

John Wilson MSP

Representing Central Scotland

October 2015 Newsletter



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Protecting against vicious Welfare Cuts

John has asked the Scottish Government what it plans to do to help families affected by changes to the tax credits system in April. John spoke out about, what he considers to be, Westminster's brutal decision to cut tax credits and other in-work support.

"Westminster's vicious cuts to tax credits will plunge many thousands of Scottish families into further hardship. As a society we must protect people on low incomes not punish them."

UK charity Barnardo's has warned that in some areas the cuts will leave 8 out of 10 families struggling. The new cuts will see the income threshold for receiving tax credits reduced and also speed up the rate at which benefit is lost as pay rises, affecting around 300,000 children in Scotland.

Protecting Private Renters

John signed up to support the Living Rent Campaign which calls for the re-introduction of rent controls to improve the lot of private tenants in Scotland.



Answers overdue on Fracking

John has called on the Scottish Government to come clean over their stance on fracking and other forms of unconventional gas extraction (UGE). John is 100% opposed to all types of UGE and has expressed concern over a lack of clarity from the government over their position. John's concerns stem from a ream of unanswered questions submitted by MSPs in recent months. It has in fact been almost six months since he himself submitted questions over the proposed public health impact assessment and public consultation announced by the government in January.

"The Scottish Government must tell us what their position on fracking is. It is simply unacceptable that parliamentary questions can remain unanswered for months."

Powers needed to tackle Fuel Poverty.

John has submitted a motion regarding an announcement by the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum, which states that new UK government policies will make it very difficult to tackle fuel poverty in Scotland. John backed the SFPF position, that should the funding be devolved as suggested by the Smith Commission, the government must ensure it receives and utilises its full share of efficiency funding and energy powers, so that real efforts to eradicate fuel poverty in Scotland can be made.

"That fuel poverty still exists in 21st century Scotland is shameful, and is a situation everyone in the Scottish Parliament should be looking to bring to an end."

Apple Day Success

John sponsored Holyrood Apple Day an event to celebrate the Scottish apple harvest alongside a campaign to encourage more children to eat Scottish apples.



"I am pleased to sponsor this event which promotes both a healthy lifestyle and Scottish produce. I hope the event will encourage the consumption and development of Scottish grown fruit."

Public Petitions transparency required

John expressed concerns over recent reports which reveal only a quarter of petitions submitted by the public are considered by the Public petitions committee, of which he is a member. Currently parliamentary clerks judge a petition's suitability, presenting MSPs with the ones they deem acceptable. John has requested that a more transparent process is put in place, which would see rejected petitions published and parliamentary clerks assisting petitioners to ensure more petitions are taken forward to the committee.

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.

Wear it pink, on Friday 23rd October



Breast Cancer Now is the UK's largest breast cancer charity working in Scotland.

John hopes you will join him on 23rd October to support their 'Wear it pink Campaign' find out more at: wearitpink.org

Delighted to support CLIC Sargent



John was delighted to support CLIC Sargent's Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September by wearing their Gold Ribbon.



Local Focus:

After welcoming members of the **Auchinloch** Community Council to the Parliament last week, for a tour and to hear about their work, John said: *"I was happy to receive the Auchinloch Community Council at the parliament and would invite any other groups or individuals who wish to visit to get in touch."*

John went along to support Drumpellier Allotment Society in **Coatbridge** at their annual fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support, the final total from the coffee morning was an amazing £848.10.

Speaking of his dismay that residents in **Cumbernauld** and the northern corridor to Glasgow are about to suffer a major blow to their public transport networks after Firstbus announced the withdrawal of it's X5 service and a reduced service for the X3, John said: *"The authorities seem determined to put public transport at the back of the queue while pressing on regardless with huge spending on the roads network."*



John recently visited the SAGE centre in **Sikeside** which provides lifelong learning services for the local community including; IT courses, CV workshops, literacy and numeracy skills and card crafting.

Another recent visit was to Jupiter Urban Wildlife Park which lies right in the heart of **Grangemouth** and has been nurtured for over twenty years by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. *"The tranquillity stays with you, families who spend their days surrounded by industry need spaces like this to breathe"*

SURGERIES

Monday 5th Oct

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

Coatbridge ASDA - 1.00pm

Friday 9th Oct

Falkirk ASDA

Monday 26th Oct

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

No Appointment Required

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