



Better infrastructure needed in Perth and Kinross-shire

We need to combat the blight of flytipping in our countryside

Liz Smith MSP

PRAISE FOR UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT P2

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, CHARITIES AND COMMUNITIES P3

Candidate for Perthshire South & Kinross-Shire Scottish Parliamentary elections 2021

PRI is one of our most precious assets



► The Scottish Conservatives want to see:

- Clinical leadership as the norm.
- Re-establishing Scotland's reputation in medical teaching and research.
- Better workplace support for doctors and nurses.

For generations, PRI has been one of the most treasured facilities across Tayside and rightly so. The vast majority of constituents who get in touch with Liz have been patients at PRI or are visitors to the hospital and speak very highly of the medical care provided by our dedicated doctors and nurses.

That reputation has been enhanced as a result of Covid19 and Liz has added her thanks to all those professionals and support staff who, under very trying circumstances, have provided, and continue to provide such excellent service.

We should not forget however that the second wave of Covid19 is now placing even more pressures on the

NHS, especially in terms of addressing the backlog in other treatment and it has brought into question the decision-making process within the health service.

If there is one lesson to be learnt from the Covid19 wards, it is that the "can do" approach of our doctors and nurses works best. As clinicians, they continue to demonstrate they are best placed to make the right decisions for patients and to organise wards accordingly.

At the same time however, as the pandemic progresses, the unwieldy bureaucracy of the NHS became ever more apparent. In the future, we must ensure frontline staff are not submerged in that bureaucracy. That could be almost as deadly a disease as the virus itself.

Boosting the Strathearn economy

For many years, local residents across Strathearn have expressed their concern about the lack of support for shops and rural town high streets. This is a concern which has been further highlighted by the recent lockdown restrictions and the pressure this has put on local businesses to adapt.

Local Scottish Conservative representatives, Liz Smith MSP and Councillor Roz McCall are calling for a renewed effort to revitalise the local economy and access to the town.

Councillor McCall said, "I am delighted that the work which was done on the

Broich Road area of Crieff, with regard to the junction, resurfacing work and road safety, has brought forward further private investment into the area.

"I fought hard for this council investment, after 10 years of the SNP's Perth centric attitude to funding, as this was always the way to kick start the local improvements and boost the regeneration of the town.

"There are more plans coming forward for new houses, commercial buildings and retail units, which is excellent for this area, but it is imperative that further investment is made to put

in place a better economy to the existing businesses all along the A85 through Strathearn.

"The Scottish Government has to look at several aspects of the trunk road and its effect on the community and the businesses in the area. I have been very vocal in my support for businesses in the area and applaud the innovative ways many have risen to the recent challenges."

We need to get behind local businesses and bring Strathearn back better and stronger than before.



We need better local infrastructure in Kinross-shire

Local residents in Kinross-shire are becoming increasingly concerned about the level of housing development in Kinross and Milnathort and the effects that it will have on schools, the GP practice, the sewage works and local roads. These developments also fail to include enough smaller homes for those wishing to downsize or get their first home but stay in Kinross-shire.

Liz Smith MSP and local councillor Callum Purves believe that development on this scale should not be allowed if the necessary infrastructure is not in place.

Callum said, "Along with other local campaigners, I have successfully argued for the refusal of the Pitdownies development in Milnathort and an extra 100 houses at the Lathro Meadows site. I hope



this will make big developers think again about bringing forward plans on such a large scale without thinking about the effects on local residents.

"While I have managed to

protect more school places for local residents, schools in Kinross and Milnathort are still nearing capacity. Similarly, despite more services being delivered in the community, the

closure of the GP practice at Bridge of Earn has put further pressure on Loch Leven Health Centre. Development must not be allowed to continue at the current rate."

Liz added, "Kinross-shire has continued to grow and grow in the past few years and local residents are understandably worried about whether local services can cope.

"While the investment by the Council in the A977 improvements is welcome, Kinross-shire has been let down by the Scottish Government when it comes to transport infrastructure. Junction 7 of the M90 needs to be upgraded to a four-way junction to reduce traffic in Kinross and we are continuing to campaign for the reinstatement of a rail link for Kinross-shire."

Praise from all quarters for UK Government business support

The UK Government's furlough scheme has been praised by Liz for helping protect thousands of jobs across Perthshire and Kinross-shire. This highlights the strength of being part of the United Kingdom during a time of unprecedented crisis, and shows that the UK Government has provided invaluable support to businesses throughout Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Liz said: "I have spoken to many businesses across Perthshire South and Kinross-shire who have benefited from the unprecedented amounts of financial help to Scotland during the pandemic as part of the package of support put together by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and the UK Government. There has now been an extra £8.2 billion given directly to Scottish Government, and the job

retention scheme has seen another £5 billion spent in Scotland. In addition, the UK Government has given £1.57 billion towards arts across the UK, £700 million in support for the self-employed, and an additional £224 million for Universal Credit Statutory Sick Pay and Working Tax Credits, whilst loan schemes have lent approximately £1.3 billion to Scottish firms.

"This clearly demonstrates why being part of the United Kingdom has made a real difference to protecting businesses and livelihoods in Scotland during this very difficult period.

"We now need to get on with the job of focussing on rebuilding our economy so businesses whether they be in Auchterarder, Crieff, Kinross, Perth or any of the towns and villages in this area can flourish."



WE STAND TOGETHER.

CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME

EXTENDED

Rishi Sunak
CHANCELLOR

Our lives changed overnight in March 2020 and no one will ever forget 2020, a year when plans made for all sorts of events were cancelled overnight. We were all facing uncertainty and the priority was staying well. Now, five months on, we are all learning to live with the 'new norm'.

Throughout the pandemic we have seen hundreds of acts of kindness throughout our area as communities very quickly galvanised: volunteers delivering prescriptions, donating food and responding to the needs of our communities. There are so many good stories of kindness, of people helping those who were on their own. Local shops were a valued lifeline for many, as were those businesses offering home deliveries.

It has been a really hard time for lots of people and I hope many now have the confidence to go out a bit more. Some people have taken up new hobbies or learned new skills. Zoom has a new meaning, allowing us to meet friends for coffee, to take part in quizzes or in meetings online. We've seen extraordinary examples of fundraising for charities, spurred on by inspirational figures like Sir Captain Tom Moore.

Councillors and the majority of Perth and Kinross Council staff have been working from home. The Council were well prepared for the pandemic and staff were quickly redeployed where they were most needed. Throughout the pandemic eighteen essential services continued, keeping those in need of social care at home safe and well, delivering food to those who were shielding, providing childcare for key workers, dealing with numerous grant applications, and maintaining regular collections of household waste, to name just a few. The Council has responded to 254 pieces of Guidance from the Scottish Government since March.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, LOCAL CHARITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Cllr Kathleen Baird, Almond and Earn Ward

Virtual Council meetings have taken place throughout the pandemic and are likely to continue for some time. These can be viewed on the PKC website and YouTube channel.

Key workers have kept us all safe and well and fed. I think we all realise that the list of key workers grows and grows. Everyone played their part. The Council also recruited amazing volunteers from all across Perth and Kinross - thank you each and every one!

What are the next steps? Schools have reopened. The Council have introduced 'Spaces for People' throughout Perth and Kinross to encourage more people to walk or cycle. Prior to the pandemic the Council were talking about working closer with communities, listening to their needs. The pandemic has shown that everyone has something to offer and hopefully those who have volunteered in the past will continue to be involved. Your community needs you!

Meeting people, being part of the community and seeing the issues we all have faced are probably what I have missed during the last few months. Who knows what challenges we may face in the coming weeks and months?



Liz Smith with councillors Kathleen Baird and David Illingworth in Bridge of Earn

Please remember you are not alone, there are many individuals and organisations willing to help. Please ask. Stay safe and well.



CONTACT LIZ SMITH MSP



Conservative Office,
Control Tower,
Perth Airport,
Scone, PH2 6PL.

@ elizabeth.smith.msp@parliament.scot

01738 553990

f /LizSmithMSP

🐦 @MSPLiz



FLYTIPPING - this blight on our landscape is just not acceptable

The most disappointing aspect of my recent briefings with the NFUS and the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime has been the increased number of reports of serious fly-tipping.

Sadly, this got very much worse during the Covid19 pandemic, most especially when the recycling centres were shut down, and it seemed to be particularly prevalent across areas of Almond and Earn, especially in those areas close to motorways and main roads. Indeed, it beggars belief what efforts a tiny minority of irresponsible people will go to in order to dump their rubbish.

Not only do they blight our landscapes but they also take up the valuable time of council workers who end up having to clear away the mess when they have lots of other things to attend to as a result of Covid19.

Fly-tipping is a crime and it should be reported to the police by telephoning them 101. In recent weeks, police officers have managed to trace offenders and we must do everything we can to help them do this.

Is there any fly-tipping near you that you would like to make Liz aware of? You can let her know by phone on 01738 553990.

Aged under 25 and want to get involved with Perth an Kinross Scottish Conservative & Unionists?

It is more important than ever for young people to actively engage in politics. The threat of a second independence referendum which would plunge Scotland down a path of uncertainty and division, continues under the SNP Government. An independent

Scotland would harm the work, education, and life chances of young people the most. Furthermore, the exam result fiasco and the subsequent humiliating U-turn has shown the lack of attention that the SNP have for our younger generation. It is vital that we

stand up to the SNP's divisive and damaging politics in the run up to the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

Having served as Shadow Education Secretary, and currently Shadow Environment Secretary, Liz has highlighted

her strong commitment to the issues facing young people. If you want to join a team of dedicated young campaigners for Mid Scotland and Fife, who will take on the SNP, then do not hesitate to get in touch with us - email us at pkconservatives@gmail.com

Let's unite to take Scotland forward

Scotland doesn't need another independence referendum - no matter how many times the SNP demands one. We need to end the focus on constitutional division that so dominates Scotland's national life.

That's why it's so wrong for the SNP to be setting out plans for a new independence referendum - including the question and date of the vote - before the end of this parliament.

Instead of opening up old divisions, we need to focus on opening up opportunities and better life chances for all our people.

We need to put all the energies, talents and powers of Scotland into restoring Scotland's

reputation for educational excellence, on supplying the jobs that give our people dignity, and on securing a health service with clean, open hospitals to support our sick.

The Scottish Conservatives say 'No' to another referendum, because Scotland has other - more important - issues that need our attention. And if we act together, the SNP and their referendum plans can be stopped. There are enough of us to do it, but only if we are united.

So if you want to stop the SNP and their renewed threat of a distracting and divisive independence referendum, and instead move Scotland forward together, then only a vote for the Scottish Conservatives can do it.



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