

Problems With

Following on from an article in the *Scottish Left Review*, Jamie lodged the following motion (S3M – 1002) regarding PFI/PPP projects in Scotland:

“That the Parliament notes with concern the article entitled “Lifting the Lid on PFI”, published in issue 43 of *Scottish Left Review*, which concludes that many PFI/PPP projects in Scotland, including projects in the Central Scotland parliamentary region, are being paid for on a one-for-the-price-of-two basis due to the massive returns accruing to the contractors, that local businesses are regularly squeezed out of the tendering process and that there is still not enough transparency in PFI/PPP contracts; believes that much more needs to be done to improve the availability of information and monitoring of the true cost of PFI/PPP projects, and considers that there should be a full-scale inquiry into the reality of PFI/PPP contracts across Scotland.”

Buses at B&Q?

Jamie has written to North Lanarkshire Council and Strathclyde Passenger Transport encouraging them to use the old B&Q site in Cumbernauld Town Centre as a bus station. It is a large site that now lies unused, and would be ideal for a properly designated bus station. SPT have already indicated they would support a new station, and Jamie believes that the site of the old DIY store fits the bill perfectly. Watch this space!



Above: Jamie recycling his Christmas cards

SWIMMING

Jamie has been campaigning for the reinstatement of discounted entry to swimming for older people in North Lanarkshire. This follows a decision by the local leisure trust, the council body overseeing health and wellbeing provision, to remove this benefit for elderly people in North Lanarkshire. The matter was brought up in Parliament by Jamie with Shona Robison, the Minister for Health saying that she hopes all local authorities will support the Scottish Government’s efforts to improve the health of the nation and make physical activity more accessible. Jamie will continue to push North Lanarkshire Council to reinstate discounted swimming for older people.

At the Parliament

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Surgeries:

3rd March 2008; 7th April 2008

Westfield Community Centre, Westfield (11:00am); Forge Community Centre, Balloch (1:00pm); Miners Welfare Hall, Croy (2:30pm); Burngreen Hall, Kilsyth (4:00pm)

10th March 2008; 14th April 2008

Muirfield Community Centre, Seafar (11:00am); Roadside Senior Citizens Hall, Cumbernauld Village (1:00pm); Abronhill Community Centre, Abronhill (2:30pm); Kildrum Primary School, Kildrum (4:00pm)

18th February 2008; 17th March 2008; 21st April 2008

First Stop Shop, Cumbernauld Town Centre (11:00am); Wallbrae Community Rooms, Carbrain (1:00pm); Greenfaulds Community Centre, Greenfaulds (2:30pm); Condorrat Library, Condorrat (4:00pm)

25th February 2008; 28th April 2008

Community Education Base, Bo’ness (10:00am); Community Education Base, Grangemouth (11:30am); Community Education Centre, Brightons (1:30pm); Tryst Community Education Centre, Stenhousemuir (3:00pm)