

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

June 2022

Gordon Welcomes New Councillors



The City of Edinburgh Council now has a Labour administration due to support from Liberal Democrats and Conservatives. The number of seats across the city won by each party included SNP with 19, followed by Labour with 13, the Liberal Democrats secured 12, the Greens have 10 seats and the Conservatives lost half and now have 9 seats.

Across the Pentlands constituency there are a number of newly elected Councillors including Marco Biagi and Fiona Glasgow (pictured above).

Gordon commented, "I want to extend my congratulations to everyone who was successfully elected to the City of Edinburgh Council, specifically those elected and re-elected in the Pentlands Constituency.

"We welcome a number of new Councillors to the constituency, in particular, first time candidate Fiona Glasgow and a return to elected office for Marco Biagi. Our Councillors have a hugely important role and my hope is that regardless of party affiliations we can all work together for the benefit of the people across the constituency.

Gordon continued, "I am obviously disappointed that a progressive coalition did not get the support required from across the Council Chamber. What I do find interesting is the awarding of allowance payable positions being given to three Lib Dem councillors and two Conservative councillors by the administration. The positions given to the Conservatives who were roundly rejected by the electorate have essentially been ushered into power by Labour despite their pre-election promise of no deals with the Conservatives."

200th Anniversary of Canals



Gordon attended events celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Union Canal, across the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency.

Gordon noted, "The Canal has ongoing commercial, social, and historical value to the economy and community, and I was pleased to be part of the bicentenary celebrations."

Gordon and other guests joined in a flotilla along the Canal from Lochrin Basin to Harrison Park, and then on to Wester Hailes and Bridge 8 Hub to join celebrations organised by local residents and WHALE Arts on and off the water.

Gordon also participated in a further canal boat trip to Ratho for more celebrations.

Noting the anniversary Gordon also lodged a motion in Parliament marking the canals 200th milestone.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Gordon's a Swift Champion



Gordon is pleased to have been appointed by Scottish Environment LINK and the RSPB as their Nature Champion for Scotland's swifts.

Although widespread throughout Scotland's cities, towns and villages, the number of swifts has declined rapidly, with as many as 65% being lost between 1995 and 2015.

Gordon noted, "Swifts are the most aerial of birds, spending nearly all of their time in the air, including when feeding and even sleeping.

"Clearly, when the RSPB needed someone to champion this continually active and fast-moving bird, I was the first MSP who came to mind."

Swifts face threats from loss of nest sites due to the refurbishment of buildings or lack of nest sites in new developments, problems on their migration route, including changes in the Sahara, and reduction in their invertebrate food supply.

Gordon continued, "To help protect swifts, we need to support surveys for swifts and the recording of the birds on RSPB's Swift Inventory, and ensure that the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is fully implemented.

"We also need to raise awareness to ensure that existing nest sites are protected particularly during the breeding season."

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month



At an event in the Scottish Parliament hosted by Bowel Cancer UK, Gordon offered his support to their campaign to promote Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

In Scotland, if you are aged between 50 and 74 and registered with a GP, you will be invited to take part in bowel cancer screening every two years.

Gordon noted, "Bowel cancer is the second biggest killer in Scotland. However, 9 in 10 people can survive bowel cancer if it is diagnosed at the earliest stage.

"Early diagnosis really does save lives as bowel cancer is treatable and curable and I would encourage everyone who is eligible to take part in the screening."

For more details on bowel cancer, symptoms and screening go to: - <http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk>

New Residential Development on Inglis Green Road



Local builders J Smart & Co have applied to build a mixed-use residential and commercial development at 22 Inglis Green Road on the former Booker warehouse depot site.

The development will feature 120 units, of which 30 will be affordable housing, likely let out by a housing association.

Gordon Macdonald said, "This is the re-development of a brownfield site and will feature a 'village green', a communal garden, and a wildlife corridor along the Water of Leith.

"I very much welcome the inclusion of 30 much needed affordable housing units and also note the desire locally, which I have no objection to, for a footbridge to be included in the plans.

"The development also lies on the 34 and 44 bus routes, which will lessen the need for car usage, something the city is striving towards."

Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands