

Stirling Matters - July 2021 (24th Edition)

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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[Covid Funding Boost for NHS Forth Valley](#)

NHS Forth Valley has been given £10.1 million in extra COVID-19 funding from the Scottish Government as part of a £380 million package allocated to health boards across Scotland. This comes on top of the £1.7 billion already provided to health boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships last year.

[Scottish SPCA Welcome Support from Alyn Smith MP](#)

Alyn Smith MP has expressed his support for the Scottish SPCA for their work on key animal welfare issues. The SSPCA released figures from the Stirling area from 1 Jan to 31 May 2021 and found a decrease of over 50% of the number of animals rehomed in the Stirling area compared to the same time last year. The number of incidents rose from 173 in 2020 to 210 this year.

[MP & MSP Meet National Park CEO](#)

Alyn Smith MP and Evelyn Tweed MSP have recently met with Gordon Watson, the Chief Executive at Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, to hear more about plans for management of the coming tourist season.

[Stirling Politicians Welcome 17,870 Extra Broadband Connections](#)

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed and Stirling MP Alyn Smith have welcomed a Scottish Government report, showing over 17,870 homes and businesses across Stirling have been upgraded to high speed broadband.

The programme has ensured 97.2%^[1] of homes and businesses in Stirling have access to fibre-enabled broadband, superfast access (greater than or equal to 24Mbps)^[2], of which 91.7%^[3] is at speeds greater than or equal to 30Mbps. 71.2% of those reached by the DSSB rollout across Stirling have now upgraded and are enjoying faster fibre broadband.

Local Mental Health Services Reform Remains Top Priority

Evelyn Tweed MSP has met with the Chief Executive of NHS Forth Valley, Cathie Cowan to discuss a range of local issues, including the current waiting times for users of CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). NHS Forth Valley remains focused on providing mental health support to those who need it the most. In the meeting, there was a clear commitment from Ms Cowan to improve local provision, and reduce waiting times which remain unacceptably high.

Local MSP Backs Sir Walter Scott Steamship

Stirling MSP Evelyn Tweed recently visited Loch Katrine to learn more about the 'Save Our Steamship' campaign, which aims to raise vital funds to support the repair and restoration of the famous 'Sir Walter Scott' Steamship.

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Stirling MP Backs Excluded Unity Alliance

Alyn Smith MP has met with campaigners from prominent pressure groups ExcludedUK and Forgotten Ltd, who represent millions of workers and small businesses who have been unjustly excluded from financial support throughout the pandemic.

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/>