

# Edition 7 - August 2020

## STIRLING|MATTERS

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'Stirling's communities are finding their way through the new normal, seeing loved ones and friends again, albeit with adaptations. Stirling's businesses are continuing to re-open, and the Scottish Government remains committed to getting our economy moving again, whilst safeguarding public health. We're keeping up pressure on the UK Government to continue the furlough scheme beyond October - they can't turn their backs on Scotland's businesses. We urge you to shop local where you can, and keep supporting Stirling's recovering business community.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP



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## Bannockburn closure reversed

The National Trust of Scotland have scrapped plans to mothball the Battle of Bannockburn Visitors Centre, in the wake of widespread objections from political and community leaders.

Alyn, Bruce and Stirling Council leader Scott Farmer strongly contested the decision, made on cost-saving grounds due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The news will come as a relief to staff and the community.

[Read more here.](#)



A new one-off **£250 payment** to help 16-24 year olds with the cost of starting a new job

## Supporting young people into work

The Scottish Government has introduced a new grant aimed at helping young people cover the costs of starting a new job.

16-24-year olds who have been unemployed for over 6 months will be eligible for a £250 payment, that can help cover costs such as new uniform and transport costs.

Around 50,000 young people stand to benefit in the first financial year of the scheme.

[Read more here.](#)



## UK Chancellor must up his game

Alyn has urged the UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak to listen to struggling businesses across the country, and commit to extending the furlough scheme set to close in October.

Whilst introduced measures have been welcome, urgent action is needed to plug holes in hastily constructed support schemes.

The cost of action may be high, but the price of inaction will be higher still. Scottish industry needs continued support, and the UK government must deliver.

[Read more here.](#)



## Support Stirling business and shop locally says Alyn

Alyn has been visiting businesses across the constituency over the last few weeks, hearing first-hand how they've weathered the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many businesses emphasised the need to reassure the public on the new measures adopted by retailers across the country to safeguard public health.

[Watch the clip here.](#)



## Stirling pub adopts new procedures after complaints

The Crossed Peels, a Wetherspoon Pub in the Stirling City Centre, is to make rapid changes to safeguard public health, following complaints raised by MP Alyn Smith and members of the public.

Chief Executive John Huston responded promptly, arranging for increased staff numbers and new entry/exit procedures.

[Read more here.](#)



## Bruce stands up for important rural transport link

Bruce has called on the bus firm Stagecoach to reconsider its plans to remove the number 23 bus route connecting Stirling with St Andrews.

Serving several rural communities, the route connects isolated villages with the city centre, and increases employment prospects for residents.

[Read more here.](#)



## MSP welcomes changes to SQA grading procedure

Bruce has welcomed a decision by the Scottish Government to reverse moderation of this year's exam results, instead awarding learners with grades predicted by their teachers.

Education Secretary John Swinney has listened to concerned parents, teachers and pupils and apologised.

[Read more here.](#)



## UK Gov Internal Market Bill amounts to power grab

Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford has spoken in the Scottish Parliament against UK Government proposals to establish a UK Internal Market post-Brexit.

As they stand, the suggestions in the White Paper amount to an undermining of devolution, curtailing the power of the Scottish Parliament in several key areas.

[Read more here.](#)



[Scot Gov: Business Support](#)



[NHS Inform: COVID-19](#)



[Stirling Council: Guidance](#)