

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

January
2018

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



300 New Homes at North Sighthill



Gordon welcomes the new homes that are currently being built in North Sighthill to replace the high flats demolished in 2011. The Broomview development, off Broomhouse Road, will see 184 affordable homes designed to ensure residents' heating costs will be kept low and will be more adaptable to tenants' changing mobility needs over their lifetime.

Commenting, Gordon said, "This is one of the largest house-building projects in Edinburgh and is part of the SNP's council's commitment, working with housing associations, to deliver 16,000 affordable and low cost homes in Edinburgh."

Work began on site late last year and the first homes are due to be completed by late spring 2018 with the whole site completed by the end of 2019. The additional 132 homes being built for sale by Keepmoat will provide a jobs boost for the area with opportunities for work experience and training.

School Closure Consultation



SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

At a recent Council meeting, discussions were held regarding closing Currie High School and the Wester Hailes Education Centre.

It was noted that the proposal for a combined school on a new site is not in the Local Development Action Programme and that further transport work is required.

Gordon commented, "Clearly, the proposal has not been thought through. Thankfully, it was agreed that future meetings would be called with community groups present before final decision."

A public meeting will be held on 6 February at Gibson Craig, 7:30pm.

The consultation has also been extended to Thursday 29 March: -

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/forms/form/428/en/edinburgh_schools_review

Out and About...

Have You Had Yours Yet?



Gordon is urging all eligible adults in Edinburgh Pentlands to take up the offer of a free flu vaccination.

Everyone aged 65 and over, pregnant women and people at most risk of serious illness can have the vaccination on the NHS.

Flu rates in Scotland doubled in December with figures from Health Protection Scotland showing 46 Scots in every 100,000 were suffering from the virus, comparing to 22 in every 100,000 for the same week in 2016.

Commenting, Gordon Macdonald said, *"It's not too late to get the flu jab. Cases of flu are double those of last year and it important that people address the symptoms early to prevent them becoming unwell."*

"Thanks also to our NHS staff for carrying out a tremendous job at a difficult time of year."

"If you're eligible, please make getting the vaccination a priority and book an appointment with your GP as soon as possible."

For more information, visit: -

www.immunisationscotland.org.uk

Update on Baby Boxes



Scottish Government figures show that Baby Boxes have now helped 3,834 newborns across the Lothians since being introduced six months ago.

The Box contains items such as clothes, a digital ear thermometer, a changing mat, and books, with the box itself also doubling as a bed.

Gordon commented *"The scheme is designed to ensure that every child has an equal start in life. Evidence shows that the early years are crucial for development. It is excellent to see so many families benefitting from the box."*

Tiphereth Exhibition



Gordon Macdonald hosted an exhibition of the Tiphereth community group in Parliament.

The group were able to meet with MSPs, including the First Minister, and present to them the great work that the group do to help people with learning disabilities and other support needs.

Commenting, Gordon noted, *"Tiphereth provide a wide variety of day services and also run a social enterprise, called Tiphereth Trading, that have helped many into training and work placements."*

Contact Details

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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