

# intouch



with Alexander Stewart and Perth City South Conservatives

## City Hall - Full Council should have had their say



Following the decision by the Development Control Committee of Perth and Kinross Council to approve demolition of Perth City Hall, **Councillor Alexander Stewart** expressed his disappointment that the decision was not made by a full meeting of Perth and Kinross Council.

**Councillor Stewart** said, "The City Hall saga and its continued delay has split the community and had a negative impact on businesses in the vicinity of the hall for many years. The proposal to create a civic square has some appeal, if no useful purpose for the hall can be identified. I, along with many others, was dismayed and disappointed that the Council's Development Control Committee did not see fit to allow this momentous decision to be put in front of the full Council.

"We now have to wait, again, for Historic Scotland to make their decision and it may take some time before that decision is reached. Meantime the building sits as an eyesore. The City of Perth deserves better than this!"

## NHS Parking Charges – Reintroduction on the cards?

The prospect of a blanket ban on parking charges at NHS hospitals in Scotland being lifted has been met with concern from **Councillor Alexander Stewart**.

**Councillor Stewart** said, "I am absolutely horrified to hear that car parking charges at NHS sites in Scotland may be reintroduced. These charges were abolished in Scotland in 2009 and this was a very welcome step. Many people attending hospital – either to receive treatment or to visit patients - found themselves under financial pressure as a result of the parking charges.

"I fought to ensure that these charges were abolished at

PRI. Since then, the hospital Management Team has worked hard to ensure that the parking situation is managed as well as it can be. Obviously on some days the traffic can be heavier than others, but on the whole the situation has been well managed.

"There is a knock on effect on residents in surrounding streets, but their concerns have been addressed and traffic improvements, including parking restrictions on-street, are now in the pipeline. The introduction of a bus between PRI and Ninewells has been a huge success and has helped reduce parking problems at PRI. I will do all I can to ensure that parking charges are not reintroduced at PRI."

## Hoax Calls to Tayside Fire Service

Commenting on recent statistics on the number of malicious and hoax calls made to the Tayside Fire Service, **Alexander Stewart**, who serves as a member of Tayside Joint Fire and Rescue Board, said, "Hoax calls lead to a response vehicle and crew being sent out which could jeopardise a real emergency and puts lives at risk. At present manpower and resources are limited and hoax calls cause frustration and unnecessary stress to staff and management alike.

"Our emergency services have an important role to play in protecting the community and should be treated with respect and consideration. These brave men and women are called upon at times of real crisis to serve and protect individuals, communities and facilities. I deplore the recent statistics and hope that anyone caught making a malicious or hoax call will be severely dealt with."

## Crack down on knife crime

As a member of the Tayside Police Joint Board, **Councillor Alexander Stewart**, has expressed his concern at the recent spate of knife crimes in Tayside. Alexander raised the issue with Tayside Police.

Local councillor **Alexander Stewart** says, "I was pleased to receive assurances from Tayside Police that they are proactively dealing with the issue of knife crime. Tayside Police currently run two campaigns to address the link between excessive alcohol consumption and violent crime. The "Home Safe" and "Centre Safe" initiatives have been high profile campaigns.

"The number of proactive searches has increased by 580% from 449 in 2010 to 3051 in the period April to December 2011. This led to 60 people being found in possession of a knife and others in possession of drugs. Searches are frequently the result of intelligence received by the police.

"As a result of these efforts, knife crime is reducing and Tayside Police are exploring new ideas to further reduce this crime across the Force Area. I very much welcome this and hope that the ongoing efforts of the Police will receive the support of the public and communities will be safer as a result."

### CONTACT ALEXANDER STEWART

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## FEEDBACK

Return to: Councillor Alexander Stewart, Conservative Office, Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone PH2 6PL.

Issue/concern:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

- I can help Alexander deliver a few leaflets.
- I would like to contribute financially - please contact me.
- I will be supporting Alexander on 3rd May.
- I would like to vote by post at future elections - please contact me.