

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

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Construction of New Currie High Underway



Construction work on the new Currie High School is now underway. The new community school will provide 1,000 student places with three floors of teaching blocks, sports and leisure facilities, a swimming pool, and a café.

Gordon said, “It has been four-and-a-half years since the *Save Our Schools* campaign managed to ensure that Balerno, Currie, and Wester Hailes each have their own high school.

“We were adamant the three high schools, and Woodlands School, should remain open and on their current site. Consequently, the new Currie High School is being built on the open ground of the current school prior to its demolition and conversion into football pitches.”

The new school is being built by Kier to Passivhaus energy performance standards, which will reduce its total energy use by up to 70% — one of the first schools in Scotland to be built to this standard.



Gordon being interviewed in 2018 at *Save Our Schools* protest.

The school will cost £65 million and the project is one in the first phase of the Scottish Government’s £2 billion *Learning Estate Investment Programme*.

Overall completion is expected in early 2025.

Westside Plaza Housing



Plans to build affordable housing, opposite Westside Plaza have been approved. The development will comprise 73 flats on the site of the former local health centre.

Gordon commented, “I welcome this development which I believe fits in well with the local Wester Hailes town centre providing local and convenient amenities.

“The flats will be close to the train station and with many active travel routes nearby, the site will be well connected to public transport links to the rest of the city”.

The new block of flats will be built in a U-shape around a central, south facing courtyard. There will be 41 homes for social rent, 32 for mid-market rent. Five of the properties will be wheelchair accessible and there will be 188 cycle spaces provided on site.

ALSO THIS MONTH...

At The National Robotarium



Gordon led a members' debate in Parliament highlighting the benefits of robotics, AI and autonomous systems and the important work being developed at the National Robotarium located at Heriot Watt University campus.

Gordon highlighted the National Robotarium's role in developing Scotland into a world leading international hub to help grow a trained, qualified workforce and the development of a manufacturing base.

Gordon said, "I was delighted to have the opportunity to lead the debate on the National Robotarium, the largest and most advanced applied research facility for robotics and artificial intelligence found anywhere in the UK and located here in the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency.

"I recently visited the state of the art facility and saw first hand the incredible work they are doing. The members debate was an opportunity to highlight both the centre and encourage investment to ensure Scotland is leading in this industrial revolution.

Pentlands Men's Shed



Members of the Pentlands Men's Shed met with Gordon to discuss the benefits of Men's Sheds. The members welcomed clarification of the funding issues and challenges in these difficult times.

Gordon noted, "Men's Shed both nationally and locally undoubtedly have a positive impact. The work they do and support they offer is invaluable to individual and community well being.

The First Minister also recently stated that an offer of support to the national organisation had been made by the Scottish Government.

Gordon visited the group whilst they were building a "mud kitchen" for Murrayburn Primary School, just one of many projects their members participate which local groups benefit.

Help With Council Tax Bills



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

People struggling to pay their council tax during the cost of living crisis are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for money off their bill.

Gordon said, "The Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme is unique to Scotland and can help people on low incomes save an average of £750 a year on their council tax. Those eligible can also save up to 35% on their water charges.

The latest figures published by the Scottish Government show 455,220 recipients received CTR in November 2022, meaning around one-in-five households were benefitting from the scheme.

Find out more at the below link: -

www.mygov.scot/council-tax/discounts-exemptions-and-reductions

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Weekly Surgeries

Gordon is now holding open surgeries for constituents to attend every Friday at 10am. The locations for these can be found at: -

<https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands