

Delivering for the people of  
Edinburgh Pentlands



## Fire Safety in the Calders High Flats



After the tragedy at Grenfell Tower in London, the City of Edinburgh Council has issued a statement regarding fire safety in their blocks of flats in Edinburgh.

Gordon Macdonald, Edinburgh Pentlands MSP, noted, *"The events in London are extremely sad and*

*my thoughts are with the friends and families of those lost in the disaster. I can understand that Edinburgh tower block residents may now worry about the safety condition of their flats. I am pleased that Edinburgh Council have taken measures to reassure residents and that they will continue to evaluate the situation in light of any new information that is found."*

Regarding cladding used on the Grenfell Tower, Edinburgh Council state that they "are satisfied that the same types have not been used in over-cladding blocks in Edinburgh" and that the "insulation used in all three of these blocks is non-combustible mineral fibre." Works currently being carried out on the blocks are to replace and add fasteners to the existing cladding system. There have also been a number of panels that have been identified for replacement on a like-for-like basis.

From early on Wednesday morning, the Council have had a highly visible presence in and around all of the Council's tower blocks and have sought to reassure residents regarding fire safety in their buildings, which is based on regular fire risk assessments, daily block inspections, and annual inspections by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

As a further precaution, the Council are commissioning a full review of fire safety in the Council's tower blocks. This will include evaluation of all cladding materials and methods, but will further include fire safety procedures, fire prevention, and fire suppression.

Edinburgh Council have pledged to work closely with the Fire Service to ensure that any recommendations are incorporated into their practices.

## Colinton Broadband



Thousands of Edinburgh houses and businesses are now able to connect to high-speed fibre thanks to the £428M Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband roll-out.

Many properties in Colinton had lines that ran directly to the exchange and bypassed the usual road-side cabinets used for fibre roll-out. However, a new method was used to integrate these lines into the fibre network.

Gordon Macdonald MSP commented, *"This will be of great benefit for the people of Colinton and was part of our election commitment. Now local residents and businesses will be able to sign up for the faster service with an internet service provider."*

There are a range of suppliers that supply fibre broadband with connection speeds of up to 80Mbps.

# Out and About...

## Temp Post Office



The Old Saughton Post Office, at 11 Broomhouse Market, Edinburgh, is to be temporarily relocated due to extensive redevelopment of the premises.

The new premises will be next door at 12 Broomhouse Market, Edinburgh and customers will continue to receive the same range of Post Office products and services and the branch will operate the same opening hours.

The branch will close at the current site on Monday 19 June 2017 and open in the temporary premises on Wednesday 28 June 2017.

Given the scale of redevelopment, it is envisaged that the work will take several months to complete, following which the service will return back to its original site. The date the service will return will be confirmed in due course.

Gordon noted, *“At a time when most organisations seem to be closing branches, it is great to see that the Post Office are maintaining and improving their service in our community.”*

## Off the Grid Energy



As part of Gordon’s role on the Economy, Skills, and Fair Work Committee, he undertook visit to the Levenmouth Community Energy Project in Methil. The visit included inspecting the hydrogen project and wind turbine that enables the whole local business park to “work off grid”.

At the nearby Guardbridge Energy Centre an 6.5MW biomass boiler that serves 17 surrounding buildings was demonstrated.

Commenting, he said *“It is projects like these that are the future for Scotland’s energy needs.”*

## A Day with the Scouts



Gordon Macdonald MSP was invited to attend a large camp weekend at the Bonaly Scout Centre in Edinburgh. The camp was for 200 children supported by 50 leaders providing adventure activities, and scouting skills.

At the camp, Gordon was inducted into their Youth Advocacy Award scheme as part of their drive to inform politicians of the work they do for the 40,000 young people Scouting in Scotland. During his visit, Gordon engaged with the Scouts in a number of their activities and training events.

### Contact Details

**By email** [gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot)  
**Home visit** Available for those who cannot travel  
**By phone** 0131 443 0595  
**By letter** The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  
**f** Gordon Macdonald MSP **t** @GMacdonaldMSP

### 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 Oxfgangs 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