

Robert Brown MSP's ANNUAL REPORT IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT



Fighting for Young People

Glasgow MSP Robert Brown was appointed last June as Convenor of the Parliament's influential Committee on Education and Young People.

Robert was delighted to help select Scotland's first Children's Commissioner, Prof. Kathleen Marshall, who is responsible for ensuring the rights and well being of children.



Robert has been heavily involved in the Additional Support for Learning Bill – ensuring better arrangements for children with disabilities or learning needs. He has also played a leading role in challenging the detention of children of asylum seekers at Dungavel.

Robert has been campaigning for more support for youth organisations, like the scouts, guides and boys brigade as well as for youth clubs like Woodlands Initiative in Maryhill and Universal Connections in Rutherglen and Cambuslang.

Standing Up for Communities

Conservation & Green Spaces

Laws designed to protect conservation areas, greenbelt and open spaces are often being disregarded, according to **Glasgow MSP Robert Brown**. **Robert** has long campaigned with local residents against unsuitable developments, including the recent success in stopping the construction of an unsightly block of flats at the 'A' Listed St. Vincent Crescent.

Tenement Owners

A fairer deal for nearly 200,000 home owners in Glasgow, Rutherglen and Cambuslang will come with better maintenance and repair arrangements in the Tenement (Scotland) Bill going through the Scottish Parliament. **Robert** has also been campaigning for backing for tenement residents' groups.



Post Offices and Pharmacies

Robert continues to campaign against post office and pharmacy closures which threaten services and the future of many suburban centres.

"The closure of Post Offices and pharmacies often sets off a chain reaction among other shops in the area. Local specialist shops like fishmongers and newsagents closed at the rate of 50 a week between 1997 and 2002. Local shops and services must be supported"

Protecting the Environment

Action to dramatically increase the use of renewable energy has been called for by **Glasgow MSP Robert Brown**. Scotland is far behind European countries like Germany and Holland in using renewable energy technologies like solar and wind power. Even in the Scottish climate, there is major scope for solar heating to cut domestic fuel costs and avoid the worst effects of rising greenhouse gases.



Robert wants to see Glasgow companies as pioneers in this area. Glasgow company, **Windsave**, has developed the world's first domestic wind turbine, which plugs into the mains and can reduce electricity domestic bills by 15% with no harmful CO₂ emissions.

In Byres Road, toxic pollution has doubled in the last three years. **Robert Brown MSP** has teamed up with local Hillhead Councillor Niall Walker to campaign for the establishment of an Air Quality Management Area to tackle the dangerously high levels of nitrogen dioxide created by exhaust fumes.

For Help and Advice contact Robert Brown MSP

Local advice surgeries are held by appointment at:

Constituency Office, Glasgow	1st Friday of month, 4pm
Hillhead Library, Byres Road	2nd Friday of month, 4pm
Constituency Office, Glasgow	3rd Friday of month, 4pm
Royal Burgh House, Rutherglen	4th Friday of month, 4pm

Iraq War

Robert Brown MSP was one of the main speakers at the Glasgow Rally against the war in Iraq.

Robert also spoke in the Scottish Parliament about the folly of Britain going to war without either an immediate threat to UK interests or United Nations sanction.

"It is now clearer than ever that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction!"

Right to Read

Glasgow MSP Robert Brown has backed RNIB's "Right to Read" campaign and called for a better deal for blind and visually impaired people using library services.

"It is quite wrong that library services for most of us are free, but not for people with eyesight problems. Most Councils refuse to pay the full cost of access to RNIB's talking books - the main provider of the service."

Contact **Robert Brown MSP** - Write to: Parliamentary Office, Olympic House, 142 Queen Street, GLASGOW, G1 3BU.
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