



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

David Torrance MSP

SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy Constituency

Monthly Newsletter

August 2016

Hello, and Welcome to my new monthly newsletter. I will be sending this out to keep everyone in the loop with what I've been doing both within the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood and around the local Kirkcaldy Constituency. I feel it is imperative that, as your elected SNP representative, I am able to communicate directly with the local community and inform everyone about how I've been spending my time to best serve the constituency and everyone within it.



As you all know, we are now in a very unusual political climate following the recent Referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. Although Parliament is currently in recess, things are developing at a fast pace. In particular, I'd like to extend my unequivocal support to protecting the citizenship and work rights of all EU nationals across the constituency. To that end, I have recorded a special video message with Roger Mullin MP and Alyn Smith MEP, which you can find more details about below. Please note that as your MSP, I remain 100% committed to protecting the rights of every one of my constituents.

Yours for Scotland,

In Parliament



It was an honour to be re-elected to the Scottish Parliament in May this year as the elected SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy constituency. I would like to once again thank every local campaigner who gave up their hard work, time and effort for my re-election campaign.

In this new term of Parliament, I have become a member of both the **Equal Opportunities Committee**, as well as the **Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee**. I will be keeping you up to date with my key contributions to these committees going forward.

Recently in Parliament, I asked about increasing early years learning opportunities and the provision of childcare services in Scotland, stressing the attainment gap that exists between the most affluent and deprived parts of Scotland. The Scottish Government outlined ways in which further investment will be made. I also spoke on child safety, and my support for identifying and tackling risks to children.

Election Campaign 2016



In May this year, I was re-elected to serve as the MSP for the Kirkcaldy Constituency. It has been a remarkable honour and privilege to once again serve this community.

From as early as January, myself and a number of local SNP activists were getting the message out on the streets. It was a long campaign through sunshine, rain, and every weather imaginable. Throughout it all, everyone was in good spirits and the enthusiasm and commitment shown was genuinely inspiring and touching on a personal level.

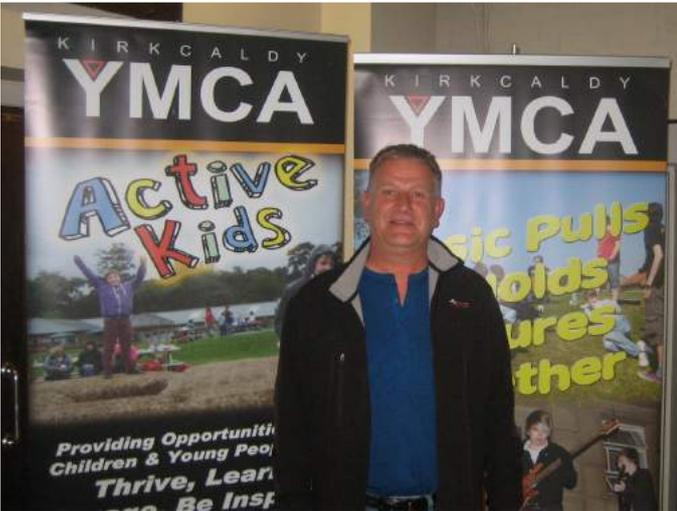
One of the great things about campaigning around the constituency is getting a chance to meet and speak to so many constituents directly. A number of local concerns and issues were raised to me during the campaign, and I will endeavour to assist with solving as many of these issues as I can during this term of office.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who campaigned for me; for giving up so much of their own time, and for believing in me to stand as the local MSP once again. To each and every one of you, sincerely: **Thank You.**



Since the election, I've enjoyed meeting and visiting many outstanding local community groups in the constituency.





Clockwise from Top Left: On hospital radio for VRN's popular 'Talk of the Toun' show; sampling delicious local produce from 'The Chillilicious Farm'; attending the Kirkcaldy YMCA AGM in June; and meeting the Fife Society for the Blind.

Congratulations to Sinclairtown Primary School

I was pleased to present students from Sinclairtown Primary School in Kirkcaldy with their John Muir Awards for environmental work carried out locally and on a school trip to Ardroy. The students have been working to remove litter from Ravenscraig Park, as well as reducing non-native foliage in Ardroy to protect indigenous plants. My congratulations to all of the staff and students involved, as it's a great example to set as we all head outdoors to enjoy the Summer.



From Previous Page, Clockwise from Left: Opening the New Generation Twirlers' facility; Attending the No Knives in Fife AGM; Meeting the 'Love Oliver' campaign; and spending time with CLEAR Buckhaven.

I have made some welcome appointments to my staff. I am particularly pleased to announce **Zoe Hisbent** has been promoted to become my new **Office Manager**, who takes over from **Yvonne Whitehill** following her recent retirement. I would like to thank Yvonne for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the best for the future. I am confident Zoe will excel in her new role. I have also appointed **Gavin Hugh** as my new **Press Officer**, who brings with him a background in broadcast media, and have been pleased to employ both **Louise Wylie** as a **Caseworker** and **Salma Saade** as a **Parliamentary Intern**. All my staff continue to impress me as they provide an excellent frontline point of contact for constituents.

Supporting the Constituency



As always, July has been a busy month with many local issues coming to the fore. With the Scottish Parliament now in recess until September, it's been a great opportunity to get out into the constituency and talk to people myself.

I was pleased to visit the **Cancer Research UK Awareness Roadshow** when it came to the Victoria Hospital last month, and it was great to see all the hard-working nurses informing the public on how to reduce their risk of cancer. This is a very important issue for me, as cancer has a devastating impact on families across the constituency every year. We should be thankful our NHS Fife staff do such a tremendous job everyday.



I continue to work closely with **Roger Mullin MP** and his office, and we had a very productive meeting with representatives from **LIDL** to discuss their future retail plans in the town, and I'm optimistic about the opportunities for the local economy and employment.

I am always impressed by all of the community groups and campaigners in the area, and was delighted to meet a number of them at the Mercat in Kirkcaldy recently. I gave my full endorsement to **Save Wemyss Ancient Caves Society**, **Methil Heritage Friends**, the **Kirkcaldy Civic Society**, and the **Fife Mining Heritage Preservation Society**.

The **Levenmouth Rail Campaign** is close to my heart, and I had a positive meeting with Scottish Government Transport Minister, **Humza Yousaf MSP**, to outline the key benefits to local economy. I have since met with the local campaigners and there is much cross-party consensus to get the job done.

Lastly, I teamed up with **Alyn Smith MEP** and **Roger Mullin MP** to deliver a message of support to EU nationals living in Scotland. The three of us met at **Fife Migrants Forum** to declare our determination to secure continued citizenship and work rights for EU citizens following recent the UK Brexit vote. You can watch a video of our visit here: <https://youtu.be/aCFaZFaAvjA>.



My team and I are always here to help. If you have an issue, please get in touch.



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