

# STEWART MAXWELL MSP - REPRESENTING YOU IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND



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## Maxwell Demands the Release of Funding to Help End Bed Blocking

Delayed discharges continue to be a problem throughout Scotland. One of the main reasons is the lack of funding for local authorities to place people in residential and nursing homes and the current unresolved dispute over how much the Scottish Executive should be paying for care home beds. Together with the contraction in the number of care home places available it has contributed to an increasing number of elderly people being inappropriately trapped in acute hospital beds with one in 10 NHS beds in Scotland blocked to those needing medical treatment.

Closer to home there are at least 34 patients awaiting release from the Vale of Leven and the Dumbarton Joint hospitals. At the same time West Dunbartonshire Council have still not released money to the health board to allow this outrageous bed blocking situation to be eased as quickly as possible.

The release of patients is crucial to the smooth running of the health service and the council should not be putting obstacles in the way with the

slow release of funds to the health board.

West Dunbartonshire council has to explain how holding onto this desperately needed money longer than necessary, benefits the patients waiting to go home or the people waiting to get into hospital for much needed treatment.

This situation is symptomatic of the problems in Argyll & Clyde Health Board Area. Hospital closures, ward closures and a continuing diminution of services, all against the wishes of the people they are meant to be serving is unacceptable.

It is time that the Scottish Parliament really listened to the people. If they did they would hear them saying loud and clear that they want no more hospital closures, no more services being removed from their local hospitals and the services already removed brought back to the local community.

## Maxwell Welcomes Intern

Stewart Maxwell MSP recently welcomed Cara McAllister, an American Intern, who will be working in his parliamentary office until the end of May. She will be undertaking research in relation to Stewart's remit of Shadow Deputy Minister for Health.

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## Lib/Lab Council Fails to Tackle Crime in East Renfrewshire

Stewart Maxwell SNP MSP, today condemned a local council for their failure to tackle anti-social behaviour in East Renfrewshire. Stewart said,

“Recently it came to light that the Labour/Liberal Democrat East Renfrewshire Council has only issued two Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) since they were first introduced. Yet the latest study shows that the annual number of ASBOs granted across Scotland continues to rise, and the Scottish Executive claim the issuing of an ASBO leads to an im-

provement in behaviour.

When we see the continuing problems that East Renfrewshire is facing with graffiti, vandalism, drugs and violence, we must ask why the council is refusing to fully utilise one of the few tools they have to tackle antisocial behaviour. The council must explain to local people why they are failing to protect the ordinary, hard working, law abiding members of the public from the small minority in our community who are hell bent on making life a misery for all those around them. They must also explain why there is such a wide disparity between the use of ASBOs

in East Renfrewshire and other areas.”

The Antisocial Behaviour bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament. This bill extends the granting of ASBOs to 15 and 16 year olds, but what is the point if local councils will not use them. Despite the Scottish Executive saying that ASBOs have an important role to play in its high profile strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour in communities across Scotland they are clearly not being fully utilised and this must be remedied forthwith.

## Maxwell Disappointed by New Plans for Rouken Glen Wood

West of Scotland SNP MSP Stewart Maxwell voiced his disappointment and concern that Dickie has resubmitted plans to build houses on the site of Rouken Glen Wood.

“Last year the will of the local people was upheld by the Council when they refused the application by the builders, Dickie, to build houses on the site of Rouken Glen Wood. However I have just been informed that they intend to resubmit plans for a similar scheme. This action confirms local fears that Dickie has no interest in the views of residents and is

willing to ride roughshod over local opinion for the sake of profit! Rouken Glen Wood is a community asset and a haven for wildlife and flora. By this resubmission Dickie has once again shown they have no concern for environmental issues.”

“Developing on this site not only defies public opinion in the local community but destroys a natural oasis that the East Renfrewshire Council had previously assured them would be protected and I urge the council to stand firm and not back down from their previous

decision that the building of houses on this site was not in the interests of the people of East Renfrewshire.”

It is the Scottish Parliament’s duty to support the public in instances such as these and to protect the environment, which is vital to life here in Scotland and I will continue to do so to ensure that the people of East Renfrewshire do not lose such a pleasurable site as this wood.”

## Protect Children Before Drug Addicts, Says Maxwell

Shadow Deputy Minister for Health Stewart Maxwell MSP was horrified by the death of a young baby through blood poisoning caused by a nappy rash due to severe neglect by the baby’s heroin addicted mother.

“I was appalled to read of the case of the 3 month old baby who died of blood poisoning brought on by a nappy rash. In addition to this, the mother had been breast-feeding the child, thereby passing the drugs she was taking into the child.

This unfortunate baby girl was the child of a drug addict mother who was obviously incapable of looking after her child. Social workers and health visitors had been frequent visitors to the mother’s home, and the child was on the child protection register, but this horrendous situation still occurred.

This is not the first case of this type and we must ensure that there are no more recurrences of these type of tragedies.”

“The civil rights of a heroin addict

surely should not come before the basic human rights of a child; society must recognize this and realise that if we do not defend children in these situations, then who will? If a child has to live with a parent or guardian who is incapable of properly caring for them then social workers and health visitors have to be in place. These professionals are generally effective in doing their jobs, but increased vigilance is needed by us all in the most critical of situations.”