



Wester Hailes High School
Redevelopment Underway



On a visit to Mark Murphy Foodshed



At a construction skills demonstration with
Wester Hailes High School pupils



Meeting with Pentland Hills Regional Park
Rangers to discuss outdoor safety issues



At Balerno Gala Day with Councillors Neil
Gardiner and Fiona Glasgow



Celebrating the retirement of community
champion Betty Milton



Attended the Heriot Watt
Stakeholders event



Meeting the owners of Sitooterie cafe at
'Small Business Saturday'



Meeting the Scottish Wholesale
Association

MSP Advice Surgeries

Wester Hailes Library
1st Friday of month, 10am

Carrickvale Community Centre
2nd Friday of month, 10am

Currie Library
3rd Friday of month, 10am

Oxgangs Library
4th Friday of month, 10am

Ratho Community Centre
5th Friday of month, 10am



Gordon submitted 20 parliamentary motions between October 2023 and September 2024 celebrating local achievements.




Gordon progressed over 900 cases on behalf of constituents in the last year.



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Annual Report 2024/2025

Tenant Hardship Fund Extended



I welcome the extension of the tenant hardship fund for council tenants and the increased maximum amount which will assist people struggling to keep their tenancy during these financially challenging times.

Launched in 2023, the Fund was created in response to the additional financial burden that tenants were facing from the cost of living crisis. It offers financial assistance to tenants struggling to make rent payments.

For 2024/25, the award has increased to a maximum of two fortnightly charges which will help tenants who need intervention to prevent court action.

I would encourage anyone struggling to pay rent to contact Edinburgh Council at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/housing-support-advice/council-rent-advice-1. This fund is an important source of support for many who are feeling the worst impact of the cost of living crisis.

Delivering For Pentlands

We continue to face challenging times as we remain in a cost of living crisis whilst rebuilding from the pandemic. Whilst I hope that the most difficult times may be behind us I'm all too aware that many constituents are struggling and need support.

With the City of Edinburgh Council declaring a housing emergency in November last year, followed quickly by a declaration of a national housing emergency in June, it is no surprise that almost a quarter of cases referred to me by constituents relate to housing. I therefore welcome the Scottish Government's commitment of nearly £600m investment this year towards affordable housing for the following year to increase social housing supply.

Following representations to the Housing Minister I am pleased to welcome Scottish Government funding of £15m allocated to Edinburgh Council to tackle the blight of empty council homes across the city. Guidance will be issued in order that councils focus on homes that have been empty for longer than 12 months.

Health issues remain a key concern of constituents. It is important that progress is being made to regenerate our health service and the 20,000 medical procedures to be performed at the new National Treatment Centres will ease pressure on waiting lists. More awareness and support of mental health remains a key priority and I'm glad to see a further £120m will be invested in improving mental health services.

Many local people have contacted me to sharing their concerns for the future of the environment. The Scottish Government recently published the Green Industrial Strategy which will boost the economy as well as harness Scotland's renewable energy potential. Further contribution to economic and net zero commitments will also be made by the Heat In Buildings bill to be published this year, setting out laws for energy efficiency of our buildings which will play a part in reducing our energy bills.

Gordon Macdonald MSP

Housing Improvement Scheme Shortlisted



The Mixed Tenure Improvement Scheme has been garnering pace across Edinburgh Pentlands with Oxgangs House properties benefitting from a raft of improvements including external wall insulation, replacement of roof coverings and replacing common windows and doors which will ensure residents have warm, safe and energy efficient homes.

The scheme has not only been successful in Oxgangs but also in Murrayburn, Dumbyden and Hailesland. Given the transformation to local housing through the scheme I had no hesitation in nominating the team for the Best Practice in Community Regeneration by SURF, Scotland's regeneration forum which they were shortlisted.

Bonnington Quarry

I recently supported local residents in their fight against Breedon Trading Ltd's application to remove a noise protection condition at Bonnington Quarry near Ratho Village.

