



Stewart Maxwell, MSP

Representing you in the West of Scotland



Maxwell Meets Ex-USA Vice President Al Gore

Climate change and the threat of global warming is an issue that we cannot afford to ignore. The reality of global warming in Scotland will be felt by communities across our country if we do not act now to stop the rise in carbon emissions. Communities around Scotland's coasts will be hit badly as will all of our islands by rising sea levels. However even those of us who live away from the coast cannot afford to be complacent

as we are likely to see an increase in incidents of flooding.

The problems we face here in Scotland from this threat mean that we all have to play our part in cutting emissions. I was fortunate enough to attend an event in Glasgow where the ex-vice president of the USA, Al Gore, laid out details of the problems that the world faces from global warming and man's

role in causing and solving the problem.

After the event I met with Al Gore for a couple of hours to discuss a number of issues including; global warming; the likely effects on Scotland; what we could do about it on a personal and political level and how we get the message out to the wider community. In addition we discussed the Scottish Parliament, the history of

devolution and the prospects for the upcoming election.



Stewart with Al Gore

Maxwell Demands Health Boards Provide Macugen for Patients with AMD

Despite denials by Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board, Deputy Minister for Health, Lewis MacDonald confirmed that they do have the capacity to treat Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration.

West of Scotland MSP, Stewart Maxwell wrote to Tom Divers, the Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, to demand that the health

board provides Macugen for sufferers of this condition.

Mr Maxwell said,

"Age Related Macular Degeneration is the commonest cause of blindness in the developed world. Last July the Scottish Medicines' Consortium approved the use of Macugen in Scotland to treat Wet AMD. Yet seven

months later NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde still cannot tell me when they will provide this service for their patients, indeed they told me they were unable to do so.

Following Lewis MacDonald, the Deputy Health Minister's, answer to my question in Parliament, in which he stated that NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde do have

the capacity to deliver the treatment I have now written to Tom Divers demanding that Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board begins to provide this service immediately."

"Failing to prescribe a drug that prevents blindness is unacceptable and I will continue to demand that it is made available".

New Poll

Should the current Trident nuclear weapons system be replaced with an updated Trident 2 nuclear weapons system? Yes No

If you wish to respond to this poll either fill in the enclosed form and post it back or log onto www.stewartmaxwellmsp.com

2003-2007 Review

Since I was elected in 2003 I have been fortunate enough to be involved in many important issues; the highlight being to see my Smoking Bill implemented by the Scottish Government. Here is a reminder of just some of the campaigns I have contributed to.

Introduction of the Smoking Ban: Following on from his Members Bill to ban smoking in public places Stewart Maxwell MSP spoke of his delight at the passing of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Bill on the 30th June 2005. Mr Maxwell said, "I am delighted that my campaign to ban smoking in enclosed public places has culminated in the passing of this legislation. When I began my campaign I was almost a lone voice in Parliament calling for this legislation and many MSPs and journalists thought there was no chance of my campaign succeeding. It is therefore particularly gratifying that the bill was passed with such a large majority."

My campaign against knife crime culture: During the last four years I have constantly been involved in the fight against the prevailing knife culture in the West of Scotland. This campaign took many forms. I campaigned vigorously for the ***mandatory reporting of knife injuries*** by the hospitals. It is only by knowing exactly how bad the problem is that you can begin to combat it. During the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice Bill I was delighted that my amendment, to ***double the maximum sentence for carrying a knife in public*** was supported. The West of Scotland suffers from more than double the rate of knife crime than the rest of Scotland, with more than 72 people killed with a 'sharp instrument' in 2005 and most of them from the West of Scotland. I campaigned for local councils and the Scottish Government to bring in regulations to ensure that certain ***clubs and pubs had to use handheld metal detectors to ensure that no one carrying a knife could get access to their premises***. This would be as part of their licensing requirement and would ensure that young men who thought it was cool to bring knives into town would know that they would not be getting into nightclubs and pubs. I was delighted to see that the Scottish Government had finally purchased 1000 to search for offensive weapons throughout Scotland and see this a positive step towards my goal of a knife free culture in Scotland.

Scotch Beef in ASDA: On discovering the lack of Scotch beef in ASDA stores, I demanded that ASDA stock Scotch beef in all their Scottish stores. ASDA initially denied there was a problem, but I carried out a survey of a quarter of the ASDAs in Scotland and found that none of them stocked Scotch beef. Stewart said "I was very concerned by this development as Scotch beef is world renowned as a high quality product. I was concerned to discover that all beef in ASDA stores was being labelled as British beef. However this is not just a problem about mis-labelling, it has far wider implications. If supermarkets stop selling Scotch beef then it will have a disastrous effect on Scottish farmers, butchers, transport firms, jobs and the Scottish economy and will also remove choice from the Scottish consumer." ASDA eventually accepted their responsibility and committed themselves to remedying the situation.

Here is a list of some of the other campaigns I have been involved with;

- Getting the Health For All Database up and running for Scotland
- Campaigning for WHSmiths to sell and display Scottish Water,
- Lowering the limit on drink driving,
- Highlighting the waste of public funds with the Criminal History Systems Database,
- Highlighting the profits that go to London from Scottish Speed Cameras
- The introduction of fire safe cigarettes,
- The introduction of 2-view breast screening to help combat breast cancer (after a two year campaign the Executive announced in January 2007 that they would be bringing this in by 2010),
- Campaigning for the European Football Championships to be brought to Scotland,
- More all-weather pitches throughout Scotland,
- A Scottish Olympic Team

Last year I had the great honour to be promoted to the Shadow Cabinet as the Shadow Minister for Sports, Culture & Media and I have greatly enjoyed my time as an MSP over the last four years. This will be my final newsletter of this Parliamentary session as the 2003 - 2007 Parliament comes to an end in May 2007 when there will be elections to the Scottish Parliament.