

Delivering for the people of  
Edinburgh Pentlands



## RBS to Close Last Branch in Pentlands Constituency



Gordon Macdonald, MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, reiterated calls from local residents concerned at the closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Juniper Green.

The branch is due to close on the 5th of June 2017 despite assurances at the time of the RBS Balerno closure that the Juniper Green branch would remain open to continue to provide a service.

Gordon MacDonald is disappointed at the decision, commenting, "We were informed previously that the Juniper Green branch would be kept open after the closure of the Balerno branch, but RBS are now going back on this pledge.

"This will have a negative impact on the community that I represent as it is the closure of the last RBS branch in Edinburgh Pentlands constituency. Chesser branch just outwith the constituency is also due to close. Whilst I accept that there is a move to online banking there is still a need to provide a service to those who are dependent on the branch network. Elderly and vulnerable people will be the worst affected and local businesses will likely suffer from the reduced passing footfall in the area. Despite being bailed-out by the public in 2008, the banks do not seem to hesitate to abandon local communities."

Gordon Macdonald further noted, "Over recent years, RBS have closed four of their branches in my constituency: Fairmilehead, Colinton, Balerno, and at Heriot-Watt University. The Juniper Green branch is the last remaining and I urge RBS to reconsider."

The Royal Bank of Scotland has been asked to supply its impact assessment on the closure, which is required by the British Bankers Association.

## Redhall School Visit



Gordon Macdonald MSP was presented by the pupils of Redhall School with a poster and letter highlighting the rights of refugees.

At the request of the pupils, Gordon forwarded both to the First Minister.



The poster and letter highlighted the plight of child refugees as part of the UNICEF Outright Campaign. The pupils had been studying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and what impact that has on the rights of refugee children.

# Out and About...

## Give Litter a Lift Home



Gordon Macdonald MSP has given his backing to environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful and the national campaign to clean up Scotland's roadsides. With 88% of Scottish adults agreeing that roadside litter creates a negative impression of Scotland, the campaign aims to tackle the behaviour that is ruining the view for visitors and domestic road users alike.

Over 96% of Scotland's main roads and iconic routes are affected by litter. The campaign is urging road users to take responsibility.

Gordon Macdonald MSP said, "Our natural environment is one of our greatest assets. Clearing up needless litter not only costs money but the presence of litter harms our economy and reduces everyone's enjoyment of the outdoors. It is very easy to just keep the litter in the car and bin it at home."

## Tesco Foodbank Visit

Gordon Macdonald MSP assisted with a foodbank collection at Tesco, Colinton Mains. Great thanks to all those who donated and helped.

## Gordon Offers Support for "Small Business Saturday"



Gordon Macdonald MSP offered his support for Small Business Saturday, which encourages people to support their local businesses. Gordon visited local business, Splash Bathrooms in Currie, and met with owner Peter Phillips.

Gordon noted SNP Government action to support small businesses, including the small business bonus and the £500 million growth fund. There are 17,500 small enterprises across Edinburgh contributing 69,000 jobs and £7 billion to the local economy. Commenting, Gordon said, "This is an excellent initiative and one that helps support local businesses. The SNP in government has always made efforts to support small businesses and believes that they are the lifeblood of Scotland's economy."

## MSP Christmas Card Design



Robyn Steele from Pentland Primary School won Gordon Macdonald's annual primary school Christmas card competition run in conjunction with Sainsbury's Longstone. The runner up was Kira Fotheringham from Longstone Primary School.

## Contact Details

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## Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxgangs Library  
5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

# Working for Edinburgh Pentlands