

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament

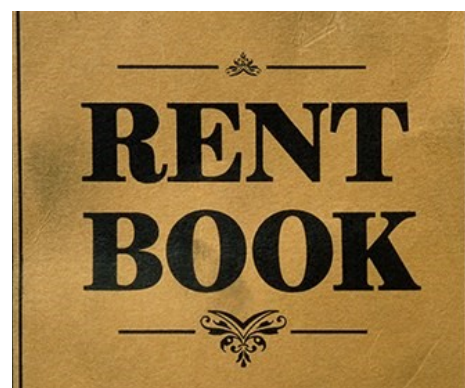
July
2018

Delivering for the people of
Edinburgh Pentlands



Victory for “Save Our Schools”

Private Rents in Edinburgh



On 21 June, the Education Committee voted against proposals put forward by Education Convener and Labour councillor Ian Perry to create a new super high school by closing Currie High School and the Wester Hailes Education Centre (WHEC). Instead, supported by the majority of the community, the committee chose the Administration’s “Option 1” alternative, which will now go to formal consultation.

Commenting, Gordon said, “I, along with the majority of the communities affected, have been clear that the bottom line is that the four schools — Balerno, Currie, the WHEC, and Woodlands — should remain open and on their current sites. The current school estate capacity in Edinburgh is 22,400 and the current school role is 18,500 — there is no need for a super school in the area.”

“Obviously, this outcome is what Save Our Schools and I have been campaigning for over the last six months. Everyone in the community should be proud of their efforts in securing the future of their schools, especially those who attended and spoke to the committee.”

Option 1, in terms of secondary school infrastructure, requires £42.5 million to be invested in Currie HS, £30.5 million in the WHEC, and £28.5 million in Balerno HS.

Further commenting, Gordon noted, “Option 1 represents a substantial investment in our school infrastructure and is a commitment we will require Edinburgh Council to keep.”

At First Minister’s Questions this month, Gordon MacDonald asked Nicola Sturgeon what is being done to assist tenants who are struggling to meet ever-increasing rent demands?

The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, responded that under the new tenancy act: -

- Private sector landlords can increase rents only once every 12 months;
- Landlords are required to give tenants three months’ notice of an increase;
- Tenants can refer any unfair increase to a rent officer for adjudication; and,
- Local authorities, like Edinburgh, can apply to cap rent increases by designating areas as rent pressure zones.

Out and About...

“Eco Project” at Balerno High



Gordon joined staff and pupils at Balerno High to praise the leading role they are playing in keeping their community litter-free.

Students taking part in the “Eco Project” go out in classes on a rotation basis to clean Mallyen Park pitch and the school grounds. Once a month, they also take to the village streets.

Gordon spent a morning with them exploring the impact of littering and discussing the importance of personal responsibility.

Gordon said, “I was impressed to see the students and staff at Balerno showing leadership on litter, with their Eco Project.

“It’s great to see the students recognising the importance of caring for our local areas and taking pride in where we live.

“Public awareness of littering has really picked up recently, with people recognising their own responsibility to keep our streets clean and litter free.”

Marie Curie Fundraising



Repeating the great success of previous years, Gordon is hosting another Marie Curie “Blooming Great Tea Party” at his constituency office in Kingsknowe Park on Friday 20 July, 1pm to 4pm.

Coffee, tea, and cup cakes will be available for all those who wish to attend and help raise funds for providing support and palliative care through Marie Curie.

Please come along.

15 Years of The Big Project



Whilst attending the BIG Sing-a-Long, Gordon presented Sascha MacLeod, manager of The BIG Project with a framed copy of the motion he lodged in Parliament congratulating them on the 15th anniversary of their charity.

The BIG Project support children and young people aged five to 18 to learn, achieve, have fun, and feel good about themselves.

The motion further congratulated their Youth Choir on being nominated for the Young Community Musician/s of the Year award at the Hands Up for Trad Community Music Awards.

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Gordon Macdonald MSP



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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 Oxfgangs Library

5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Community Centre

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands