

Parliamentary Patter



January 2012 Issue 6 Parliamentary Report: John Mason MSP

EAST END MSP WELCOMES 'HISTORIC' DECISION ON 2014 REFERENDUM

Shettleston Member of the Scottish Parliament, John Mason, has commented on the news from the Scottish Government that an independence referendum will be held in Autumn 2014.

John Mason MSP, who represents the East End of Glasgow, commented:

"These are exciting times with the Scottish Government having just confirmed that Scotland's independence referendum is to be held in the autumn of 2014. People across the East End will now have the exciting opportunity to join the rest of Scotland in voting in a referendum on Scotland's future.

"This will be the most important social and political decision on how Scotland is governed for centuries and it is vital that this decision is taken by the people of Scotland.

"In recent days, Labour and the Lib-Dems have

been falling over each other to agree with David Cameron's insistence on trying to interfere in a referendum that is clearly up to Scotland to run. It is clear that Unionist politicians have nothing positive to add to this debate.

"However the Scottish Government is sticking to its election promise to hold the referendum in the second half of this parliament to allow time for an educated debate on independence to be held. That is only right and proper. And I myself am happy to take part in any local debates that community councils, churches, or other groups would like to organise.

"It is also right that 16 and 17 year olds should be allowed to vote in the referendum. The SNP has long believed that people who are entitled by law to work full time, get married and pay taxes should have a say in how their country is run and in the future of that country. Our young people are our future, they have a right to express their view at the ballot box.

"Above all, this is a matter for Scotland. The people of Scotland gave the SNP a mandate to run this referendum. The Tories, Lib-Dems and Labour would do well to come to terms with that fact and respect the people's decision."

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COMMUNITY COUNCILS

John Mason, has started 2012 by re-stating his enthusiasm for local Community Councils but is disappointed that some areas still do not have them.

He said: "Community councils do good work representing local people. Their work is vital and relies upon the hard work of volunteers. Sadly a number of community councils in the East End are struggling to find enough volunteers to keep them going. If anyone is looking for information about their community council or how to go about setting one up, I would be happy to provide information."



IT'S LIGHTS OUT IN THE EAST END

MSP identifies 85 faulty street lights in just two hours

SNP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has been identifying faulty street lighting in Glasgow's East End where, in some cases, whole streets have been left in darkness. The Shettleston MSP was planning to attend a local meeting but it did not go ahead, so he embarked on a mission to list as many faulty street lights as possible.

Commenting, John Mason MSP said:

"In just two hours I managed to list eighty-five faulty street lights from driving around the East End. On top of that I could see others were off but either could not stop the car near them or did not have time.

"I appreciate that we've had some dreadful weather over the last month, but I know from living in the East End, that a number of lighting columns have been off longer than that and it's time the Council got them sorted.

"I've sent my list to Glasgow City Council which includes a lot of the main roads but I would encourage residents to identify and report faulty street lights on their own street. To report a faulty street light, just call the Council's roads and lighting department on 0800 37 36 35. It helps if you can give the "R" number on the lamppost together with the street name. If residents find the Council is not responding, I am happy to hear about it and I will chase them up.

"It's getting dark around 4pm these days, with sunrise around 8am, so it's important that these street lights are on to keep residents safe walking to and from their homes".

JOHN MASON SIGNS THE PLEDGE FOR PROSTATE CANCER

SNP MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has shown his backing for reduced inequalities and improved prostate cancer services in Scotland by signing The Pledge for Prostate Cancer.

The Prostate Cancer Charity Scotland has set out five pledges that MSPs can make to show their support for people affected by prostate cancer, and is delighted to have secured widespread cross party support for the initiative.

Commenting, John said:

"Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland. 2,700 men in Scotland are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year and 19,000 are currently living with the disease. Two men die of prostate cancer every day.

"Despite this there is still considerable scope to improve the treatment, support and choices available to men diagnosed with prostate cancer - as well as improving the public's knowledge of some of the issues faced by those affected by it. That's why I am delighted to sign The Pledge for Prostate Cancer and help The Prostate Cancer Charity fight for a world where lives are no longer limited by the disease."

Anyone concerned about prostate cancer can call The Prostate Cancer Charity's free and confidential Helpline on 0800 074 8383. The Helpline is staffed by specialist nurses and is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday and Wednesdays from 7pm - 9pm. Alternatively please visit www.prostate-cancer.org.uk



Parliamentary Patter is published by John Mason MSP to give members of the community a window into his parliamentary and constituency work. This newsletter is distributed monthly to those who have asked for an opportunity to read what their Member of the Scottish Parliament does and thinks. For further information and distribution enquiries, contact David Linden on 0141 550 4327 or write to 1335 Gallowgate, Parkhead, Glasgow, G31 4DN.

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