

Stuart McMillan MSP

GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY

Hello and welcome to my Summer 2018 edition of my Regular Newsletter.



As summer recess has come to an end and a new Parliamentary year has started, I'm using this newsletter to look back at a busy summer of visits and meetings, but also to look forward to the work ahead following the announcement of the 2018 Programme for Government.



During July I made the most of the sun by visiting Clyde Muirshiel Park twice — first trying the new cycle tracks at the historic Greenock Cut, then meeting Robert, the owner of Ardgowan Trout Fishery. Both are great adverts for Inverclyde.

I also visited the Waterfront Cinema and Port Glasgow Golf Club to see how they're adding to Inverclyde's tourist offer, and had a meeting at Ferguson Marine to learn about HySeas III project, the world's first eco-ferry being built on the Clyde thanks to EU funding.

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GLASGOW, GREENOCK,
GOUROCK, WEMYSS BAY
AND INVERKIP



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During summer many people travel abroad on holiday, so as part of Health Information Week I visited Boots in Greenock to meet Neil (pictured left) to learn about their new travel vaccinations service. Travel vaccinations are normally given by GPs, but this new service will alleviate the pressure on medical practices by now performing this role.

I also visited Kelburn Business Park to welcome The Start-Up Drinks Lab to Inverclyde and learn more about their bottling business.

Many Inverclyde churches hold holiday clubs for children and young people to attend free of charge. I was lucky to see 'Mayhem' in action and meet the volunteers involved at St. John's Church, Gourrock in August (pictured right).

I also visited Greenock Wanderers RFC and Greenock Golf Club to see their facilities and what they're doing to encourage people to keep active in Inverclyde.



I donned a hi-vis jacket to visit Greenock Concrete, part of the Breedon Northern Group, who contribute to Inverclyde's construction supply chain (pictured left).

Compassionate Inverclyde operate their Back Home Boxes initiative — a thoughtful project that highlights Inverclyde's kind heart — from a store room at the IRH which I went to visit in August. (pictured below)



In September, I celebrated Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight 2018 by visiting The New Chocolate Factory (pictured left) in Port Glasgow and Mearns T. McCaskie's in Wemyss Bay (pictured right).

I also spoke in Parliament about Inverclyde's high-quality produce and highlighted Taste Inverclyde which promotes independent eateries, food production and food tourism locally.



As a follow-up to my transport survey which I sent to around 7,000 people in Inverclyde, I invited Neil Lang, the South West Area Manager for Transport Scotland, to the constituency for a drive-around. This allowed me to pinpoint areas of concern on our roads and further push for road faults to be fixed.

I also visited In-Work Enterprises at Broomhill Gardens and Community Hub to learn about the services they offer, and had a meeting with St. Andrew's First Aid's Chief Executive and Head of Marketing, Communications and Fundraising to hear about the organisation's work locally and nationally.



