

Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Pentlands

November 2021

Proposed Crossing at Dovecot Park



At a recent meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee, it was agreed to construct two pedestrian crossings on the Lanark Road at Hailes Gardens and Kingsknowe Park. Parking adjacent to Kingsknowe Park is to be relocated from the west side of Lanark Road to the east side.

Commenting, Gordon noted, "My office and I have been working for many years with the local residents and the community council to address concerns regarding crossing the Lanark Road at these locations. These concerns were triggered by a number of concerning situations in which we and local residents had witnessed involving pedestrians trying to cross Lanark Road safely.

"There were clear visibility issues, and the current road traffic islands were narrow and unsuitable for wheelchairs, children's buggies, and family groups with small children. Although the speed limit on this road was 40mph, now reduced to 30mph due to Spaces for People, it is not unusual to see vehicles passing at much faster speeds."

"Dovecot Park, on the east side of the Lanark Road, is regularly used for organised football matches and training for primary school age children. It's not unusual for large groups of children to cross this busy road without adult supervision. I am pleased that these measures will finally enable safe crossing points."

Alarm and Telecare Service



The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership offer a telecare service for people who may need some help to stay safe in their home. If an alarm is activated, it alerts a team of response officers 24 hours a day. Some of the alarms that could help you include:

- A wearable neck pendant;
- A fall detector to call for help;
- An epilepsy monitor;
- A door exit monitor for those at risk if they leave their home;
- Bed monitors to make sure you are safe during the night;
- Smoke or heat alarms linked to call the emergency services;
- Equipment for sight/hearing loss.

Depending on circumstances, you may have to pay for some services. To talk to someone contact:

0131 200 2324

socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

ALSO THIS MONTH...

Supporting EU Students



The Scottish Government has announced an extension to the existing Saltire scholarship scheme that will support hundreds of EU students to study in Scotland.

Gordon noted, “The Saltire Scholarship scheme has been designed to help ease the negative impact of Brexit on student numbers. There has been a 41% decrease in EU students applying to study at Scottish universities this academic year.”

The £2.25 million in funding has been allocated to institutions through the Scottish Funding Council and students starting their studies from this autumn can apply. Scholarships will be considered by universities for Masters level post-graduate study and colleges will consider applications for HN, HNC, or HND level qualifications.

Gordon commented, “EU students make a vital contribution to our society, economy, and educational environment. These scholarships will help repair our links with the EU and send a clear message that Scotland is open for business to European students.”

Better Animal Protection



Legislation has come in to effect this month that which will enable animals taken into possession to protect their welfare to be rehomed far more efficiently.

Previously, animals seized on welfare grounds that were not signed over by the owner to the Scottish SPCA would have to reside at a rescue centre until any legal proceedings had concluded.

Changes to the legislation mean that animals seized due to welfare concerns can now be rehomed after a minimum of three weeks without a court order, reducing the time spent in an interim home.

Gordon said, “The Scottish Government take animal welfare seriously and are determined to have the highest standards for all animals in Scotland.”

Windrush Meeting



Gordon met with Joseline Sabanda, the Projects and Events Manager for Windrush Scotland.

Fair Justice System for Scotland Group was recently awarded £79,200.00 by the National Lottery for a project titled “Windrush Scotland – The Experiences of People of African Caribbean Heritage – A Consultative Project”

The project will focus on exploring the experiences of the Windrush generation, their descendants, families, and society in Scotland.

Gordon commented, “This is commendable project to facilitate a national conversation – telling and unearthing the true story of Windrush in Scotland, and helping surviving victims and descendants get closure and support for a fairer Scotland.”

Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

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📘 Gordon Macdonald MSP

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Monthly Surgeries

Due to the ongoing public health concern, in the interest of public and staff safety, Gordon’s surgeries are suspended until further notice but he will continue to handle enquiries as usual.

Working for Edinburgh Pentlands