

Harald Tobermann

Independent

INDEPENDENT (No political party affiliation)

Please tell us about yourself in a few sentences.

I have lived in this area for nearly 30 years and work locally (for charity Out of the Blue). I have been chair of Leith Walk Primary School and Broughton High School. I have co-founded a residents association and have been a member of local community councils for ages, at least 4 years as vice chair of Leith Central Community Council, leading on transport and planning. The Evening News has described me as a "veteran campaigner" - perhaps because I helped to beat a planning appeal by Wimpey in a 14 day public hearing some 15 years ago.

I love Edinburgh and I am passionate about our area, the most densely populated in Scotland - from Broughton and Canonmills to Pilrig and Bonnington, to Ferry Road and Jane Street, from Easter Road to the Hibs ground and the Abbeyhill colonies, via London Road to the top of Leith Walk. It is lively and diverse; it is never far to the heart of the city or the sea; it combines class and quirkiness.

Ever since the aborted tram works, I have pressed Edinburgh Council to put Leith Walk back together again. I am a reasonable man, but 10 years year of craters, roadworks, traffic jams and pollution is a long time - many children have grown up thinking this mess is normal. It is not! This is the first time I am standing in a local election as a candidate - to make sure the priorities for our area are understood and translated into action.

Can you tell us about 2 or 3 of the most pressing issues in the ward, and how you are proposing to take on those challenges?

Many local people are fed up with the mess in Leith Walk and the half-hearted way our public realm is maintained and kept clean. Instead of many policies - which all too often turn out to be empty promises - I have really only one policy: "keep it simple, get the basics right and get it right first time".

Given the population density of our area, proposals for new housing, office or student accommodation, hotels and large retail developments must be matched with increased social and green infrastructure: new pavement/roads/cycle paths, more public transport, park and green space access, GP access and schools. And there must be resources and capacity to maintain all this properly. If for any reason this is not possible, these proposal should not be permitted.

In short, our area needs streets that work for everybody, reliable public transport, well-resourced schools and thriving local parks. Not much to ask for, I would have thought.

If you agree with most of the above, you can help to make a change by voting TOBERMANN on 4th May.

This text was supplied to Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) by the candidate, unedited.

For more info on what LCCC does, please visit leithcentralcc.co.uk and keep checking this notice-board for more updates and events.

