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STIRLING|MATTERS

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team



'We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our respected colleague Councillor Graham Lambie in recent days. Graham was a stalwart champion for his constituents and community, and worked hard to further their interests. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues as we all process this profound loss. We both continue to represent our constituents, help local businesses access support, and liaise with local communities as well as council and parliamentary colleagues. Public health measures needed to combat the pandemic remain in place; but vaccination figures are increasing day-by-day - our return to the new normal gets closer with each passing day.'

- Bruce Crawford MSP and Alyn Smith MP



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Tributes for Councillor Lambie

Bruce Crawford MSP has led tributes to Graham Lambie after his sudden passing. Councillor for the Forth and Endrick ward since 2007, Graham was tirelessly dedicated to his constituents and his community.

'I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of Councillor Graham Lambie. This is a tragic loss on a community level as well as for family and friends. I've known Graham since 1999, he was a close friend and colleague. I will miss him greatly, and I am thinking about his family who have lost someone very special.'

[Read more here.](#)



Positive Thistles future welcomed

Alyn Smith MP and Bruce Crawford MSP have welcomed initial comments from the new bosses of the Thistles Shopping Centre, on the exciting future that lies ahead for Stirling's largest retail offering.

The new owners and management take over at a time of increasing fragility for Stirling's local economy, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

With investment and stakeholder engagement, the Thistles Centre can lead efforts to boost local retail and leisure offerings.

[Read more here.](#)



Hospitality sector needs our support

Stirling SNP MP Alyn Smith has co-signed a letter with the All-Party Group of MPs for Hospitality and Tourism, demanding that the Chancellor do more to support the hospitality and tourism industries during the pandemic crisis.

The letter will be delivered to the Chancellor as the UK government prepares to unveil their Budget on the 3rd March. It points out that UK hospitality saw a 53.8% drop in sales last year – a loss of £72 billion, or around 2% of the UK's overall GDP.

[Read more here.](#)



Support for local B&Bs welcomed by local figures

Stirling MSP Bruce Crawford and local councillor Evelyn Tweed have welcomed an announcement that B&Bs across the Stirling area will be eligible for a lockdown grant.

The grant will be allocated by local councils and business owners are encouraged not to apply – instead the local authority will come to them.

[Read more here.](#)



Scottish Child Payment opens to Stirling families

Evelyn and Bruce have welcomed the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment, which is set to make a difference to families across Stirling at a time when they need it most.

Payments are due to start at the end of this month and parents who have not yet applied are urged to do so as soon as possible.

[Read more here.](#)



National fly-tipping campaign backed in Stirling

Stirling MP Alyn Smith and local councillor Evelyn Tweed have backed calls from the National Farmers Union Scotland, in regards to the urgent action required on fly tipping.

The national campaign makes several recommendations to the Scottish Government and local authorities on the issue.

[Read more here.](#)



Further action for 3 million still excluded from support

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has backed cross-party calls to the UK Chancellor, pushing for urgent action regarding the 2.93 million people across the UK who remain excluded from Covid-19 related financial support schemes.

The letter, signed by dozens of MPs from the Gaps in Support All Party Parliamentary Group, challenges the Treasury to address the serious gaps in support schemes.

[Read more here.](#)



£159,200 in Winter Hardship Payments to Stirling families

592 families in Stirling have received a £100 COVID winter hardship payment to support them through one of the most difficult winters in living memory.

New figures show that the SNP Government provided support to thousands in each of Scotland's local authorities – with more than £14 million paid out to families in December.

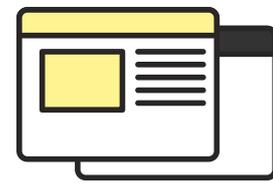
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[Stirling Council: Guidance](#)