

John Wilson MSP

Representing Central Scotland

August 2015 Newsletter



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

St Andrew's Hospice Capital Appeal

John visited St Andrew's Hospice in Airdrie last month to offer his support to their new £8 Capital Appeal.



The appeal will operate alongside their existing fundraising streams which generate £3.5m per year from public donations to deliver specialist palliative care services and vital multidisciplinary support in Lanarkshire.

New funds are urgently needed to reconfigure and refurbish the Hospice in order to make it fit for the future and assure compliance with standards for infection control.

"I am happy to support the Capital Appeal campaign launched by St Andrew's Hospice.

This hospice has a vital role providing support that contributes greatly to the health and well-being of all those in Lanarkshire. Continued investment and improvement in services are vital to ensuring the Hospice can continue to do excellent work."

Bringing the Hospice up to date will enable St Andrew's to stay in their current home and continue their exemplary care to patients. The upgraded building will allow the Hospice to increase their occupancy rate and improve the privacy and dignity for patients and their loved ones.

ICU work begins at Monklands Hospital

John visited Monklands Hospital recently to see the improvements underway to patient care facilities. The £19m investment to expand and refurbish the seven operating theatres and build a new intensive care unit is due to be completed in 2018.

"The construction work is important to ensure that Monklands can continue to provide top quality care to the people of Lanarkshire. The work done by all the medical, nursing, and other staff at Monklands Hospitals is of the highest importance to everyone in Lanarkshire and the improvements here will allow them to continue their work with even greater success and attention to patient care."

Discussions on Muirhead ASB Closure



John along with the Chryston Seniors Forum and Frances McGlinchey, Independent Councillor for Strathkelvin met with representatives from the Airdrie Savings Bank and non-executive chairman Jeremy Brettell in order to discuss the closure of the Muirhead branch of the bank.

This problem is of much concern to the Chryston Seniors Forum who are worried that members of their organisation and others in the community may struggle to visit branches that are located further away.

During the meeting John discussed the possibility of retaining a reduced service within the same building and the possibility of the building becoming a community hub with other local services being delivered from within the existing bank building.

"The Airdrie Savings bank provides a vital local function and if the branch could combine with other local services to provide a limited service instead of closing I believe that would be of great benefit to the local community. I support the retention of some form of service, particularly for those residents of the Chryston and Muirhead area who rely on the Airdrie Savings Bank for banking services."

Support for Sensory Projects

In mid July John initiated parliamentary motions to congratulate two local sensory impairment initiatives for young people.

"I hope to highlight the excellent work done by staff and pupils at Dalziel High School in Motherwell towards providing an inclusive environment for pupils with hearing impairments and also to congratulate local visual impairment charity Visibility on gaining five year funding to provide a children and families project in the region."

The costs of this publication have been met out of Scottish Parliamentary resources. Please note that the Scottish Parliament is not responsible for the content of other internet websites.

Community Councils need your Support

Community councils are currently elected every four years similarly to local council elections. However since the local council elections have been postponed until 2017, so as not to clash with the Scottish Government elections the two councils are now out-of-sync, and community councils across Scotland will be standing down this October. The Community councils will be re-established provided there is enough support and interest from the communities.

“By participating and voting in Community Council elections we can help to strengthen the role of these organisations. Community Councils act as representatives of those in their local area and can serve to improve the quality of life and services for all those in their community. Community Councils have a statutory consultee role in relation to planning decisions and can help influence the local planning process. Community Councils serve an important role by devolving democratic processes to their lowest most regional level and should not be thrown away so easily.”

Local Focus

John Wilson MSP recently took advantage of the Parliamentary recess to visit Frankfield Loch in **Stepps** and was delighted to see the great efforts that youngsters from the local Stepping Stones Nursery had gone to in designing ‘Save the Frogs’ roadside posters.



John also visited Baron's Haugh RSPB reserve in **Motherwell**. He was incredibly impressed by the hard working volunteers who keep the site in great condition. Having a green space like this in the middle of an otherwise urban area is of great benefit to the community, a visit is highly recommended.



John will be holding a small commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic weapon on Hiroshima at Drumpellier Loch Peace Garden in **Coatbridge** and observing a minutes silence at 12noon on Thursday the 6th of August 2015. Anyone who wishes to join him should meet there at 11:45am.

SURGERIES

Friday 11th Sept

Falkirk ASDA

Monday 21st Sept

Chryston Cultural Centre - 10.00am
Coatbridge, New Townhead Community Centre
11.30am

Coatbridge ASDA - 1.00pm

Monday 28th Sept

Bellshill Cultural Centre -10.00am
Motherwell, South Dalziel Studios -11.00am

No Appointment Required

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Without local involvement and support Community Councils will be dissolved. Community councils hold regular meetings that are open to the public and discuss common issues facing residents in addition to organising galas and events, delivering local community improvement projects and mobilising community efforts to name a few examples.

Trade Deal putting Profits before People

Leaked details from a trade agreement currently being discussed by world trade authorities, have sparked debate about who these authorities actually serve. TiSA the Trade in Services Agreement is a concept similar to TTIP which allows for reductions in quality requirements for medical care, food standards and employment rights and has already led to fears of backdoor privatisation of many public services such as the NHS.

“This once again highlights the issues relating to the secrecy of trade negotiations taking place between the EU and the USA. The public have to be made aware of the impact that these negotiations may have on their economic security.”