

Stuart McMillan MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR
GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 35TH ISSUE OF MY REGULAR NEWSLETTER

Remembrance Sunday was very different this year, as has been the case with other events over the past eight months due to COVID-19.

While public gatherings were not permitted, **Ronnie Cowan MP and I visited Wellpark Memorial** to pay our respects and lay wreaths on behalf of the people of Inverclyde.

On Remembrance Sunday, we take time to show our appreciation for and remember those in our armed forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. I am sure many of us this year also gave thanks for our key workers, especially those who have lost their lives during this public health crisis.

At the time of writing, Inverclyde remained under Level 3 restrictions. I am relieved that Level 4 restrictions are not merited in Inverclyde, but if we want to move to lower levels of restrictions, we must continue to do our part to suppress the virus.

Inverclyde Council Leader, Cllr Stephen McCabe, Ronnie Cowan MP and myself issued a **joint statement** this month reminding local people of the dangers of COVID-19 and the importance of following the health and safety rules, especially with Christmas on the horizon.

I know people are growing weary of the restrictions, but the fluctuations in local infection rates are a stark reminder that this virus is still present in our communities. **Whether it's for yourself, your family, your friends or whoever, please stick with it.**



Stuart laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at Wellpark Memorial

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PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

My office is continuing to receive a high volume of correspondence relating to COVID-19 on top of other traditional casework, but my staff and I are hard at work to support local businesses and constituents during these uncertain times.

In addition to this, **I have been busy in Parliament this month — speaking in five debates and asking eight questions in the chamber.**

I spoke in the **ICU at the IRH debate** where I expressed my frustration at how the health board communicated the changes to this service with staff and the local population. I also reiterated **my calls for a new build local hospital** to deliver better outcomes for patients, better working conditions for staff and help improve recruitment, while also allaying fears over future hospital provision in the area.

I also spoke in the Scottish Government's debate marking the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. The fact that this debate was required shows that although progress has been made, there is still a long way to go.

I also asked questions about the **COVID-19 vaccine** and about the relaxation of rules over the festive period.

I would encourage everyone to read the guidance for meeting others over Christmas on the Scottish Government's website



COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

My Member's Bill — **Liability for NHS Charges (Treatment of Industrial Disease) (Scotland) Bill** — went before the Health and Sport Committee this month, with myself, the Public Health Minister and industry professionals providing evidence. I believe that COVID-19 shows that we do not know what future diseases could affect people's employment, which is why this Bill is so important.

I also participated in a Public Petitions Committee meeting as **Kathleen Orr's Public Access Defibrillators petition** was being discussed. Kathleen asked me to read a statement on her behalf, and I was more than willing to do so. No matter the outcome of Kathleen's petition, the Orr family have raised awareness about why improving access to defibrillators is so important and can save a life. Their efforts have shown that local campaigns can and do change national decision making and **Jayden's Rainbow** will certainly do that.

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Due to Covid-19, my office is closed until further notice.

Constituents can still contact me by email and telephone.

Monthly surgeries will be conducted over telephone until further notice.