



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.

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John Mason talks up Glasgow tourism

A Glasgow MSP used a recent Scottish Government debate on Business Tourism to talk up the city as a world class tourist destination. The SNP politician also hopes businesses and other organisations will continue holding their meetings in Glasgow during 2014. There is plenty of room in Glasgow for BOTH the Commonwealth Games AND normal business events. In fact the Commonwealth games are a great opportunity for business people to meet with counterparts from around the world.

SNP MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, spoke about some of the initiatives undertaken by the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and the SECC, of which Mr Mason himself was a non-executive Director.

Speaking from Parliament, City MSP Mr Mason said:

"Glasgow has an excellent story to tell when it comes to tourism and this was a good opportunity to share that in the Scottish Parliament.

"With 30,000 folk employed in the tourism sector in Glasgow, it is clear that we put a tremendous amount of effort into attracting people from all over the world. That hard work is paying off and is complemented by the fact that Glasgow is attracting 2.3 million visitors a year, injecting some £595 million into the local economy.

"As a result of the 2014 Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow, we have a remarkable opportunity to really showcase the city to the whole world. But we must learn lessons from London 2012 where people thought the City was 'full up' with the Olympics. The atmosphere in Glasgow will be really quite something and this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show the whole world that Glasgow is place to do business, relax and enjoy some excellent attractions".

City Council ignores Shettleston residents

John Mason, the SNP MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, has rounded on Glasgow City Council who, in a recent residents consultation, ignored almost 90% of residents who called upon Glasgow City Council to close the lane linking Kilmany Gardens and Kilmany Drive in the Shettleston area of his constituency.

Mr Mason has played a leading part in the local campaign, during which residents have consistently asked the Council to close Kilmany Lane. The Shettleston MSP first asked the Council to close the lane in November last year. He also held a public meeting in St Mark's Church in late May 2012 to reaffirm residents views, after which the Council eventually agreed to hold a local consultation which concluded on 20th September 2012.

Commenting, Shettleston's SNP MSP, John Mason, said:

"First of all, I am disappointed that it took the Council almost two months to respond to my letter and the residents' requests for a breakdown of the consultation responses.

"Once again, we see Glasgow City Council ignoring the 89% of residents who responded and said they wanted the lane closed. The Police are on record saying that they want the lane closed, the residents want it closed but the Council have not listened.



"The Council say 'the lane poses no danger to the public' and so they 'have no powers to promote a closure order' but I simply don't accept that. It is very clear that this lane has been posing a danger both to the public and to their property. I have seen a lane closed in Swinton in the past which was causing much less problems than this one.

"This is a slap in the face for local residents opinions and I would implore councillors to challenge Council officials on this. I am afraid that this information just reinforces my view that this is a Council that doesn't care, won't listen and won't take the action residents want."

Residents who support the closure of Kilmany Lane are urged to contact Mr Mason's constituency office on 0141 550 4327 or by email at: john.mason.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

MSP expresses sadness following Hurry Bros collapse

Hurry Bros

Hurry Bros had become a well known name in the East End

SNP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, has expressed his disappointment following the news that Hurry Brothers - headquartered in his constituency, and providing 48 local jobs - is to be liquidated.

The East End MSP, who has worked with Hurry Brothers over a number of years, said the news is extremely sad and the company had been a well-known as a significant part of the East End.

Commenting, East End MSP, John Mason said: "The news that Hurry Bros is to close is a sad day for the East End

and we are losing a company that has practically been a household name.

"Over recent years, both as an MP and MSP, I had been working with Hurry Brothers to try and help them with some problems they were having with the bank and energy suppliers. My thoughts are with the staff who have lost their job at a really difficult time of year.

"I have written to the Scottish Government Enterprise Minister, Fergus Ewing, to see what support that can be provided for the staff at Hurry Brothers".

John Mason MSP encourages constituents to be good winter neighbours

Shettleston MSP, John Mason, has urged people across the East End to respond to the current cold weather by looking out for vulnerable people in their communities.

Commenting, Scottish National Party MSP, John Mason, said: "As we head into winter, and with conditions forecast to remain very cold for some time to come, it seems likely that the City Council and our emergency services will be at full stretch trying to keep major routes open and attend to the most pressing emergencies.

"If you are able to, it would be an ideal time to check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours, make sure they have heat and that their pre-payment meters are topped up. If you are in an area where the footpaths are still affected by snow and ice, you may be able to help clear paths.

"It is also very important to recognise the hard work being put in by local council workers, who will be doing their best to keep Glasgow moving during the winter".



John takes Royal Mail fight to Holyrood

SNP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Shettleston, John Mason, is taking the campaign to save local postal services to Holyrood.

With one sorting office already closed in the Shettleston ward of Glasgow Shettleston constituency, Mr Mason and local communities are now fighting to ensure residents in Bridgeton and Baillieston are still able to collect their letters for free.

The local MSP has tabled a motion in Holyrood which, if it attracts cross-party support, will lead to a full parliamentary debate.

John Mason, SNP MSP the East End, commented: "We must do all we can to oppose privatisation of Royal Mail and I hope MSPs of all parties can sign this motion which could lead to a full parliamentary debate.

"During my time at Westminster the then Labour Government was flirting with privatising Royal Mail but thankfully they saw the error of their ways.

"Privatising Royal Mail will lead to more instances where people have to pay for services which previously were free and this needs to be fought tooth and nail. Royal Mail is an essential public service that must remain in public hands. For the sake of our local communities I sincerely hope Scottish MPs can heap pressure on the UK Government to fight these fundamentally flawed plans that will have an adverse impact on local communities across the country".

Sign the petition to save Cubie Street: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/royal-mail-stop-the-closure-of-glasgow-s-cubie-street-sorting-office>



John Mason MSP is taking Royal Mail's privatisation agenda to Holyrood

MSP opens Impact Arts exhibition

Mr Mason recently opened the Lino Printing Exhibition, which was designed by 2nd year pupils at the local St Mungo's Academy on Gallowgate.

John Mason, SNP MSP for the East End, commented: "I am delighted to have had the opportunity to open this wonderful exhibition, which really showcases some of the fantastic talent of 2nd year pupils at St Mungo's Academy.

"Impact Arts are a great organisation, based in the East End, and we are really fortunate to have them working in our community.

"The Lino Printing exhibition is well worth seeing and I would highly recommend it to everyone".



The gallery is open to the public and is located on Sword Street, Dennistoun