**POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

**c/o Royston Wardieburn Community Centre**

**11 Pilton Drive North**

**Edinburgh**

 Tuesday 16 September 2014

**Open letter to the people of Edinburgh?**

Dear Citizens of Scotland/Citizens of Edinburgh

We write to you as members of the Power to the People Group, a group of community activists from North Edinburgh who are interested in Scottish history, politics, arts and current affairs. Over the last 2 years we have been learning about Scotland’s history and the struggles of ordinary people in the long journey towards democracy. We have also been trying to get to grips with many of the important issues facing the nation as we approach the Scottish Referendum in September this year.

The Referendum Campaign has been an interesting process for our group to study. We believe that it has provided an opportunity for ordinary people – especially the young and those disillusioned by traditional politics – to get involved and to have a voice. It has also highlighted that there is a consensus in Scotland to achieve a fairer more socially just society. More importantly, it has demonstrated that people power can actually make a difference.

We believe the Referendum this Thursday is about how we want to be governed and whether we think that power should lie in the hands of the Scottish people. We know from our research, that at certain times in our history the actions of ordinary people have brought about change. We would therefore urge you to use your vote.

Hopefully, we will see record numbers at the polling stations on Thursday but voting itself is not enough if we want a healthy democracy. Regardless of the outcome of the Referendum, it is essential that we all continue our involvement in this important process. Talking about the future direction of our country with family, friends and colleagues at home, in the workplace and in our communities is essential and finding ways of taking forward the ideas generated by this process, will be the legacy of this campaign.

We have been inspired as a group to imagine a different kind of Scotland and have included a few of our ideas in this letter which we would like to share with you:

We want a Scotland

* Where everyone has a decent standard of living
* Where high quality childcare and comprehensive education is available to all our children
* Where there are a range of opportunities for young people which prepares them for life and where they have a greater say in the decisions that affect them
* Where everyone has the right to work
* Where people are treated equally regardless of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation
* Where we have a publicly funded NHS which is free at the point of need and where all privatisation has been abolished.
* Where we have fully funded, high quality public services
* Where our politicians are more representative of the general population.

With regard to our place in the world, we want a Scotland which is peaceful and which contributes to the benefit of humanity.

Yours sincerely

North Edinburgh Power to the People Group