

## Renfrew Update November 2008

As we approach the end of the year I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on local developments and campaigns I have been involved in as they affect Renfrew.

**Police Station** – I am glad to report the campaign for a new-fit-for purpose police station has been successful. Construction will start in May next year. I have also been in discussions with the Divisional Commander of Police about ongoing improvements in local Community Policing and the need for tougher action on underage drinking.

**Town Centre** – After much delay the new look town centre is complete. I had pleasure in attending the rededication of the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. I am aware that congestion that is particularly acute at this time of year and I have asked traffic bosses to monitor traffic flow, especially around Christmas, and to adjust the lights accordingly.

**Health Centre** – The new £15m Health Centre is under construction and scheduled for opening by next Christmas. Also the new Cockles Loan old people's home is under construction and due to open next year.

**Fastlink to Glasgow** – I am committed to a reliable, fast streetcar (or "tram-like") service, on a dedicated route, linking Renfrew to Glasgow city centre. A business case for such a service to Renfrew via Pacific Quay, the Southern General and Braehead will be ready by March. I am actively seeking Scottish Government support for this vital transport project.

**Renfrew Ferry** – In September local transport bosses decided against a passenger bridge and are now looking at buying a replacement vessel(s) to maintain the existing service.

**Education** – Renfrew High is currently being upgraded – the last part of the programme of 10 new and 10 improved schools agreed by the last Council. Sadly, the current Council are making large cuts in the local education budget: over £4m this year and £6m next year. I provide figures for the impact of some of the cuts on local school budgets and teacher numbers overleaf. I am doing all I can to resist these cuts, protect our children's education, and secure a change of heart by the Council.

### Impact of Education Cuts on Local Schools

<b>School Budget Savings</b> (to be made by Head Teachers)			<b>Cuts in Teaching Posts</b> (Full time Equivalent)	
	£ 2008/09	£ 2009/10	2007	2008
<b>Secondary Schools</b>				
Renfrew High	74,933	133,366	73	65.3
Trinity High	97,683	173,660	86.3	75.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172,616</b>	<b>307,026</b>	<b>159.3</b>	<b>140.9</b>
<b>Primary Schools</b>				
Arkleston	9,800	16,200	Source of this information: Renfrewshire Education & Leisure Services correspondence to Wendy Alexander MSP	
Kirklandneuk	7,000	11,600		
Moorpark	3,700	6,200		
Newmains	9,700	16,100		

St James	11,600	19,300	see <i>anti-cuts</i> section to view
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,800</b>	<b>69,400</b>	

<b>Local Community Policing Contacts</b>		
<b>AREA</b>	<b>OFFICE ADDRESS</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Renfrew North including Dean Park	Renfrew Police Office Inchinnan Road RENFREW PA4 8ND	Sergeant Garry Kirkwood 0141-532-6123 Open 24 hours
Renfrew South & Gallowhill	Renfrew Police Office Inchinnan Road RENFREW PA4 8ND	Sergeant Garry Kirkwood 0141-532-6110 Open 24 hours

### Proposed New Renfrew Police Office



Front Elevation



Rear Elevation