

Johann Lamont

Scottish Labour MSP for Glasgow Pollok

Constituency briefing October 2007

WELCOME TO HOLYROOD BRIEFING

I hope you find the information here of interest. This briefing is distributed across the constituency. If you know of any group or organisation that would like to be added to the mailing list, please get in touch.

BETTER SCHOOLS

Our local secondary schools must be congratulated on the positive reports on them by the Education Inspectors.

St Paul's Secondary received the accolades of good and very good for all aspects of the school inspected plus an excellent for relationships with parents and the local community.

Rosshall Academy had a follow-up report on a previous inspection. Again the Inspectors were very positive about the progress made by the school in implementing their action plan.

These positive reports confirm what has been evident to us all - that we have excellent local schools serving our young people and families very well. They also are a result of the investment made by the Scottish Executive over the past 8 years and the endeavours of both staff and pupils.

REGENERATION

Growth of the local economy and jobs will be strengthened by the establishment of the Glasgow South West Regeneration Agency.

This has come about through the merger of Govan Initiative and Greater Pollok Development Company leading to the formation of a new, more powerful organisation.

Over the past year, these agencies have supported over 1,700 local people into jobs. The prospects for the area are ever brighter with the opening of Silverburn and the development of Pacific Quay and the Southern General Hospital.

I shall do whatever I can to support the work of the Agency and its worthwhile contribution to the economy of South West Glasgow.

MOVING ON UP

I was delighted to hear that Ros Micklem, the Cardonald College Principal, has been appointed to the post of Director of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

The Commission's job is to see that everyone is given a fair chance and treated with dignity and respect.

Ros has done terrific work for the community in her 10 years at the College. Under her leadership, the College has greatly expanded its role in the area, including the building of a children's centre and skills centre.

She is well equipped to take on her new and demanding role and I am sure that we all wish her well. Her loss to Cardonald is Scotland's real gain.

IMPROVING PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

One of the issues raised with me by constituents is that of the quality of the service provided by factors or property managers.

I was therefore interested to see that the Scottish Consumer Council (SCC) has produced a report on factoring in the Dennistoun area of Glasgow, which is very critical of much of the factoring that goes on.

The SCC goes on to call for a national accreditation scheme for factors which would improve the quality of the services they provide. I have tabled parliamentary questions on the issue, pressing the Scottish Executive to introduce such a scheme.

I am hopeful that we can make progress on this matter, as it affects so many people in Glasgow.

JOHANN LAMONT SPEAKS OUT

As ever, Glasgow Pollok leads the way. A specialised Domestic Abuse Court, supported by the Assist project and providing significant help to women and children suffering abuse, has been operating as a pilot in Glasgow G Division.

The police, the Procurator Fiscal's office, groups supporting victims of domestic abuse and the women and children themselves have all welcomed the benefits of this approach, where the abusers are fast tracked to court and where sheriffs are given important information about the risk facing vulnerable women and children.

I have argued hard for the funding to continue and am delighted that the new Executive has agreed to continue supporting this approach. It will be essential that the whole package - the specialist court **and** Assist - are fully funded and I shall continue to press to ensure that domestic abuse is never justified and will be punished.

JOINED UP WORKING

The Glasgow South West Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) is a means of ensuring that health and care services work together for the good of everyone in the area.

That the CHCP is making good progress is testified to by the recent well attended event which allowed members of the community to discuss its work.

Its ambitious plans include establishing new offices in Craigton and service centres in Pollok and Govan.

There is also a partnership forum to create the opportunity for members of the public to have their say in the development of the CHCP.

We need to work together to ensure that best use is made of all the services involved and that everyone can access the means of improving their quality of life.

LAND FOR HOUSING

The decision of the Scottish Executive to set up a task force to look at the supply of housing is welcome.

One of the main problems in many areas of the country is said to be the lack of land for housing at reasonable process.

I will be pressing for the task force to make publicly available the amount of land for housing held by major house building firms, local councils and public agencies such as the Ministry of Defence.

It is important that we have this information before decisions can be made regarding how much land for houses is needed and how that is to be made available.

SURGERIES

Friday 5th October - 2.00pm - The Wedge, 1066 Barrhead Road, Pollok

Saturday 6th October - 10.00am - Labour Rooms, 996 Mossspark Drive, Cardonald

Friday 12th October - 2.00pm - Labour Rooms, 996 Mossspark Drive, Cardonald

Saturday 27th October - 10.00am - The Wedge, 1066 Barrhead Road, Pollok

CONTACT DETAILS

If you wish to find out more about any of the issues highlighted, or wish to raise any other matter with me, please contact my office:

by telephone on **0141 270 1890**,

by fax on **0141 270 1891**,

in writing to **Constituency Office, The Wedge, 1066 Barrhead Road, Pollok, Glasgow, G53 5AB**

or by e-mail to **johann.lamont.msp@scottish.parliament.uk**