

**Please tell us about yourself in a few sentences.**

My name is Vita Zaporozcenko and I am originally from Latvia. I arrived in Scotland in 2009 to study and I graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 2013 with an honours degree in Politics and International Relations. Since then, I have worked for local Liberal Democrat parliamentarians in the North East of Scotland and Edinburgh.

I fell in love with Edinburgh on my first ever visit and moved here in 2015. I feel more at home here than anywhere else I have ever lived, and have made my home in this area since I moved.

**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?**

I believe that the council is currently focused on fire-fighting issues, but not doing a very good job of it. They are attempting to tackle issues as they arise rather than taking a long-term, strategic approach. Leith Walk faces several ongoing challenges in relation to transport, basic services and housing.

#### Transport

Leith Walk and surrounding streets experience a large amount of traffic. This congestion is not being helped by the constant road works on Leith Walk. Another major road – Easter Road – is in a shocking state of repair, as are more minor streets roads in the ward. I will press on the City of Edinburgh Council to improve public transport links in this area and to develop a more strategic approach to road works and necessary repairs. Just patching up potholes is clearly not working as it is often just a short-term solution.

#### Housing and new developments

The Leith Walk area is one of the most densely populated in Scotland. It is important that any new developments come with the necessary infrastructure and facilities to support the increased population growth. I will press on the City of Edinburgh council to ensure that any future developments consider the needs of the existing population.

With so many brownfield sites in the area, we should not be knocking down viable buildings and taking up any green spaces. The brownfield sites should be utilised first.

The number of short-term lets has increased substantially and it is clear that there should be a review on how the industry is regulated.

Furthermore, the City of Edinburgh as a whole needs a greater mix of housing, including mid-market rent properties, and I am keen to explore options on achieving this.

#### Basic services

The Edinburgh City Council is often neglecting basic council services, such as refuse and recycling collections and dealing with litter. This is something that should not be happening and I will ask for a serious review to be undertaken into how this can be best resolved. More funds should be devolved to local communities, who know where the money can be best spent.

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](http://leithcentralcc.co.uk) and keep checking this notice-board for more updates and events.

