

Stirling Matters - May 2023

News from Stirling's Parliamentary Team

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[Stirling MP Raises Forthside Development Delays with UK Prime Minister](#)

Local MP Alyn Smith has urged UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to investigate project delays, as further development near Stirling's river has yet to progress. Uncertainties remain over the potential contamination of the Ministry of Defence land at Forthside, which has been used as a military installation since 1899. In February this year, local Stirling Councillors also expressed their concerns over delays, as well as the potential risk of decontamination costs falling on the Council if the site is transferred in an unsuitable condition.

[Watch the exchange here.](#)

[Alyn Smith MP Calls for Action on Soaring Food Prices](#)

Stirling SNP MP Alyn Smith has called on the UK Government to act urgently to address soaring food prices, as fresh figures put food inflation at 19.1% – the highest level since the 1970s. Mr Smith said the UK government is failing to tackle 'greedflation' and must take action to force supermarkets to reduce the cost of everyday food items. Research by the House of Commons Library, commissioned by the SNP, shows other European governments are acting on food inflation and price

gouging, whilst the UK government does nothing to bring down prices and help struggling families.

Stirling Creatives Celebrated at Holyrood Reception

Attended by 120 MSPs, Stirling creatives, and other stakeholders and community groups, as well as First Minister Humza Yousaf, the event focused on the fantastic work of Creative Stirling who are a sustainable place-based arts organisation in Stirling supporting creative enterprise and culture-led opportunities for all. The social enterprise provides activities for children, workshops, spaces for artists, hosts exhibitions, and works collaboratively with other organisations. Their trading arm, Made In Stirling, is a shop selling cards, gifts, and art made locally, supporting local artists and using profits to support the endeavours of the social enterprise.

Views Sought on Stirling Bus Services

Evelyn Tweed MSP and Alyn Smith MP are seeking fresh views from Stirling residents on local bus services. A similar survey last year gathered information on issues and potential improvements. These responses were shared with McGills and informed changes to services. Six months on, a follow up survey has been released to gather feedback on changes and to identify ongoing issues.

Stirling Food Train Services More Crucial Than Ever, MP Told

Local Stirling MP Alyn Smith met with Stirling and Clackmannanshire's branch of Food Train, as local need for the project grows amid the worsening economic climate. The national charity, with local branches covering areas across Scotland, organise volunteers and staff to support vulnerable community members to live independently at home with regular support services, including help with food shopping and delivery as well as befriending.

Free Period Products in Sport

Evelyn Tweed MSP took part in a Committee discussion on free period products in sport. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee took evidence from a number of elite athletes (former and current) about women and girls participation in sport. Evelyn heard from Gemma Fay, former Scotland International footballer.

Local MSP Opens Scottish Dragonfly Conference

The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) held their Scottish Conference online last weekend, with over seventy people in attendance. Evelyn Tweed MSP opened the talks, as the Nature Champion for the rare Azure Hawker dragonfly, highlighting the benefits that spending time amongst nature brings as well as the Scottish Governments' biodiversity strategy. The strategy aims to regenerate habitats and reverse biodiversity loss, an important step for many threatened species of dragonfly. There was a wide variety of talks covering a range of topics from recent research into rare dragonfly habitat requirements, to conservation restoration work at Corroul Estate, to exciting dragonfly surveys in Scandinavia.