

# Hepburn at Holyrood

Jamie Hepburn MSP - Serving the People of Central Scotland



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Parliamentary Newsletter 10 – September/October 2008



Business started back in the Scottish Parliament on 2nd September – but there has been plenty of activity keeping me busy over the summer. This latest newsletter will give you some idea of what's been going on, and what there is to look forward to over the coming months. My contact details can be found below, and if you or anyone you know needs help and advice on any issue, please do get in touch.

Best wishes,

Jamie Hepburn MSP

## Post Office Proposals Provoke Popular Protest

In the middle of July, the Post Office Ltd announced plans for its Network Change Programme in Ayrshire, Inverclyde, Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire, which includes a large part of the Scottish Parliament's Central Scotland region which Jamie represents. The plans included proposals to close a number of Post Office branches within the region, and Jamie launched a survey among residents in some of the communities affected to determine local opinion on the closures. The surveys received a massive response, and showed overwhelming opposition among residents in Banton, Queenzieburn, Kildrum and Plains to the proposed closure of their local Post Office branches.



Jamie has submitted a detailed response to the Post Office, arguing against the closure of these branches and drawing on the results of his survey. These submissions are available on his website at [www.jamiehepburn.org](http://www.jamiehepburn.org) or by contacting his office on the details below. At the end of August, the Post Office announced plans to close Grangepans branch in Bo'ness, and a similar survey is showing strong opposition there too. The picture shows Jamie Hepburn with staff member Fiona Gardner sorting through some of the many survey responses received in his office.



**New Gaelic Playgroup:** Jamie is pictured attending the recent opening of new premises for Cumbernauld's Gaelic playgroup. Speaking after the event, he said: "I am delighted that Croileagan Bogha Frois, Cumbernauld's very own Gaelic playgroup has been able to relocate to their new premises. The opening of their new site was great fun, with it clear that all the kids have a really good time there. Gaelic is of course part of our national make up, and an important part of our heritage. The language has had problems in recent years with declining numbers of speakers, so it is great that bodies such as the playgroup are playing their part in maintaining Gaelic as a vibrant part of Scotland's future."

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## Waste Collection Survey Results Announced

Following the decision of North Lanarkshire Council to introduce alternate weekly collections for household and recyclable waste, Jamie conducted a survey among residents in the areas first affected by the decision.

Residents in Blackwood, Condorrat, Seafar, Westfield and Whitelees were asked if they supported the decision. Of the respondents, 95% said they were happy with the original weekly collection system, and some 82% indicated that they were opposed to the fortnightly uplift. Jamie has since passed the results on to North Lanarkshire Council, and has met with the Head of Land Services to discuss the results. A copy of Jamie's submission to the Council is available by contacting his office on the details overleaf.

## A Wish for the G8 to End Poverty



Jamie is pictured outside the Scottish Parliament supporting Oxfam's Wish Upon a Star campaign, which called for continued action on overseas aid, global healthcare and tackling climate change by the G8, whose summit in

Japan began on the day of the country's Tanabata festival. On this day, people tie written wishes to bamboo trees, and Oxfam asked people across Scotland to send a Tanabata wish to G8 leaders to end poverty.

**Antonine Wall Recognition:** The historic Antonine Wall which runs through the Central Scotland region, has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Jamie lodged this motion in the Scottish Parliament in recognition of the achievement: That the Parliament welcomes the decision by UNESCO to award the Antonine Wall world heritage status, recognising it as an important historical link between Scotland and the Roman Empire, and further welcomes the boost to tourism and the local economies of those areas along the route of the Antonine Wall that this award represents. (S3M-02315)



Jamie continues to meet with local councillors from across the Central Scotland region to discuss issues of mutual concern to their constituents.

Here he is pictured with Councillor Gordon Hughes, one of the councillors who represents Upper Braes ward on Falkirk Council.

## Time to Sort the Clock

Jamie has lodged the following motion in the Scottish Parliament, supporting a campaign to raise the profile of the St Enoch's Clock, Cumbernauld— That the Parliament notes with concern the apparent disregard shown by London and Regional Properties, owners of the Antonine Centre in Cumbernauld, towards the iconic St Enoch's Clock, which formerly hung in St Enoch's train station, Glasgow, and was gifted to the New Town of Cumbernauld; believes that the clock is a local symbol deserving of a more prominent location within the shopping mall, and praises the efforts of the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth branch of the Young Scots for Independence in campaigning on this issue. (S3M-02451)

**Scottish Youth Parliament:** The Scottish Youth Parliament has launched a consultation on Scotland's future, and Jamie is encouraging young people across the region to participate. He lodged this motion in the Scottish Parliament about the project: That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Youth Parliament on the launch of its consultation on independence and Scotland's constitutional future; welcomes the non-partisan basis on which the survey is being conducted, and encourages young people across the country to take part and make their views heard. (S3M-02394)