



Time for a national debate on scrutiny of Police Scotland

It was my privilege to be a senior member of the Tayside Police Board for many years prior to the creation of Police Scotland. During my time on the Board, we encouraged many projects that had a real community policing emphasis and our watchword was always accountability.

Since the creation of Police Scotland, serious questions are being asked about scrutiny and governance, which I want to see addressed as a matter of urgency. We have seen concerns expressed over whether the police should carry weapons on routine duties, the use of stop and search in relation to children, and whether it is appropriate to adopt a style of policing that many people argue is more suited to somewhere like the old Strathclyde area.

I want to see an increased focus locally on community policing. We need a return to genuine partnership working and an acceptance that the top-down policing style, where a “one-size-fits-all” approach has been taken, has not worked. As a member of the Perth and Kinross Community Safety Committee, I will continue to push for all of these issues to be debated in an open and transparent way and hope that we can have this debate at a national level too.

City Halls - decision day looming

My mailbag continues to feature correspondence from local residents and others on the future of the City Halls. The Halls have survived two World Wars and are regarded by many as an integral part of Scotland’s heritage. Apathy is no longer an option for Perth and Kinross Council and I am disappointed that we have had to wait so long before we, as councillors, once again have the opportunity to discuss and debate the topic.

I still believe that if there is a viable, sustainable and credible alternative use for the Halls, then it must be fully considered and explored.



Welcome to my summer 2015 edition of In Touch with Perth City South. I would like to thank everyone who supported me at the recent General Election. I was disappointed not to have the opportunity to represent Perth and North Perthshire at a UK level and would have done all I could to ensure that there was a strong voice for Perth and Perthshire at the heart of the UK Government.

Scotland faces many challenges over the coming years as more powers are devolved to the Scottish Parliament as part of the Smith agreement and there are many opportunities for our country to prosper as part of the United Kingdom.

With the election now past, I will continue to represent the interests of all the residents of Perth South Ward and all of Perth and Kinross to ensure this beautiful city and area is an even better place to live, work, visit and, very importantly, invest and establish businesses.

ACTION NEEDED ON 'LEGAL HIGHS'

I recently met with senior police officers to discuss concerns about so-called 'legal highs' and to push the case for them to be dealt with as quickly as possible. Recently, there has been a marked increase in the number of people buying them from the premises that have opened across the city.

I want to see everything possible done to eradicate this scourge from our city centre. The consequences of taking legal highs can be devastating to individuals, their families and our communities. The onus is on the Scottish Government and the courts to tackle this issue but, in the meantime, it is Perth and Kinross Council, NHS Tayside and Police Scotland who are left to mop up the mess being left in the wake of an increase in their use.



Councillor Alexander Stewart wants to see an end to shops that sell 'legal highs' in Perth City Centre.

PERTH THEATRE PROJECT

The redevelopment of Perth Theatre, which will bring it up to the standards expected by current audiences, is vitally important to Perth. The rejuvenated cultural offerings and increased footfall within the city centre will provide a much needed economic boost to the Fair City.

I am disappointed that PKC has not been able to attract any additional financial support from the Scottish Government. Dundee has benefited from the injection of millions into their Waterfront and V&A projects but we have had to resort to borrowing in order to secure the completion of this project in Perth.

Tribute must be paid to all those who have been involved in the cross-party effort to ensure that this iconic facility, when reopened, will be something of which we can all be proud and will provide the venue with state-of-the-art facilities and allow Perth Theatre to put on even better performances.

Tell me what you think or let me know how I can help by using the contact details opposite.

FEEDBACK

Councillor Alexander Stewart would like to hear about any issue or concern you have. Please contact using the details below or return this slip to: **Conservative Office, The Control Tower, Perth Airport, Scone PH2 6PL. Tel: 01738 553990 or email: pkconservatives@gmail.com.**

Follow Alexander's campaigns at:

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Concern/issue

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email: