

Dave Thompson MSP

Reporting To You

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch (SNP)

(including Dingwall, Black Isle, Aird and Loch Ness)

April 2013

Dàibhidh MacThòmais BPA—An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, Loch Abar agus Bàideanach (SNP)



Hello, and welcome to my monthly newsletter. This issue covers some of the matters I have worked on at the Parliament and around the Constituency during the last month. If you would like to speak to me about anything in the Newsletter or have any suggestions, there are contact details at the foot of the second page.



In the last month I have welcomed the news that a £146 million investment project will bring high speed fibre optic broadband to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch. By the end of the project, around 84% of Highlands and Islands homes will have access to fast broadband, including areas such as Mallaig, Ardnamurchan, Kyle and Skye. I am particularly pleased that £2.5 million of the funding will be used by BT and HIE to assess new and emerging technology, to explore ways to extend faster broadband to the most remote places in Scotland. This huge project will be one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in Scotland's history.



Dave with Age Scotland and the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Company in Aviemore.

I recently met with Age Scotland and the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Company to discuss their 'Still Waiting' campaign. 'Still Waiting' highlights the fact that the concessionary travel scheme which provides bus passes for older people doesn't extend to some of the operations of community transport programmes. For many older people around Scotland, but particularly for those in remote areas, community transport operators are the only form of transport available. I believe it is important to extend the legislation to ensure that all types of vehicles are covered

In the Highlands particularly a great many people rely on community transport. There are significant health benefits where older people are able to lead a more active life, and that is why I was delighted to sign the petition and support 'Still Waiting'.

Standing up for **Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch**;

Standing up **for you**

A' seasamh còraichean an **Eilean Sgitheanach, Loch Abar agus Bàideanach**;

a' seasamh nan còraichean **agadsa**



Dave with Jane MacFarlane from CHAS

This month I also met with CHAS. I would like to highlight the extremely positive work that CHAS do with children and young adults. Their work was vividly brought home to me when I visited Rachel House Hospice in Kinross some time ago. CHAS also run an excellent outreach office in Inverness, which is very much worth supporting. I commend the excellent work that CHAS do in their Hospice's, Outreach Offices and their shops.



I recently met with the Ebost Grazings committee to discuss the Glen Ullinish windfarm proposals.

I am pleased that the Scottish Government is bringing forward legislation to amend the crofting act. I asked the Minister what preparations were being made to ensure that the Crofting Commission would be in a position to deal with any backlog of decrofting applications, and I was pleased to hear that the Government had anticipated this and was working with the Crofting Commission to ensure that outstanding applications are dealt with as soon as the amended legislation is passed by Parliament.



I recently met with Marie Curie when they visited the Parliament. Marie Curie is a fantastic Charity which provides an exceptional level of care for people struggling with cancer. They not only offer nursing support for those suffering, but are also a huge comfort and support to the families. Cancer affects people of all ages and can be a challenging time for friends and family, but Marie Curie nurses provide the highest standards of care which is a huge help to all those affected by Cancer.

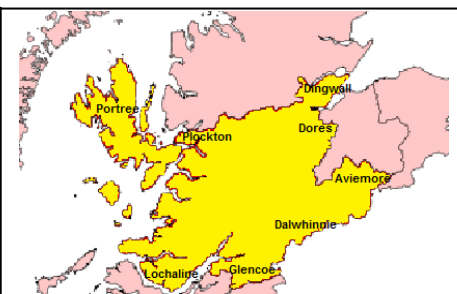
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The Scottish Parliament
 Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

Standing up for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch;

Standing up for you

A' seasamh còraichean an Eilean Sgitheanach, Loch Abar agus Bàideanach;

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