

Stirling Matters - August 2020 (6th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

"Keep the heid" has remained the key public health message, as businesses and residents continue to emerge from lockdown. Whilst public guidance has adapted, it's important to remember we are still in the midst of an unprecedented global health emergency. The new local lockdown in Aberdeen has shown just how quickly the virus can re-escalate. Stick to the FACTS - Face coverings in enclosed spaces; Avoid crowded places; Clean your hands and surfaces regularly; Two-metre social distancing; Self-isolate and book a test if you develop coronavirus symptoms.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on my website:

www.alynsmith.scot

I'm active at: @alynsmith

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/alynsmith

Keep up-to-date with current campaigns and news on my website:

www.brucecrowford.scot

I'm active at: @RHBruceCrawford

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BruceCrawfordSNP>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/RHBruceCrawford

Action needed on rural crime

Alyn and Bruce have written to Police Scotland Superintendent Alan Gibson, Forth Valley Divisional Commander regarding a spike in rural crime.

Figures released by NFU Mutual show rural crime cost communities and businesses approximately £2.3 million in 2019 alone.

Whilst the vast majority of visitors to Stirling's rural areas do so responsibly, a small minority continue to flout the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/08/04/stirling-mp-and-msp-back-action-on-rural-crime/>

'Let's reimagine a greener Scotland'

Writing in his regular blog, Bruce has shared his thoughts on how the coronavirus pandemic has given many in Scotland food for thought on sustainable recovery.

The economic consequences of COVID-19 will demand an ambitious and bold approach, building back systems and structures in a way that promotes sustainability, active travel and renewable energy.

Scotland remains well placed to take advantage of this paradigm shift.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/blog-lets-use-this-crisis-to-reimagine-a-greener-scotland/>

MP urges public to shop local

Alyn has urged the public to support their local food suppliers and producers, and buy closer to home where they can.

Visiting Knockraich Farm in Fintry, Alyn purchased freshly made dairy products, and heard of the valuable role Scottish farmers and local businesses play in producing high quality produce.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many small businesses have remained a local life-line for residents.

Watch the clip:

<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP/posts/3732774836736171>

New helpline for health and social care staff launched

Alyn and Bruce have praised the launch of a new 24/7 helpline for health and social care staff, to help in navigating the continued pressures from the global pandemic.

With 8000 staff members in NHS Forth Valley alone, the new helpline will provide reassurance, support and guidance for key frontline workers.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/07/22/stirling-politicians-praise-launch-of-new-helpline-for-health-and-social-care-staff/>

Alyn supports local business with welcome trim

Alyn has had his first haircut since the beginning of lockdown, urging Stirling to safely support their local businesses as restrictions ease.

The hospitality and service industry have worked with local and national government to put in place protective measures against the spread of COVID-19.

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/07/27/first-trim-since-lockdown-for-stirling-mp/>

Community spirit alive and well in Gartmore

Bruce has hailed the hard work of community figures in Gartmore throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Black Bull Pub reopened its doors to visitors. The establishment came into community ownership last year, and locals have worked together to refresh the decor and building.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/black-bull-pub-gartmore-msp-hails-community-spirit/>

Bruce welcomes Scottish Government education boost

Stirling will be eligible for a share of £50 million in funding for new teachers and support staff, as the Scottish Government works with local authorities to reopen schools. An additional £20 million will be allocated to assist with increased health protection costs and cleaning.

Read more here:

<http://www.brucecrawford.scot/stirling-msp-welcomes-education-funding-boost/>

MP and MSP demand fairness for Scotland's microbreweries

Alyn and Bruce have written to UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak, regarding reductions in duty relief for beer breweries. Under current arrangements, small breweries producing under a set level are eligible for 50% relief. New proposals will see this level reduced, affecting around 150 businesses across the UK. .

Read more here:

<https://alynsmith.scot/2020/07/23/mp-and-msp-demand-fairness-for-microbreweries/>

For further help & support, visit:

NHS Inform: COVID-19

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Scot Gov:Business Support

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

Stirling Council: Guidance

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/planning-building-the-environment/emergencies-emergency-planning/coronavirus/>