

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

November
2018



New Social Housing for North Sighthill



The redevelopment of the North Sighthill area is well underway. The project will provide a total of 184 new, high quality, affordable homes — 96 for social rent, 88 for mid-market rent, and a further 132 homes are for private sale. The development will also feature landscaped open space and new ground floor commercial retail space at Sighthill Green.

Gordon noted, “Edinburgh Council, Engie Regeneration, and Keepmoat Homes have come together to redevelop an area that has been empty since 2012. These homes, especially for social rent and mid-market rent are much needed.

“This development will provide local housing, but it has also provided local employment and training opportunities. Many local residents have been employed directly on site, and two local young people have secured training positions in site administration and project management. No doubt, the benefits of this development will continue with them throughout their careers in construction.”

“Similarly, local social enterprise All Cleaned Up, which is based in Dumbyden, have been employed to service the site compound. All Cleaned Up provide opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment.”

The lets of the Council properties will commence in January 2019 with the whole development expected to be completed by summer 2019.

Increased Clothing Allowance



An estimated 6,400 pupils in Edinburgh will benefit from a new £100 national minimum school clothing grant as a result of partnership working between Scotland’s Local Authorities and the Scottish Government.

Gordon commented, “This means that for the first time all eligible families, regardless of their local authority area, will have access to the same minimum level of financial support for school clothing.”

The scheme will open for the 2018 winter term with eligibility determined at a local level.

Overall annual costs are expected to reach £12 million with 50% of the cost met by additional Scottish Government funding and 50% met by individual local authorities.

Out and About...

Edinburgh Fibre



Edinburgh is set to become one of the first cities to benefit from the CityFibre Fibre-To-The-Premises programme with work starting first in Balerno this month.

Gordon noted, "From Summer 2019, residents will begin to be able to access gigabit-speed broadband of up to 1000Mbps, and businesses will be able to connect and enjoy the same.

"Edinburgh is very much a digital city and this network will allow businesses to compete on the global stage whilst also ensuring households can benefit. Full fibre will change the way we work, learn, communicate, and are entertained, and we will be at the forefront of this digital future."

The programme will see the city's existing fibre network expanded as a major milestone in the countrywide "copper switchover".

CityFibre is investing £100 million into Edinburgh as part of a commitment to bring the gold-standard connectivity to every city. Working in partnership with Vodafone, the project will see almost every home and business able to access full fibre.

Wear it Pink



Gordon stood proud in pink in Parliament in support of Breast Cancer Now. The photo-op was part of a campaign to encourage constituents to Wear It Pink, on Friday 19 October, to raise money for cancer research. Back for its 17th year, the campaign has raised over £31 million.

Gordon said, "Sadly, most of us know someone affected by this devastating disease — every year around 4,700 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Scotland and almost 1,000 people will die of it. I am again proud to be backing Wear It Pink this year."

Tea & Talk in Colinton



Gordon attended a Tea & Talk charity coffee morning held in aid of the Mental Health Foundation.

The coffee morning was hosted in the Colinton Inn by Leigh Fell, a near life-long resident of the area.

Commenting, Leigh, said, "The coffee morning was to increase awareness of mental health, help people find support, and raise some money for the charity."

Gordon noted, "I was pleased to attend and meet with Leigh and local residents. The money raised will help with promoting social justice and equality in mental health."

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

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands