

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

December
2017

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Save Our Schools



Edinburgh Council are proposing to close two secondary schools in Edinburgh Pentlands constituency: Currie Community High School and Wester Hailes Education Centre

Commenting, local MSP Gordon Macdonald noted, "These schools are the cornerstones of their

communities. The staff strive to get the best out of the pupils and the schools provide local leisure facilities and adult education classes.

"The Council attempts to justify these closures by saying that there will be additional pupils in south west Edinburgh, that both schools are in poor condition, and that the WHEC has a small catchment area.

"However, it is known that Balerno is operating at 82% capacity, Currie at 77%, and the WHEC at 36% — there's enough room available, and no doubt some investment is required but, despite that, consulting engineers Will Rudd Davidson reported in 2015 that whilst defects were identified, these were deemed generally cosmetic and non-structural."

Gordon Macdonald MSP proposes that a similar replacement method as used at Forrester High instead: build the replacement on the grounds of the school and then demolish the existing buildings. There is scope for this on both sites and it would allow the two schools to remain at the heart of their communities. Concerns have also been raised regarding the viability of the Woodlands school that shares the campus and some of the facilities with the high school at Currie. The new site at Curriemuirend would also result in increased traffic on the Lanark Road.

Concluding, Gordon stated, "I will be campaigning for the two schools to remain on their existing campus and I would urge parents and all members of the community to take part in the consultation below."

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20263/edinburgh_schools_review/1660/west_and_south_west_schools_review/2

Xmas Card Winner



In partnership with Sainsbury's Longstone, Gordon's Christmas card design competition was won this year by Eilidh Langdale, a P4 pupil at Longstone Primary School.

Commenting, Gordon said, "We received lots of entries from local primary schools and it was difficult to choose a winner. However, we were drawn to the bold design and bright colours of Eilidh's drawing. I would like to thank all those who took part."

The card will be sent out from Gordon to many local groups and community organisations.

Out and About...

NHS Message from Gordon



Here in Scotland, we have the best performing NHS in the UK – including having the best performing UK A&E departments for the last two and a half years.

I know this more than most, having recently spent two spells in hospital. My admission was unplanned; however, thanks to the dedication and skill of the staff at all levels, I had an operation, received first class care, and was home after 10 days.

Our NHS performance is no small achievement and one we should be proud of – the success of our NHS is down to the SNP's commitment to protecting and supporting the health service.

Policies such as the Daily Mile and free school meals help keep our children and young people healthy. There is also action to tackle air pollution through low-emission zones and to reduce energy bills with a publicly-owned energy company. These measures will help us stay fit and make homes warmer by ensuring that nobody has to choose between heating and eating.

More Teachers



SNP education funding has boosted teacher numbers across Edinburgh – part of an increase of 543 teachers across Scotland.

Teacher numbers in Edinburgh have risen from 3,213 to 3,281 – while the number across Scotland has increased substantially to 51,513 – 543 more than last year, with 666 full-time equivalent teachers being funded through the Attainment Scotland Fund, money that the Tories, Labour and Lib Dems voted against.

The SNP has made closing the attainment gap a key priority of this parliament.

£400 Million More to NHS



Despite Tory austerity, this year's SNP budget will fund NHS Scotland by an additional £400 million and slightly cut income tax for those earning less than £33,000. Only the highest earners will pay more.

Commenting, Gordon said, "Our actions will make Scotland the fairest taxed part of the UK. We will stop Tory cuts, invest in our NHS, protect our public services, and grow our economy.

"In fact, for the majority of taxpayers (55%), Scotland will be the lowest taxed part of the UK next year."

Contact Details

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Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

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Gordon Macdonald MSP @GMacdonaldMSP

Monthly Surgeries — No appointment needed

- 1st Monday of the month, 6.30pm Wester Hailes Library
- 2nd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Carrickvale Community Centre
- 3rd Monday of the month, 6.30pm Currie Library
- 4th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Oxbgangs Library
- 5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands