



**INSIDE...**

- Schools News
- Action against superbugs
- Creating jobs & boosting the economy
- Disabled Parking Bill becomes law
- New rail link



"I have always argued that the best way forward for local residents is a 'north of the river solution'. This means important services are delivered locally in our own area."

# JACKIE BAILLIE MSP

## Annual Report 2009

**Standing up for the people of Dumbarton Constituency**

### BAILLIE RENEWS CALL FOR A 'NORTH OF THE RIVER' SOLUTION FOR HEALTHCARE

Jackie Baillie MSP has consistently campaigned for the delivery of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital. Like her local community, Jackie was disappointed that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde decided to transfer vital services away from the Vale, including 24/7 anaesthetics, coronary and stroke care, as well as the closure of the Christie Ward. She said:

"The Scottish Government must not rubber stamp these plans. I am calling on the Health Secretary to listen to the voice of the community and reverse the health board's decision. Whilst I clear - Paisley is a bridge too far - we want services delivered locally in our own area."

A journey to the RAH can take at least two hours on public transport. "The Vale of Leven Hospital is not a substitute for inpatient and emergency care. The Vale will end up with limited emergency services and an even greater number of people making the journey to Paisley."

### JACKIE DARES TO WEAR IT PINK FOR BREAST CANCER CAMPAIGN

Jackie joined forces with the Breast Cancer Campaign for its award winning fundraising event 'Wear It Pink'. The theme was 'dare to wear' and Jackie urged local people, young and old, to get their craziest pink outfits on and donate £2 to the Breast Cancer Campaign to fund innovative research across the UK. This will help us understand how breast cancer develops, leading to improved diagnosis, treatment, prevention and cure. Jackie said: "Every year over 4,000 people in Scotland are diagnosed with breast cancer. Like many others, I know people who have lost friends and family members to breast cancer. I would urge local people to get involved in the fundraising activities."

### CROSS PARTY GROUP ON LEARNING DISABILITY

Jackie is proud to be Convener of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Learning Disability. Official Cross Party Group provide a valuable opportunity for MSPs in the Parliament and interested organisations and individuals to get together to discuss important issues in which they have a shared interest. Jackie works with a wide range of organisations on the Cross Party Group, including ENABLE Scotland, the National Autistic Society, Quarriers and the RNIB. The Group has been very busy over the past year tackling issues ranging from improving services for people with learning disabilities; concessionary travel; single outcome agreements which determine how councils will spend money on learning disability services; and the challenges facing older carers. The Group also played an active role in Learning Disability Week.

### 5 Ways to Contact Jackie Baillie MSP

- Write** Constituency Office, 125 College Street, Dumbarton G82 1NH
- Email** jackie.baillie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
- Phone** (01389) 734214
- Fax** (01389) 761498
- Visit Jackie at one of her regular advice surgeries on 3rd Friday of each month:**
  - 3.30pm Alexandria Library, Gilmour Street, Alexandria
  - 5.30pm Victoria Halls, Helensburgh
  - 7.15pm Constituency Office, 125 College Street, Dumbarton



### HELENSBURGH & DUMBARTON DIRECT RAIL SERVICE TO EDINBURGH

Queen Street, Airleith, Bathgate and Livingston. Jackie said: "This investment means quicker journey times for people. The service will also benefit commuters and local businesses alike, giving a much needed boost to the local economy."



### OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

Jackie is pictured above enjoying a Burns Supper at Our Lady and St Patrick's High School in Dumbarton with John McFall MP. The school has had another successful year with one of the highlights being a top award for the school's anti-bullying work. 53 to 56 students at the school earned the prestigious award after participating in the Scottish Anti-Bullying Week Competition. The pupils worked together to undertake writing, directing, acting, dancing, filming and editing tasks. They supported each other which enabled them to gain transferable skills and boost their self-esteem.

### SCHOOLS' NEWS

**Hermitage Academy**  
The new Hermitage Academy, worth £30 million, opened its doors in Helensburgh last year, Jackie said. "Hermitage Academy is a real asset to the local community. This modern school is a great environment for learning and is likely to lead to improved achievement by the hardworking pupils."

**Vale of Leven Academy**  
The new Vale of Leven Academy building is due to open this summer and pupils will be able to make use of the first class equipment and facilities soon, Jackie said. "The new Vale of Leven Academy is a state of the art building and is one of the best designed schools in the whole of the country. The facilities will be second to none. It has been a long wait but I am delighted that the portacabins will soon be replaced."

**Dumbarton Academy**  
The rebuilding of Dumbarton Academy remains a significant local issue. It has been almost 2 years since West Dumbartonshire took the decision to axe the school from the building programme. The current building remains not fit for purpose and does not meet the requirements of the modern curriculum. This restricts the learning opportunities for pupils. Jackie has led the campaign for a replacement school and will continue to press the Scottish Government and West Dumbartonshire Council to provide funding for a new Dumbarton Academy.

### Jackie is campaigning for better standards in education:

- More teaching jobs available for newly qualified teachers
- Lower class sizes in our primary schools
- Every pupil guaranteed 2 hours of PE instructed by a specialist PE teacher
- More qualified nursery teachers
- Free all year round access to Council Swimming pools for all under-16 year olds



Jackie visits Mrs Irene Gallacher, in Alexandria to discuss the benefits of energy efficiency support that is available

**If you think your home could benefit from energy efficiency measures that are good for your pocket as well as the environment please call SOLAS about LESS on FREEPHONE 08000 198 220**

### KEEPING OUT THE COLD

Funding is available to local residents to make their houses warmer, more energy efficient and their bills cheaper. Jackie recently visited Mrs Gallacher of Alexandria to discuss the benefits of the free cavity wall insulation work she had carried out as part of the LESS programme which is run by Dumbarton based SOLAS. Mrs Gallacher was delighted with the results, which have significantly reduced her fuel bills and helped keep the heat in. Jackie said: "Keeping out the cold is a serious issue for the many people who live in fuel poverty every winter. I am working with Energy Action Scotland to spread the word that funding and advice is out there for a wide range of local people, including many homeowners, like Mrs Gallacher."

