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Regular advice surgeries across the constituency

I arrange a rolling schedule of advice surgeries across the constituency every month. In recent months I have held surgeries in areas such as Springburn, Royston, Lambhill, Milton, Possilpark, Acre, Cadder and Maryhill, and I am always looking for suggestions for new venues.

Advice surgery details appear in advance on my website at www.bob-doris.scot and its always best to book ahead as they tend to be very busy. My dedicated office team are also happy to take queries over the telephone.

Call 0141 946 7700 for more information.

Fighting to retain local Jobcentres

The Jobcentre Plus on Maryhill Road is earmarked for closure by the UK Government's Department for Work and Pensions. Those using Maryhill job centre would be directed to Springburn instead.

Concerns have been raised with me that this will lead to significant difficulties for vulnerable groups including the cost of travel,

considerably longer journey times (particularly significant for those with a caring responsibilities) and a far poorer service for supporting individuals back into employment.

Concerns that Springburn Job Centre is also not geared up to take the additional volume of business may also lead to a poorer service for those already using the



Elected members and protestors outside Maryhill job centre



Often constituents contact me in relation to concerns over bus services. The most recent community to have a bus service withdrawn is Kelvindale, with First Glasgow's 4A no longer servicing the area.

Following my intervention, along with local councillors, a replacement service (the M4) is now being trialled for 6 months. I still don't believe this is the most appropriate service and I have therefore launched a parliamentary consultation on 'Connecting Kelvindale' with 4,000 households being contacted. I will use the analysed results to make further representations to First

Glasgow for service enhancements.

I intend conducting similar consultation exercises on public transport provision elsewhere across the constituency and I would be interested to hear the views of constituents.

Having made representations not just to bus companies, but also Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) I believe both need to perform far better.

I will therefore be keen to make representations to the Scottish Government's Transport Bill when it is presented to parliament. Its intent is to improve bus services.

Motion S5M-02971
Date Lodged: 07/12/2016

Closure of Glasgow Jobcentres

That the Parliament notes with concern reports that eight jobcentres in Glasgow are facing closure, including in Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn; believes that the closure of these jobcentres would have a devastating impact on jobseekers who rely on the service, and would be incompatible with the ambition of supporting people into work, and further believes that the social security system should have dignity and respect at its heart.

Springburn Job Centre.

Underlying all this is very real worry from constituents over the ever greater risk of benefits sanctions.

I have met with Job Centre Plus, the trade union representatives PCS, and raised the matter in the Scottish Parliament with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Jamie Hepburn MSP, the Minister for Employability and Training - they share much of these concerns.

I have also sought and gained cross party support to have the matter debated in the Scottish Parliament.

The motion lodged is printed here and I intend making a powerful submission to the UK Government consultation on the matter objecting to the closure.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Bob Doris MSP



Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency (SNP)

New constituency office now open



Photo credit: Andrew Lee

I am pleased to announce my new constituency office is now open at Maryhill Burgh Halls.

It is a well-established landmark, built in 1878 and refurbished and re-opened in 2012, in part thanks to European funding and a £1.8m Scottish Government grant.

Co-located beside the Glasgow Life sports centre and down from the new Scottish Government funded £12.4m Health Centre in Maryhill, I was keen to open my office in a growing community hub.

Boosting community regeneration

I have been working with Springburn Community Council to see if a co-ordinated plan for regeneration can be developed.

I updated them on the successful work being undertaken by the Royston Regeneration Forum on which I sit. That brings together housing associations, child care providers, schools and elected representatives amongst others.

Most importantly it seeks to place the voice of the local community front and centre. Ambitious plans are starting to emerge.

I am seeking to identify local partners in Springburn to form a similar forum for the local area. I am pleased that NG Homes are keen to be involved and I am determined that in the future the voice of the local community will be placed at the heart of any emerging plans.

I would be keen to support regeneration efforts in your area and would encourage constituents to get in touch.



Previously closed by Glasgow City Council, Bob opens the new Cadder Community Centre having supported a £1.2m grant from the Scottish Government

ScotRail meeting secured to develop improvement plan for local train services



The need for service improvements on our rail network are well documented. I met ScotRail to ask for community engagement with local commuters and for a local rail service improvement plan to be implemented.

ScotRail have agreed and I have secured a public meeting which ScotRail will attend at

7.30pm on Wednesday 1st February, at Ledgowan Tenants Hall, Shiskine Drive, Summerston. I hope as many rail users as possible will be able to attend.

I also took the opportunity to raise the matter during a recent ministerial statement on rail services. I asked Scotland's Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf MSP to take a personal interest in any future improvement plan for the Maryhill Line, a line which has suffered more than most.

In response the Transport Minister confirmed he will take a personal interest in performance on the Maryhill line, to ensure that ScotRail delivers. He advised the matter

will taken up with ScotRail when the Minister next speaks to them.

I am keen for constituents to get in touch about wider service improvements required, not just on the Maryhill line.

For instance following representations from constituents I recently had assurances from ScotRail about eliminating 'skipping' at Springburn station during peak time journeys, a practice whereby trains by-pass the station occasionally in order to make up time on a journey when running late.

