

Edition 11 - October 2020

STIRLING|MATTERS

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

'Communities and businesses right across Stirling are at a point of deep frustration, and that feeling has been made clear through our inboxes. What remains encouraging is the widespread understanding of why restrictions must remain in place for the time being - levels of infections remain high, and the COVID-19 pandemic risks overwhelming our healthcare system if left unchecked. We'll continue to fight for increased support for businesses, communities and workers. But be in no doubt; swift action in the here and now can head off stricter measures later, and will help save lives.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP



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Stirling restrictions extended to 2 Nov

Alyn and Bruce have offered their views on the recent extension to localised restrictions in the Stirling area, in attempts to halt the spread of COVID-19.

Temporary restrictions brought into force on October 9th were originally set to expire on October 26th, yet now have been extended to November 2nd.

The news comes as infection numbers across Scotland continue to grow, leaving public health officials increasingly concerned.

[Read more here.](#)



Self-isolation grant launched

Bruce has urged eligible Stirling residents to apply for a new self-isolation grant, offered by the Scottish Government to support those on low-incomes who may lose out from doing the right thing.

Administered through local authorities and the Scottish Welfare Fund, up to £500 will be available for those on Universal Credit or legacy benefits.

The fund opened on October 12th.

[Read more here.](#)



Action on holiday hunger

Around 2038 school children stand to benefit from newly announced funding from the Scottish Government, aimed at supporting free school meals over the coming school holidays.

£10 million will enable local authorities to continue to provide free school meals over the Christmas and Easter holidays.

The news comes as the Westminster Tory government recently voted down similar proposals.

[Read more here.](#)



Illegal rural parking putting lives at risk

Hitting out against a small minority of rural visitors, Alyn joined frustrated community calls for more considerate parking as emergency services have faced blockages in recent weeks.

Inappropriate parking has delayed incident response, and could endanger lives if left unchallenged.

[Find out more here.](#)



Funding boost to support local business

Alyn and Bruce have welcomed the launch of a new 'Scotland Loves Local' fund, aimed at boosting locally-run and sourced businesses.

Community businesses can apply for grants of between £500-£5000 to support small scale improvements, such as PPE, hand sanitising equipment and protective screens.

[Read more here.](#)



Delay to fire safety law deadline welcomed

Bruce has welcomed a sensible delay to the implementation of new fire safety regulations, put in place by the Scottish Government in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Proposals will be tabled to Parliament to push the deadline for compliance to February 2022.

[Read more here.](#)



Key funding secured for treasured military museum

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Museum, located within Stirling Castle, has been awarded £98,600 to secure an operational future amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The funding from Museums Galleries Scotland comes as the institution works to complete refurbishment plans.

[Read more here.](#)



Constituency COVID-19 survey continues to engage

Alyn Smith MP opened a constituency-wide survey in recent weeks, designed to hear from Stirling residents regarding their experience of the pandemic so far - and crucially, their thoughts on any future changes.

The survey can be completed online here: www.alynsmith.scot/howareyou

[Find out more.](#)



[Scot Gov: Business Support](#)



[NHS Inform: COVID-19](#)



[Stirling Council: Guidance](#)