

# Gordon Macdonald

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Edinburgh Pentlands

July 2021

Photograph 2019

## CALA to Build 2,000 Homes in Currie?



CALA Homes are proposing a massive new housing development on land to the north of Currie up to the rail line. Although the number of houses has not been announced yet, if comparable to the density of a nearby CALA development, an estimate would be up to 2,000 new homes.

Gordon said, "The scale of this development is bigger than anything previously seen for the Balerno-Currie-Juniper Green corridor area, and the impact on traffic, pollution, and services will be equally massive."

The proposal also features an alternative location for the replacement Currie High School on land to the east of Riccarton Mains Road, and planning gains such as enhanced access to Curriehill Station, and potentially new retail and employment units and community facilities.

CALA's consultation website will become active 22 June until 13 July. The website is: <https://cala-currievale.co.uk/>. They are also hosting an online consultation (which you can access via the website link above) between 3 - 7pm on June 22 where consultants will be available to answer any questions and receive feedback.

Gordon continued, "I urge all residents to respond to this consultation and make your views known. CALA will understandably use this to promote their development, but, at the same time, we know there is a strong possibility of this dramatically changing the character of the area.

"The question remains - how do we provide homes that local people can afford so they can continue to live in the area that they've grown up in?"

## Spaces for People



Edinburgh Council has published the plan for the future of the temporary Spaces for People measures.

These have included pop-up walking and cycling routes, and temporary improvements, to enable physical distancing.

Gordon has been in ongoing dialogue with the Council regarding the measures for the past year.

Gordon said, "I'm glad to see the intention to keep the 30mph speed limit on Lanark Road and the removal the Lanark Road cycle ways, which was unfortunately necessary due to several safety concerns.

"I remain committed to finding a solution to the safety concerns for all of those travelling on the Water of Leith Path."

# ALSO THIS MONTH...

## Thanking Pharmacies



Gordon has praised pharmacies across the city for helping to rollout rapid COVID testing kits for people without symptoms.

The expansion which began on 9 June 2021 is aimed at finding cases which would otherwise go undetected.

Participating pharmacies include Colinton Pharmacy, MacKinnon Pharmacy, Lloyds Pharmacy Wester Hailes, Lloyds Pharmacy Calder Road, Gate 55 Sighthill Road, Colinton Mains Pharmacy, Lindsay & Gilmour Chemist Juniper Green, Calder Pharmacy, Oxgangs Pharmacy, and Boots Pharmacy Buckstone Terrace.

Commenting, Gordon said, "This is very welcome news and I am sure will be a source of great help to so many people across the city.

"I would like to thank all the community pharmacies who are participating in this rollout. Community pharmacies have, and continue to, play a key role in supporting Scotland's public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic by providing access to NHS services close to people's homes and lives."

## Play and Wellbeing



**The Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Edinburgh Council is set to receive £846,000 from the Scottish Government to encourage children to play and socialise as part of the recovery from the pandemic.

Councils across Scotland will share of £15 million to support summer activities. The support will target those aged up to 25 from low income households. £5 million will also be distributed among children's charities such as Barnardo's and Who Cares Scotland.

Gordon said, "I am absolutely delighted at this investment in Edinburgh's children and young people, who have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic as they have not been able to meet up with friends or play the sports they love."

## Talking Newspapers



**The Scottish Parliament**  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Gordon lodged a motion in Parliament commending *Cue and Review* - a daily Scotland-wide talking newspapers service - on the launch of its new Alexa skill/app, Talking Newspaper.

The app allows visually and reading impaired users to access talking newspapers and magazines when using an Alexa device.

The project received £50,485 from the Scottish Government's Community Recovery Fund, which has enabled *Cue and Review* to work on the project with the charity, BWBF, which provides radios for blind people.

The app is currently compatible with all Scottish talking newspaper titles available on the current BWBF Talking Newspaper phone app.

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### Contact 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