Email me at bob.doris.msp@parliament.scot and give me your views and suggestions.

IN BRIEF...



2016 Year of the Dad

I recently invited Home-Start Glasgow North to Holyrood for a parliamentary debate I led. Home-Start were commended for their work with families locally.

The debate was themed around 2016 Year of the Dad and I am pleased to say Home-Start are launching a new dads' group having successfully gained money from various sources including the Scottish Government and the National Lottery.

Tracy's Tree



I was pleased to support Tracy's Tree and attended the switching on of the Christmas lights in Maryhill. The tree was inspired by the life of Tracy Lennox. Each bauble has the name of a loved one who has passed away, as an opportunity to remember and celebrate their lives.



With community councillors and elected representatives following a meeting with RBS.

Bank closures

I opposed the closure of two bank branches in Maryhill and Possilpark. I was disappointed RBS rejected our case. However I am currently in discussions with RBS seeking a community legacy connected to financial inclusion.

Backing schools attainment challenge

I recently joined Scotland's Education Secretary, John Swinney MSP, on a visit to John Paul Academy in Summerston to observe some of the good work being carried out in schools across our constituency.

The Education Secretary intends providing additional funds for

schools as part of the Scottish Government's 'attainment challenge'.

The forthcoming Scottish budget, which I will be backing, will see schools in our constituency continue to benefit from the £750m Attainment Challenge Fund.

More specifically the budget will provide an additional £100m going straight to head teachers across Scotland, distributed based on levels of free school meal entitlement.

This will be of particular benefit to many local schools who have high levels of entitlement.

Council back to the future on schooling

Across the constituency in 2009 the City Council closed several primary schools. At the time I made strong representations to the council on behalf of parents saying they had got their sums wrong and there would not be enough school capacity.

It is no surprise therefore that the Council have just consulted on a new school for Maryhill on the site of the former North Kelvinside pitches.

Working with parent councils

I work with Parent Councils across the constituency and I would welcome any invite to attend them.

Some recent matters I have sought to support Parent Councils on include Elmvale Primary Parent Council in relation to significant road safety issues, and work is ongoing in this area; St Mary's Primary Parent Council in relation to a campaign for a new outdoor sports pitch; and the Parent Councils at Ruchill's Benview campus over the city council's dire lack of disabled and buggy-friendly access to the school from Panmure Street.



However I have raised serious concerns over the lack of information available for the consultation, the lack of choice given over potential sites for the school, as well as ensuring that promises made to local sports organisation North Kelvin Sports, who use the NK pitches, are honoured by the City Council.

I will fight for the best deal for the local communities.



Engaging with trade unions



I recently met constituents who are currently taking industrial action against Glasgow City Council over their concerns in relation to proposals to outsource the city's ICT services.

I share some of their concerns and I have corresponded with the Council and written to Audit Scotland following concerns that the plans may not reflect value for money for city tax payers.

I've also had the privilege of meeting the workers representatives at Springburn based City Building, which employs 2,000 people.

I discussed with their Joint Trade Union Convener's Group (JTUC) their views about the future of the organisation. The JTUC have been crucial in helping secure the long term future employment of the workforce.



1. Helping a community litter pick and recycling initiative in Springburn.
2. Supporting a football tournament at Ashfield stadium as part of a African Challenge Scotland's week of activities.
3. Helping present long service awards to staff and volunteers at Marie Curie Hospice in Springburn.
4. With volunteers at Tron St Mary's Church taking part in their oriental exercise class.
5. At Holyrood with community group representatives from Possilpark discussing grants available from Foundation Scotland.
6. Delighted to open the Friends of Maryhill Park summer gala.
7. Joining in the fun a Young Peoples Futures summer street party in Possilpark.
8. Meeting with Milton Arts Group at their recent exhibition of works including this stunning mural containing many north Glasgow landmarks.



IN PARLIAMENT

Cross Party Group on Palliative Care

I have been elected as convener of the cross party group on Palliative Care in the Scottish Parliament.

I am very keen to ensure that we improve the support open to those coming towards the end of their life. I wish to see the successful implementation of the new Scottish Government strategic framework and its commitment that everyone who needs palliative care will have access to it.

On a personal level I was very grateful of the support and love provided when my own mother and father passed away in the last year. I want to do what I can to improve services for others.

I also want to help ensure that as a society we are more resilient when coping with the sensitive issues around death and dying.

Bob becomes new convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee

It is a privilege to convene this committee. I am currently involved in scrutinising the Scottish Government budget in areas such as housing and local Government.

• Housing

I will be seeking to ensure that the Scottish Government's £3billion investment in affordable housing delivers the intended 50,000 affordable homes.

I will also be seeking to ensure that Glasgow City Council – who distribute the Scottish Government cash – ensures that local housing associations also benefit from that investment.

• Local Services

Our committee has identified significant amounts of Scottish Government cash that supports local services which is transferred from other budgets, including £250million for social care transferred from the NHS.

The draft Scottish Government budget increases this by another £107million. Much of that money is to ensure that social care staff are paid the living wage in Glasgow and across Scotland, as well as to deliver more care beds for those in need.

I will be seeking to ensure that money is well spent.