



# Stuart McMillan MSP

## Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

### Newsletter No.1

### September 2016

Welcome to my first newsletter as the new MSP for Greenock and Inverclyde. For the past 9 years, I have served as the MSP for West Scotland. However becoming constituency MSP is the greatest honour of my life. For the next 5 years I will do my utmost to promote our area locally, nationally and internationally, while standing up for local people and striving to make Inverclyde one of the best places to live in Scotland. This is my first newsletter as Greenock and Inverclyde MSP and through my regular newsletters I intend to keep my constituents up-to-date with the work I am undertaking locally and in Parliament.

Just over a month ago I met with Gourock mum Gillian Mowat who brought the Glow Gold Campaign to my attention. Gillian's 5 year old son has leukaemia and to raise awareness of childhood cancer throughout the month of September, the Glow Gold Campaign has set about getting iconic buildings around the world to light up Gold. The Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock was illuminated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and my office windows turned Gold for the first week in September. Since meeting with Gillian, I have written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health raising the issue of childhood cancer and have spoken in a parliamentary debate on the subject. As a society, we need to do more to find a cure and better treatment for children afflicted by all forms of cancer.



## The Flitting!

At present, my staff and I work out of an office at 4 Argyle Street, Greenock. Unfortunately, while the office is right in the centre of Greenock Town Centre and is a great size for an office, constituents need to navigate more than 30 stairs. To offer a fully accessible constituency office to all my constituents, I needed something on the ground level. So I can reveal that my constituency office will be moving to **26 Grey Place on the 11<sup>th</sup> October**. It is the location of the former Chiropractor's at the corner of Grey Place and Patrick Street. This office will be much more accessible and every one of my constituents is welcome to drop by anytime to seek advice or just pop in to say hello. This is your Scottish Parliamentary Office and I want everyone from the constituency to feel welcome. Further information on the move will be issued.



This week, I met with Transport Minister Humza Yousaf MSP regarding flooding issues in Inverclyde. I highlighted a number of hotspots to be examined including the A8 in Port Glasgow opposite Ferguson's, the bottom of Clune Brae and also at East Hamilton St near Cappielow.

We also spoke about the ways in which we can work to eradicate local flooding issues. However, I really feel that the money being spent on the white elephant of a rail link to Glasgow Airport could be better spent on many projects including alleviating flooding in Inverclyde.

We further discussed the maintenance of Inverkip Road, A78 between South St and Dunlop St roundabouts and the overhanging trees covering the speed camera outside Inverclyde academy.

I am pleased to report that Humza has now agreed to come to Inverclyde and see the issues I raised for himself.

Every year, **Breast Cancer Now** come to Parliament and asks MSPs to highlight the issue of Breast Cancer. I am always more than happy to do my bit as unfortunately, breast cancer is a disease that we probably all know someone who has been affected by it.

As the Scottish Parliament's parliamentary piper, I was happy to see the bagpipes prop on offer to hold during this photo-call.



Along with the issue highlighted above, I have been extremely busy over the summer recess and during the first 2 weeks back at Parliament, which began on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. While it is a very important part of my job, being through in Edinburgh, sitting on both the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee and the European and External Relations Committee, I will always prefer being out and about in the constituency.

During the summer, I met with many local businesses, had meetings with the local housing associations, the health service, Police Scotland to name but a few. It is important to keep up-to-date with all these local organisations so I can best represent **Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.**

## Inverclyde Royal Hospital

Locally, we all know that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has recently published plans to remove birthing facilities at the IRH and also to change services on offer at the children's ward at the RAH in Paisley. I do not support either of these proposals and have met with both the Chief Executive and Chairman of NHS GGC to convey this message. I want services to remain local. I want children to be born in Inverclyde and I also want to make sure that people coming over from the islands across the Clyde don't have to travel even further to access a maternity unit. I will also be meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health in the coming weeks to express my concerns directly to her. As well as the targeted consultation NHSGGC are undertaking, I have asked them to hold a public meeting locally to allow more people to get involved.



Continuing on the theme of health, I was delighted to attend the official 'sod cutting' to mark the start of construction of the new Adult and Older Peoples Continuing Care Hospital. This new £7.3m facility is the replacement for the current Ravenscraig Hospital. The campaign has been long running and one I was involved in for some time. The new unit is due to be completed by summer 2017 is being delivered in partnership between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and HUB West Scotland. This modern mental health facility will fundamentally change the way in which older peoples care is delivered in Inverclyde. Local MP Ronnie Cowan and I were joined by Minister for Public Health Aileen Campbell MSP who performed the sod cutting.

### Contact details

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