

FEBRUARY 2009



TWEEDDALE CAMPAIGNER
THE NEWSLETTER OF TWEEDDALE BRANCH SNP
WWW.SNPBORDERS.ORG

SCOTTISH BUDGET APPROVED

The SNP Government's budget to boost Scotland's economy has won the support of the Scottish Parliament.

Labour and the Lib Dems withdrew their opposition as they acknowledge the error of their ways and accepted they should not play politics with people's jobs.

Speaking after the budget debate Finance Secretary John Swinney said;

"Last year we passed a historic first Budget. This year we have faced the challenge of delivering spending plans to guide Scotland through an economic downturn and to maximise our potential for recovery.

"Working with Parliament the successful passage of the Budget Bill rises to the challenge of helping hard pressed businesses and households the length and breadth of Scotland.

"The Budget will support our economic recovery plan and includes vital measures such as the removal of businesses rates for tens of thousands of small businesses, the resources to enable councils to freeze council tax and a massive infrastructure investment programme which we will deliver working with our local government partners.

"We have also been able to take steps to invest crucial money in our town centres and in the skills of our workforce through increased modern apprenticeships. In the longer term we have agreed to take forward a Finance Sector Jobs Task Force within the context of the Financial Services Advisory Board, press the case for borrowing powers for Scotland for investment and conduct a joint strategic review of public spending in Scotland - all important measures for the long term health of our economy.

"This is a budget for economic recovery. Securing parliamentary approval is a significant step forward, but it is only the start of our task. Now we must drive forward the plans and ensure they deliver for the whole of Scotland."

TWEEDDALE BRANCH A.G.M. 7.00 P.M. DRILL HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE (Foot of Tweed Brae) PEEBLES 17th February 2009

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

The Branch will be holding our annual Spring coffee morning in the Ex-Servicemen's Club Peebles on Saturday 4th April from 10.00 am. Till Noon. Admission £1.00 (includes Coffee & Biscuits)

All the usual stalls Books, Baking, Bric-a-brac, Raffle etc etc.

Donations of any goods, prizes, or help will be gratefully received. If you can help in any way please telephone Jim Calder on 01896 830823

DATES FOR THE DIARY

**TWEEDDALE BRANCH
A.G.M. 7.00 P.M. DRILL
HALL COMMUNITY
CENTRE (Foot of Tweed
Brae) PEEBLES**

17th February 2009

**Nominations for office
to be made at the meet-
ing.**

TWEEDDALE BRANCH
MEETINGS

7.00 P.M. DRILL HALL
COMMUNITY CENTRE
(Foot of Tweed Brae)
PEEBLES

17th March 2009

14th April 2009

SPRING COFFEE MORN-
ING 4th APRIL

5th February 2009

CONSTITUENCY ASSO-
CIATION

MEETING 7.30 ST
RONANS COMMUNITY
CENTRE INNERLEITHEN

A.G.M 5th March 7.00
p.m.



SUPPORT FOR THE SCOTTISH SPCA

Scottish National Party MEP and member of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee Mr Alyn Smith has thrown his weight behind the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in their dispute with the RSPCA.

Mr Smith spent a day of his annual work experience programme shadowing an SSPCA inspector and has been a long standing supporter of the charity.

Mr Smith has written to the Chief Executive of the England and Wales RSPCA asking them to add a clear rider to all their promotions material which makes explicit reference to the fact that they do not operate in Scotland. Mr Smith will also explore with the European Commission whether the current RSPCA advertising actually breaches EU consumer protection rules.

Mr Smith said:

"I saw for myself on my day of work experience that the SSPCA does some fantastic work, without public funding, as Scotland's animal emergency service. It is galling to see that undermined by an organisation which should surely be supportive.

"It would be reasonable for anyone thinking of making a donation to the RSPCA to assume that it is going towards local animals, but for the RSPCA to solicit donations in Scotland without making clear that there are no RSPCA operations north of the border is simply misleading, and I suspect in breach of the EU consumer protection legislation."



Cllr. Willie Archibald



Cllr. Bill Herd

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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Tweeddale Campaigner

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Aileen Orr Candidate for
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Tweeddale

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