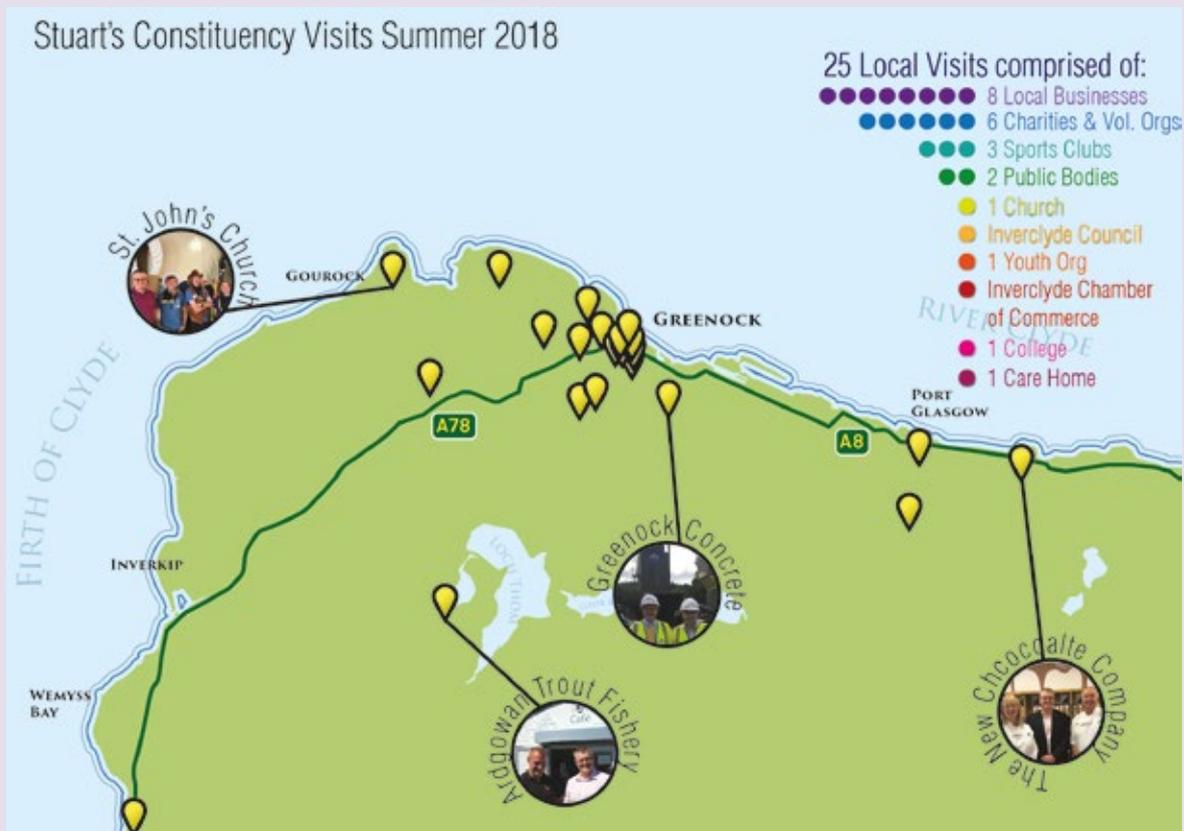
As many will know, my office is a drop-off point for Inverclyde Foodbank in an effort to drive up donations.

In 2018 it's heart-breaking to need food banks in Inverclyde, and while I'll always campaign for measures that tackle poverty, right now we can all make a difference to a person's life by donating food items so the most vulnerable people in our community don't go hungry.

You can donate toys, school uniforms, baby items, personal hygiene and sanitary products too.

Overall, I made 25 constituency visits this summer and held nine meetings in my office. On top of this, I made nine visits outwith my constituency.

Parliament being in recess also allowed me to meet with lots of my constituents, and above you can see two of my staff members, Matthew and Gillian, out and about with me in Port Glasgow for a street surgery.



Programme for Government 2018-19

Every September a new Programme for Government for the coming year is announced. Some key policies for this year include:

- Invest £250m in improving mental health and wellbeing support
- Start making **Best Start Grant** payments six months early to support families on low incomes
- Launch the new **Social Security Agency & deliver the first Carer's Allowance Supplement & Young Carer Grant payments**
- **Increasing Scotland's annual infrastructure investment until it's £1.5bn per year higher by 2025-26** than in 2019-20
- **£2m to tackle food insecurity** among children
- **750 new, extended or refurbished nurseries** as part of the Government's commitment to doubling the provision of early learning & childcare
- Continue to implement the **£100m cancer strategy** with enhanced radiotherapy services
- Continue to implement the **Climate Change Act** & publish a **new five-year Climate Change Adaption Programme**



Scottish Government 2017-18 Achievements

Since last year's Programme for Government, the Scottish Government have:

- Become the **first country in the world to make free sanitary products available in all schools, colleges & universities**
- Passed the **Domestic Abuse Act** which creates a new specific offence that covers forms of psychological, coercive & controlling behaviour
- **Lifted the public sector pay cap**
- **Made Income Tax fairer**
- **Begun work to establish a Scottish National Investment Bank**
- **Committed to end rough sleeping** & transform how we prevent & tackle homelessness
- Passed legislation to **extend free personal care to under 65s**
- Set a **national target to halve childhood obesity** by 2030
- **Banned fracking in Scotland**
- **Doubled investment in walking & cycling** to £80m
- **Banned the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Scotland**
- Passed a law to give an **automatic pardon to men convicted of historic discriminatory crimes relating to same-sex sexual activity**

Stuart McMillan MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency

Get in touch

✉ Stuart.McMillan.MSP
@parliament.scot

☎ 01475 720 930

🐦 StuMcMillanSNP

📘 Stuart McMillan MSP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Drop-in Surgeries

Last Friday of every month
(except July and December)

10.00 Am Port Glasgow Library

13.00 Pm Gourock Library

Please contact the office for details.