



Firework Control Zones In Place For Bonfire Night



Edinburgh is significantly stepping up safety measures for Bonfire Night this year, employing both Firework Control Zones (FCZs) and Police Dispersal Zones to manage public order and reduce anti-social behaviour.

The City of Edinburgh Council has implemented nine Firework Control Zones (FCZs), making it a criminal offence to set off most consumer fireworks on both public and private property within these areas between October 31 and November 9, 2025. The nine FCZs are: Balerno, Calton Hill, Corstorphine, Gracemount, Longstone, Moredun, Niddrie, Seafield, and Sighthill. This measure, which carries a maximum penalty of a £5,000 fine or a six-month custodial sentence, aims to protect

communities, vulnerable residents, and animals - such as those at Edinburgh Zoo.

In direct response to public disorder incidents last year, Police Scotland has requested the introduction of four additional Dispersal Zones for the Bonfire Night period, supplementing the FCZs. The new and planned Dispersal Zones cover the areas of Oxfangs, Gorgie, Saughton and Sighthill.

Dispersal Zones grant police officers the power to instruct groups of two or more people who are congregating and behaving, or likely to behave, in an anti-social manner to disperse and leave the area for up to 24 hours. Refusal to comply can lead to arrest.

If you plan to celebrate Bonfire Night, residents are strongly encouraged to attend one of the many organised firework displays across the city, which are exempt from such bans.

Balerno Police Station Walkaround



Photo by Nigel Duncan

Gordon joined a walkaround to preview the ambitious plans to transform the former Balerno Police Station into a community hub.

Emma Galloway, the Balerno Village Trust (BVT) chair and a leading player in the acquisition, showed the

guests round and Gordon commented "BVT have done a tremendous amount of work here and I had no hesitation in writing a letter of support because I think this will be a fantastic asset for Balerno.

"We have seen how successful The Hub has been in Juniper Green and the only community space which currently exists in Balerno is the small hall.

"This facility will provide child care and meeting places for the whole community, however to ensure its success it will need community support to refurbish the building."

Edinburgh Poppy Cabs



Free taxi journeys for war veterans travelling to/from remembrance services in Edinburgh is back again this year via Edinburgh Poppy Cabs.

Poppy Cabs was launched in the capital by local taxi driver Don Pujdak in 2019 after the initiative had been running in London for several years.

Around 20 vehicles are set to take part on Sunday 9th November to transport those attending services and events within the city and surrounding areas completely free of charge.

If you would like to arrange a Poppy Cab then please call 07496 238040 or email jonny.bates@ahcdce.com.



Wear It Pink



Gordon again joined in the Breast Cancer Now Wear It Pink event at the parliament.

As the UK's largest breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Now is on a mission to make sure that by 2050 everyone diagnosed with breast cancer lives and is supported to live well. During October thousands of people wear it pink in their communities, schools or workplaces to raise awareness of the disease and support the charity's work.

Clare Adamson MSP sponsored the event in memory of our dear friend and colleague, Christina McKelvie, who sadly passed away earlier this year. This Breast Cancer Now Wear It Pink event celebrated her remarkable contribution to public life whilst strengthening the commitment to supporting everyone affected by breast cancer.

Young Start Funding

In 2023 The National Lottery Community Fund launched a two-year participatory research and development project to explore how Young Start can better centre the voices and ideas of children and young people.



They are now ready to implement these changes and will be pausing Young Start to open a refreshed funding offer in Spring 2026. Young Start will **pause to new applications** at **noon on Friday 19 December**. More information is available on the blog at <https://bigblogscotland.org.uk/2025/10/02/funding-news-young-start-applications-will-pause-from-19-december-2025/>.

Hospice Care Week



Gordon attended a drop-in at the parliament for Hospice Care Week 2025. Pictured with Mark Gill, Business Development Lead for Marie Curie, it was a valuable opportunity to discuss the important work done to ensure quality of life for all until the very end.

Hospice Care Week 2025 took place from October 6–12, with the theme "hospice care is more than you think". The annual campaign, led by Hospice UK, focused on raising awareness of the wide range of support hospices provide beyond medical care, including in-home, community, and family support, as well as spiritual and emotional care.

Hailes Quarry Park Consultation



Friends of Hailes Quarry Park (FoHQP) have received permission from Edinburgh Council to extend the play area to include an area for toddlers.

There will be a consultation event on the morning of Saturday November 15th, 10.30am – 1.30pm, at Gate 55 (Sighthill Community Centre). This is a drop-in event.

FoHQP are keen to determine what play equipment items are most needed. The suggested developments for children and young people are currently view-able on <https://friendsofhailesquarrypark.wordpress.com>. For more information contact Sophie Cooke at scookeclear@gmail.com.

British Heart Foundation

Gordon, along with Councillor Simita Kumar, visited the British Heart Foundation's store in Wester Hailes to hear more about their vital work to improve survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests through their Community Defibrillator Funding Programme.



The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is offering free defibrillators through its Community Defibrillator Funding Programme. This initiative is open to a wide range of local organisations, including community groups, sports clubs, places of worship, parish councils, and social enterprises.

Gordon said "I'm proud to support this lifesaving initiative and would encourage any eligible groups in Wester Hailes to consider applying." For more information visit <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/apply-for-a-free-defibrillator-for-your-community>.

Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Gordon Macdonald MSP

@GMacdonaldMSP

0131 443 0595

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

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

