

Gordon Macdonald MSP

July 2025 Newsletter



Wester Hailes Post Office To Move



Post Office has agreed a contract for the Wester Hailes post service to operate from nearby Plaza News at Unit 23-26 Upper-Level Westside Plaza.

Last December Post Office announced it was considering closure of the Wester Hailes post office. Gordon made representations asking Post Office and the UK Government, who own the Post Office network, to ask them to reconsider closing the post office due to the importance of the service for the local community.

Following a rigorous assessment of applications, Post Office agreed a conditional contract with Mr Mohammed Arshad & Mr Amir Arshad, previous operators of Whitecraig Post Office, to operate the post service from the Plaza

News store. Constituents can continue to access the same products and services from the proposed new location during opening hours of Monday to Saturday: 9am – 5.30pm, providing an extra 5 hours and 30 minutes a week with additional Saturday afternoon and early Tuesday morning opening times.

Gordon said "I'm pleased to see an agreement reached which secures a post office service for those in the Wester Hailes area, many of whom have relied on this service for many years. Congratulations to Mohammed and Amir Arshad for their successful application for the contract and I wish them best of luck with their new role."

While the decision to proceed with franchising the branch has already been made, Post Office are holding a six week public consultation to assess feedback on various aspects of the proposal. You can visit <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/wester-hailes-eh14-2sw-018824/> to share your views and information will be available in the post office branch.

Good Graffiti



The Calder Road underpass has been transformed by a community graffiti initiative led by Police Scotland, funded by the council and Community Alcohol Partnerships, and brought to life by local artist Calum Carr in collaboration with Edinburgh College students and fellow street artists.

Gordon praised the initiative, saying "This is a fantastic example of how community-led art can revitalise public spaces - we need more projects like this across the city and I'd encourage local businesses to consider sponsoring similar works, just as they already do with roundabouts.

Gordon also highlighted the need for improved lighting in underpasses to make these routes more attractive and safer for pedestrians, especially given their importance for everyday travel across the city.

Currie Riding Of The Marches



Photo: Gordon with Karen McGhee and Councillor Simita Kumar

Gordon had the pleasure of awarding medals to the participants of the Currie Riding of the Marches, Family Ride. The route started at Harlaw Road with the medals presented at George V Park to the mainly children who took part. Gordon thanks all the participants and the Currie Riding of the Marches Committee who deliver this enjoyable event.



RTS switch-off



Thousands of people with a Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) meter will not face any unexpected disruption to their heating or hot water at the end of this month, as

the UK Government confirms there will be a cautious and targeted phase out to the service, protecting energy consumers.

The Radio Teleswitch Service uses radio signals to switch older electricity meters between different tariffs such as peak and off peak, and can also be used to turn heating and hot water systems on and off at specific times of the day. The service was introduced in the 1980s and, as planned, is now reaching the end of its life.

Ministers have confirmed that a widespread switch-off of Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) meters will not happen on 30 June – with this summer marking a limited start of a phase-out process.

Affected customers will be contacted in advance, and are urged to respond to energy suppliers and book appointments to have their meter replaced. Further information on the RTS switch-off can be found on suppliers' websites or at www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/replacing-your-radio-teleswitch-electricity-meter. If you have any questions please contact Gordon who will raise these directly with Ofgem on your behalf.

WHALE Arts Community Meals

WHALE Arts offer a free delicious home cooked lunch every Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm at their Community Meal.



The community meal takes place every Friday offering a free delicious home cooked meal made in the building that morning. Group meal or takeaway option are both available.

If you have an interest in cooking or serving, WHALE is also looking for volunteers to support the meal. No experience is necessary, and they are looking for support for various positions.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering contact 0131 458 3267 or info@whalearts.co.uk.

Improving the safety of non-surgical cosmetic procedures



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

New proposals to improve safety and standards in the non-surgical cosmetic procedures sector have been set out as the Scottish Government publishes its response to a consultation on the issue.

The proposals, informed by over 2,200 responses and broad stakeholder engagement, intends to introduce a minimum age of 18 for all procedures and classify treatments into distinct groups for regulation to mitigate risk.

A new Bill regulating Group 2 and Group 3 procedures will be introduced later this year. Secondary legislation under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 will establish the licensing regime for Group 1 procedures.

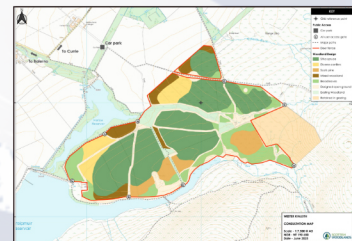
Public Health Minister Jenni Minto said "It is deeply upsetting to hear of cases where people have suffered as a result of non-surgical cosmetic procedures going wrong. The current gaps in regulation mean that anyone can perform most of these procedures without the need for any formal training or qualifications.

"These proposals reflect our determination to protect the public and ensure high standards across this growing industry."

Wester Kinleith Woodland Creation

Public Consultation Drop-In Event

Rosebery Estates and Scottish Woodlands Ltd are hosting a drop-in event on 23rd July, 2:00pm - 7:30pm, at Balerno Community Centre to share and seek feedback on outline proposals for new woodland near Harlaw Reservoir.



Information boards and specialist staff will be available to explain the plans and gather views from local residents, site users and stakeholders.

If you can't attend details will also be available online at <https://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations/wester-kinleith-woodlandcreation/>.

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Gordon holds open weekly surgeries for constituents every Friday at 10am.

The locations for these can be found at: <https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