### BAILLIE'S DISABLED PARKING BILL BECOMES LAW

**"I am delighted that my Bill has gained so much public support and will now become law."**

Jackie's Disabled Person's Parking Bill has been passed by the Scottish Parliament and will now become law. Her Bill will ensure that for the first time all disabled parking spaces in Scotland will be legally enforceable. As it currently stands, only a small number of spaces are legally enforceable and the remaining bays have an 'advisory' status. Jackie said: "Many constituents have told me of the problems they have experienced because of able-bodied drivers parking in disabled parking bays. This is why I brought forward a real problem which can be extremely distressing to disabled drivers, who have often been left unable to access local shops and amenities or, in some cases, even their own home. "This Bill will make their lives easier."



### MSP WELCOMES THE PASSING OF THE ASBESTOS DAMAGES BILL

Jackie welcomed the passing of the Damages (Asbestos Related Conditions) Bill by the Scottish Parliament and paid tribute to the campaigners involved in securing the change in law. This overturns the 2007 House of Lords decision to prevent claims for damages in the event that a worker contracted pleural plaques. Pleural plaques are developing serious and terminal asbestos-related illnesses. Jackie said: "I want to pay tribute to the tireless campaigning work of the Clydebank Asbestos Group and Clydebank Action on Asbestos, who represent the victims of asbestos exposure so passionately and persuasively. I commend the Trade Unions too, for providing excellent representation for their members on this issue."

"There are many people in Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven who worked in the shipbuilding and construction industries, some of whom have died as a result of asbestos exposure and some who struggle now with the disease. I was very proud that relatives and campaigners from our area were in the parliament to witness the passing of the Bill."

### BAILLIE BACKS ELECTED HEALTH BOARDS

Jackie has backed plans for fairer and more democratic health boards. She has been an active supporter of directly elected health boards for many years and has hailed the passing of a Bill in the Scottish Parliament, which will pilot this approach. Jackie said: "I have always supported direct elections to health boards because I believe that it is important for health boards to be transparent in their decision making and accountable to the people they serve. Elected health boards mean the future of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital. "I welcome pilots for health board elections as a positive step forward."

"I would encourage local people to engage with the process and consider standing as a health board member if our area is chosen as a pilot."

The new Bill will mean that current members and councillors will continue to be appointed by the minister but in future we will also have directly elected members.

"This is especially important in our area, after NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde failed to listen to the views of local people over the future of services at the Vale of Leven Hospital. "I welcome pilots for health board elections as a positive step forward."

"I would encourage local people to engage with the process and consider standing as a health board member if our area is chosen as a pilot."

The new Bill will mean that current members and councillors will continue to be appointed by the minister but in future we will also have directly elected members.

### TAKING ACTION TO STOP SUPERBUGS IN THEIR TRACKS

Scottish Government must now implement. Jackie said: "If we are to take fighting healthcare acquired infections seriously, we need a Commissioner who will coordinate the action needed across Scotland for the hard work and commitment they show in tackling hospital acquired infections."

"All patients have an absolute right to be treated in safe conditions. We must take bold action to make sure that no more outbreaks take place here or anywhere else in Scotland. "I commend the nurses at the Vale and hospitals and drive change. My plan aims to halve the number of C. diff cases by March 2011."

### CREATING JOBS AND SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY

In these difficult economic times the creation of jobs and boosting the economy must be a priority," says Jackie Baillie MSP. Jackie has hailed recent decisions which mean more new jobs in our area. She continued: "I am delighted that Jackie also praised the generator specialists Aggreco have decided to stay in West Dumbartonshire. This decision means that 250 existing jobs have been safeguarded and 113 brand new jobs have been created."

### REGENERATING OUR TOWN CENTRES

Regeneration of our town centres is hugely important, especially during the current economic downturn. That's why Jackie called for funding for a Town Centre Regeneration Fund. She is delighted that the Parliament approved a £60 million fund for town centres across Scotland but she believes that even more support is needed during these tough times.

**Alexandria**  
Jackie has urged the Health Board and the Scottish Government to start building the new Alexandria Medical Centre. She said: "We must have a new Medical Centre in Alexandria now. Not only will the new health centre be an important facility for local people to access, it will also create jobs in the area during the construction phase and should therefore be prioritised."

**Helensburgh**  
Jackie has also welcomed the recent £60 million cash investment for Helensburgh from Argyle & Bute Council. She said: "Helensburgh is a popular seaside town. This massive investment of £56 million for traffic management and to redevelop the esplanade will help to arrest the decline in the town centre and regenerate the town and complements the Shop Front Project which improved the identity and appearance of the town."

**Dumbarton**  
Jackie and John recently opened the new Careers Scotland office in Dumbarton High Street. Jackie said: "This £260,000 investment will assist the regeneration of the town, bringing more people onto the High Street."

Jackie and John also welcomed the opening of the new Dumbarton Campus of Clydebank College. More people in the High Street will, in turn, help local traders."