In March 2024, the company sought to lift the maximum 'overpressure' limit, which protects residents from excessive blasting noise. I submitted my own objection and worked closely with the Stop the Quarry Group, offering advice on their campaign. Our efforts paid off on September 4th when the council's Development Management Committee rejected Breedon's application, maintaining the 120-decibel limit.

I'm pleased with this outcome and will continue to support the residents in protecting their homes regarding any future expansion.



Road Safety On Riccarton Mains Road



In May I sponsored the installation of a pavement outside Currie Children's Nursery through the council's Local Traffic Improvement Programme Fund. I was encouraged to learn in August that a report to the Council's Transport and Environment Committee recommended allocating £30,000 for this project.

The proposed pavement would provide continuous access on the west side of Riccarton Mains Road from Currie to the nursery entrance. Once approved, we hope to see the work completed within the year.

I'm grateful to constituents for raising their concerns about this issue. This new pavement will significantly reduce the risk for those crossing the road to attend the nursery and for local residents.

Tackling the Housing Crisis

Housing continues to be one of the most frequent constituency issues raised with me.

I took the opportunity in Parliament to question the Minister for Public Finance about the 25% affordable housing requirement for new developments, which was confirmed. An FOI submitted to Edinburgh Council revealed over 1200 properties were empty and I am keeping an eye on this issue.

I very much welcome the funding provided by the Scottish Government to bring these empty properties back into use and will go some way in addressing the 5000 homeless households across Edinburgh being supported in temporary accommodation secure a permanent tenancy.



Friends of Saughton Park 10th Anniversary



Saughton Park has been a mainstay to the west of the constituency, and I was delighted to take part in the 10th anniversary celebrations of Friends of Saughton Park in the summer.

The Park has undergone quite a transformation over the past decade with the redevelopment as well as the reinstatement of the bandstand as well as becoming Edinburgh's first green-powered, low carbon park.

Thanks to several funding partners including the Scottish Government's Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme the Park combines a micro-hydro scheme to generate electricity and ground source heat pumps to generate heat for properties across the park including the fantastic cafe.

Currie High School

It was a pleasure to go behind the site hoardings at Currie High School in the spring.

The campus will be one of the first Passivhaus-designed high schools in the country. Passivhaus is a rigorous energy standard which reduces the amount of energy needed for heating by up to 90%. It also lowers the total amount of energy used by around 70% and minimises carbon emissions. Funding was provided from phase one of the Scottish Government's £1 billion Learning Estates Strategy investment programme.

I'm pleased construction is progressing as scheduled and look forward to members of the school and wider communities benefitting from the state of the art facilities for years to come.



Claiming Pension Credit



Along with Age Scotland I am urging low income pensioners across Edinburgh Pentlands to claim for Pension Credits.

Pension Credit helps those over State Pension Age on low income with the cost of living. It tops up a single person's weekly income to £201.05 and to £306.85 for couple, contributing around £1,900 on average for each entitled household each year. Pension Credits are also passport benefits to access means-tested Winter Fuel Payments which help to cover energy costs. However, across Scotland 123,000 eligible households did not claim Pension Credit this year.

If you are over State Pension Age and are on a low income, please check your eligibility at: www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator. You can apply online: <https://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/start> or call 0800 99 1234. Additional help is available from Citizen Advice Money Talk (0800 0281456, www.moneytalkteam.org.uk) or from Age Scotland (0800 12 44 222, www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland).

Balerno Police Station

We have all been anticipating the outcome of the consultation on the future of Balerno Police Station and I know many local people will be disappointed that Police Scotland have announced they will indeed dispose of the local station.

I made enquiries after representations from members of the local community to ascertain whether the station could be utilised as an additional medical centre for the area. Sadly this was deemed not viable.

The community clearly supports retaining the building, and I'm sure the Community Council and Balerno Village Trust will explore this option thoroughly. As for policing, Balerno will continue to be served by officers from Wester Hailes Police Station, as it has been for years.

