



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

David Torrance MSP

SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy Constituency

Monthly Newsletter

September 2016

Summer is almost over (did it ever really start?), and with Autumn comes the start of a new term of the Scottish Parliament. I've made the most of the Parliamentary recess period to get out and meet local people and community groups across the constituency. There's a lot of fantastic work being done locally by committed activists and campaigners to develop, improve and regenerate their communities, and I'm encouraged and inspired by all of their efforts.



For my digital constituents, I've recently launched a brand new Facebook page to share my MSP work at: <https://www.facebook.com/DavidHTorrance>. Feel free to Like this page to keep up to date with all of my constituency and parliamentary work between my Newsletters.

Following the Brexit vote, Scotland is experiencing a very exciting political time. The SNP has launched its brand new Political Listening Exercise survey, which I'd encourage everyone to participate in online at: http://www.survey2016.scot/take_the_survey. The Scottish Government remains committed to returning our country to stability, and it remains an honour to serve my community at this time.

Yours for Scotland,

Congratulations to Daisychain Nursery School

I was very pleased to visit Daisychain Nursery School in Kirkcaldy last month, to congratulate them on their success in becoming an Eco-School and being awarded their first Green Flag as an award.



I was very pleased to submit a Parliamentary motion (S5M-00701) congratulating the nursery on their success. The combination of sustainable outdoors learning and environmental awareness is a great example for other nurseries in the area to follow.



YMCA Link-Up & SURF



I recently visited the **YMCA Link Up** project in the Gallatown area of Kirkcaldy, where great community work is being done in the site of the former Happy Days Chinese restaurant. It was hugely inspiring to see these activists banding together to regenerate their community.

I attended the project with **SURF** (Scotland's Regeneration Forum), who have focussed on Kirkcaldy East as a key focus for regeneration work. I'm looking forward to working with everyone involved to help all of these great regeneration efforts in an oft-overlooked part of Kirkcaldy.

Kinghorn Bank Closure



I was greatly disappointed by the Bank of Scotland's decision to close their Kinghorn branch in November. This will cause considerable inconvenience to local residents who will need to travel further for necessary in-branch services.

A joint letter has been sent to the Bank of Scotland from myself, along with local MP Roger Mullin and Councillor George Kay requesting a meeting with Bank of Scotland representatives to discuss the closure. I will keep you updated as we seek to ensure the continuation of service provision for local residents.

I was pleased to recommence my Constituency Surgeries on **Monday 29th August** at ASDA in Kirkcaldy.

I will be holding regular surgeries on **Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays** across the constituency, and hope to be as accessible as possible to any constituent who needs my help with any issue.

You can see my full list of surgeries online at:

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/currentmsps/99334.aspx>





From Left: Visiting Spencer at the Templehall Gym; Attending the Templehall Gala in Kirkcaldy.

Festival of Township & Kirkcaldy Ingolstadt Association Festival



The fantastic **Bavarian Beer & Music Festival** returned to Kirkcaldy this month, along with the innovative new **Festival of Township** in a marquee outside Kirkcaldy Town House. I enjoyed visiting the Community Day on Thursday 25th August, where lots of community activism was on display. As with YMCA Link Up, I am always encouraged and fully supportive of these grassroots efforts to improve lives in Fife.



As well as a whole series of themed days in the marquee, I was very pleased to attend the opening ceremony of the bi-annual Beer & Music Festival on Thursday 1st September. Needless to say, the event was a huge success over the course of the weekend and much fun was had by all.

I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to the **Kirkcaldy Ingolstadt Association** for another successful festival, and thank all of the staff, volunteers and businesses who supported this event. Having visited Ingolstadt myself a few years ago, I can say first-hand that Kirkcaldy is very fortunate indeed to be twinned with this fantastic Bavarian community in Germany.



RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund

The second round of applications are now open for this year's **RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund**. The **£2.5million** fund offers grants of up to **£35,000** for charities, social enterprises, and community groups.

Throughout the constituency, many fantastic community activists in areas of high deprivation are doing outstanding work with limited resources. I'm very keen to point them in the direction of funding sources, and I'd like to encourage all groups who feel they may be eligible to make an application.

Applications can be made at <http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.rbs.com> until midday on **9th September**.



Returning to Parliament

On Tuesday 6th September I will return to the Scottish Parliament for the new term. I'm excited to be a member of a number of Cross Party Groups on a range of subjects, including; **Epilepsy, Poland**, the **Scottish Showmen's Guild**, and **SPREE** (Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency).

These will be in addition to my membership duties on both the **Equal Opportunities Committee** and the **Delegating Powers & Law Reform Committee**. Additionally, I shall be raising a question to the Scottish Government on Wednesday 7th regarding finance and onshore revenues.

As the new term of Parliament begins, I will be spending much more time in Edinburgh at the Scottish Parliament over the weeks to come. However, I am keen to stay engaged and available to all of my constituents at my constituency surgeries. Please find below a list of all my surgery dates in September. I'd greatly look forward to meeting you and discussing whatever local issues you may have.

Upcoming Surgery Dates in September

Monday 5th September

Chapel Neighbourhood Community Centre

6pm - 6.30pm

Smeaton Community Centre Veronica Hall

6.45pm - 7.15pm

Friday 9th September

Raeburn Community Centre 6pm - 6.45pm

Saturday 10th September 2016

Philip Hall 10am - 11am

Polish Club 11.15am - 11.45am

Constituency Office 12noon - 1pm

Monday 12th September

Sainsbury's Kirkcaldy 6pm - 7pm

Friday 16th September

Torbain Parish Church 6pm - 6.45pm

Saturday 17th September

The Toll Centre, Burntisland 10am - 10.30am

Kinghorn Community Centre 10.45am - 11.15am

Auchtertool Village Hall 11.30am - 12noon

14th Fife Scout Hall 12.15am - 12.45am

Monday 26th September

ASDA Kirkcaldy 6pm - 7pm

Monday 30th September

Hayfield Community Centre 6pm - 6.45pm

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



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