEN TUNNEL MURAL

As soon as Pete heard about the consultation on the Balgreen Tunnel mural project last October, he offered to assist in fundraising and running workshops to evolve a theme. The organisers suggest meeting him once Network Rail issues have been resolved. Pete has over 40 years experience in fundraising and has raised almost £2M for charities.

## LET'S SET UP A STUDENT LODGING SCHEME

Residents with spare rooms could be helped to earn cash; Pete will push the Council to work with local colleges in running a student lodging scheme for empty-nesters. Edinburgh has one of the highest student counts and their rents have risen a third in three years.

## MEET PETE

Join Pete on Zoom at an online drop-in session. Ask how he will approach local challenges and let him know what bothers YOU!

- Monday 27 February 7.30-9.30pm
  - Thursday 2 March 7.30-9.30pm
  - Saturday 4 March 10am-12 noon
  - Monday 6 March 7.30-9.30pm
- Log-in details will be published in advance at [www.kidsnotsuits.com](http://www.kidsnotsuits.com) - all welcome.

## MORE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Our ward has a higher number of retired citizens than other parts of the city and for almost 10 years Pete has been campaigning for **better facilities for older people**. Through the Friends of Roseburn Park, he raised the funds and organised the mural in Roseburn Park celebrating the civic defence function of the Armoury there; he has done the same with a carved log bench.

His crowdfunder to fund the conversion of the toilet block into a community café (supported by local Cllr Frank Ross, who pushed the Council to contribute), will soon reach fruition. It will be a great facility for bringing old and young together, encouraging new volunteering and park activities. Pete is part of the park volunteer task force, painting over graffiti and planting bulbs.



Pete regularly cleans up the graffiti in the park

## MORE TEA DANCES AND MEN'S SHEDS

Pete is a strong supporter of bringing unused buildings back to life and if elected he will assist the **Corstorphine Community Centre (CCC)** in their efforts in applying for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) which would result in CCC purchasing the Kirk Loan building they rent, allowing them to carry out upgrades which would increase accessibility and capacity.

CCC run a brilliant programme of warm places to go, with men's sheds, lunch clubs and tea dances. If elected, Pete will assist them in publicising and running an outreach programme to Balgreen, Saughtonhall, Murrayfield and Roseburn.

## HELPING LOCAL CAMPAIGNS- CORSTORPHINE POST OFFICE

On many occasions, **Pete has helped residents lobby for action, with successful results**- whether that be stopping noisy restaurants or fighting a school closure. The shutdown of the Post Office is a blow. The petition by Cllr Euan Hyslop to Royal Mail that drew 400 signatures is a great start; Pete will help lobby for a replacement PO.

If you want to donate to Pete's £1,000 election costs, go to [www.chuffed.org/project/petesflyers](http://www.chuffed.org/project/petesflyers)

Email him at [peter.n.gregon@outlook.com](mailto:peter.n.gregon@outlook.com) or on Twitter [@KidsNotSuits](https://twitter.com/KidsNotSuits) on Facebook [www.facebook.com/pete.gregson.0](http://www.facebook.com/pete.gregson.0) on Linked-In [www.linkedin.com/in/kidsnotsuits](http://www.linkedin.com/in/kidsnotsuits) on Instagram [www.instagram.com/pete.gregson](http://www.instagram.com/pete.gregson) on You-tube [www.youtube.com/c/PeterGregsonX](http://www.youtube.com/c/PeterGregsonX)

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