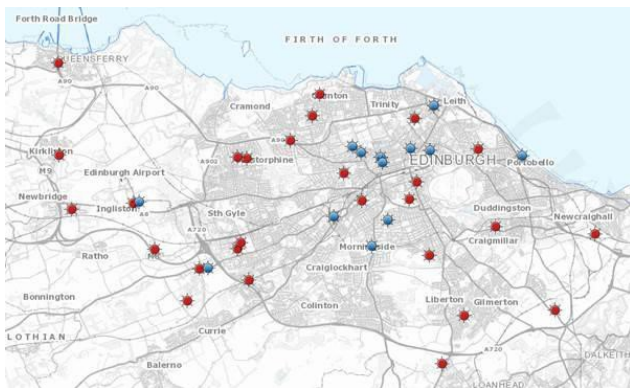


Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

August 2019

Scottish Government Invests £2.2M on Electric Vehicle Infrastructure



Edinburgh Council are to install 66 additional on-street charging points (including 32 fast chargers, 9 rapid chargers, and 24 slow chargers) in order to strengthen the city's existing electric

vehicle infrastructure. The Council's business case has been approved and a project plan has detailed key tasks. These include determining the best procurement route, recruiting resources, continuing ongoing discussions with the energy network operator on grid issues, progressing Transport Regulation Orders and liaising with contractors. Installation will run from January 2020 to December 2020.

The Council aim to ensure charging equipment is located on roads and near, but not adjacent to, residential properties, rather than on pavements to reduce street clutter and allow residents to park outside their homes.

An enforcement policy is under development, to ensure electric vehicle bays, which will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, are not used for unlimited parking and are reserved for electric vehicles.

Gordon commented, "With this project, Edinburgh will become a leading example in the drive to decarbonise transport. I am pleased to see that the Scottish Government are supporting this initiative through a £2.2 million grant via the Switched on Towns and Cities Fund."

"This is only the roll-out of the first phase. The plan is to eventually see 211 on-street charging points by 2023 at a cost of £3.3m. This will help clear the air in the city from diesel and petrol fumes — it is also forecast to make carbon savings of 7,715 tonnes and savings in nitrogen dioxide of over 14 tonnes."

Colinton Tunnel Mural



On a visit to see ongoing works at the Colinton Tunnel Mural, Gordon met with Mike Scott, the project chairman, and Chris Rutterford, the mural artist.

The finished mural is set to be the biggest in Scotland, if not the UK.

Gordon commented, "The mural is truly stunning in its scale and ambition.

"This project is turning a dark and unwelcoming tunnel into a bright and vibrant work of art celebrating the industrial, social, artistic, and literary history of our community."

The project cost is over £100,000 and more donations are required to help fund the artists' costs, school and community workshops, paint and materials.

Please consider donating at the below link: -

<http://www.colintontunnel.org.uk/>

Out and About...

The Hepatitis C Trust Visit



The Hepatitis C Trust invited Gordon to a blood-borne virus awareness-raising event at Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus that primarily affects the liver and can lead to fatal cirrhosis and liver cancer. Currently, 21,000 people in Scotland have hepatitis C.

Gordon said he learned so much about hepatitis C, "It was informative to find out about what new treatments are available and also to celebrate at the event with some patients who have successfully cleared the virus."

Job Centre Visit



At the Job Centre Plus at Wester Hailes, Gordon received a presentation about Universal Credit and the support available.

New Consumer Organisation



The Scottish Government has published a bill to create a new body called Consumer Scotland to represent consumer interests, ensure value for money, and provide better buying choices.

Gordon noted, "This new body will be as a dedicated agency for everyone across Scotland, focused on investigating consumer harm and developing solutions."

"Given rising costs and reduced access to services like local banks, consumers need a strong voice to speak for them and to bring public and private organisations together to find practical solutions."

Marie Curie Fête and Coffee Morning



At the annual Marie Curie Edinburgh Hospice Fete, Gordon met with the special star guest, Basil Brush.

Gordon said, "I try to attend every year to show my support for the wonderful work that Marie Curie does at their Edinburgh Hospice."

"Similarly, last month, my office held a Marie Curie tea party and I would like to thank all those who attended."

The event was a success and £200 was raised in donations from visitors to the office.

Contact Details

By email gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

Home visit Available for those who cannot travel

By phone 0131 443 0595

By letter The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP



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 Oxfgangs Library (Not 24 Dec)

5th Monday of the month, 6.30pm Ratho Com. Centre (Not 31 Dec)

NB: NO SURGERIES DURING PUBLIC AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands