PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

15th Meeting, 2006 (Session 2)

Wednesday 27 September 2006

The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

**PE989** Petition by Colin Anderson calling for the Scottish Parliament to debate the issue of nuclear power, and whether (a) new nuclear stations are necessary in Scotland given our enormous renewable energy resources, (b) funding for nuclear power would be better invested in energy saving and renewables, (c) nuclear power is sustainable in regard to its fuel supply and waste disposal (d) plans exist to consult the Scottish public on the siting of nuclear stations and waste depositories.

**PE988** Petition by Ian Macpherson, on behalf of Harvieston Villas Residents, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to increase the Home Loss Payment.

**PE975** Petition by Malcolm Ouldcott calling on the Scottish Parliament to legislate that local authorities consider all environmental designations and, in particular, Areas of Great Landscape Value, when producing new Local Plans.

**PE987** Petition by Peter Neild calling on the Scottish Parliament to amend the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 to extend the prohibition of smoking to designated areas in the vicinity of no-smoking premises such as doorways and pavement cafes.

**PE990** Petition by Derek Rosie and Colin McCall, on behalf of Penicuik Community Education Association, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the provision of community leisure facilities across Scotland, given for example the proposed closure of Ladywood and Queensway Community Leisure Centres and the Jackson Street Community Learning Centre facilities in Penicuik.
Petition on behalf of Woodlands Primary School, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to take greater action to protect the public, domestic and non-domestic birds and animals from the dangers of broken glass, to promote the use of plastic bottles as an alternative to glass and to introduce a refundable deposit scheme aimed at reducing the levels of broken glass in public places.
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered online on the Public Petitions Committee e-petitioner web pages please complete the template below. Before submitting your e-petition please consult the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on what is and is not admissible. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

Details of principal petitioner:
Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.

Colin Anderson

Text of petition:
The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

Petition by Colin Anderson calling for the Scottish Parliament to debate the issue of nuclear power, and whether (a) new nuclear stations are necessary in Scotland given our enormous renewable energy resources (b) funding for nuclear power would be better invested in energy saving and renewables (c) nuclear power is sustainable in regard to its fuel supply and waste disposal (d) plans exist to consult the Scottish public on the siting of nuclear stations and waste depositories.

Period for gathering signatures:
Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks

Closing date: 10 September 2006
Additional information:

*Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.*

The government energy review due to report shortly is expected to favour new nuclear power stations to help meet the UK's energy needs, and there is a presumption that some of these stations will be in Scotland. Energy is a reserved matter, so in principle the decision can be made at Westminster with minimal debate in the Scottish Parliament.

This would not be in the Scottish public's interests. Although Energy is a reserved matter, health, environment, and renewable energy policy, are devolved. Because of the way nuclear power touches on all of these it is imperative that a full and open debate is held in the Scottish Parliament, and that proper public consultation is held.

I personally believe that further nuclear power is unnecessary in Scotland, and would be an expensive and retrograde step. Nuclear power has several major disadvantages:

- The issues of radioactive waste disposal and decommissioning have not been satisfactorily addressed, and are being left to future generations to resolve.
- Despite over half a century of its development the economics of nuclear power have not been proved in open market conditions, and remain anything but transparent.
- The investment required for new nuclear plant would yield faster and higher returns if spent on energy efficiency and renewables.
- Nuclear power is not a sustainable energy form. Supplies of uranium are finite and within a lifetime the same competition for them will arise as now exists for oil.
- New nuclear plant is unnecessary in Scotland, where we have an abundance of renewable energy sources, innovative people to develop them, and a history of achievement across the renewables sector.

The focus from now on should be on renewable energy and energy efficiency, given the huge strides that have been made with these technologies in recent years. Scotland has a wealth of renewable energy resources, more varied and with higher energy content than in most countries of Europe, and a long history of activity in this sector.

For instance:

- The first hydroelectric scheme in Scotland was built in 1890, and around 11% of Scotland's electricity now comes from hydropower. A brand new 100MW scheme is under construction above Loch Ness and there is potential for much more.
- The first large wind turbine in the UK was built in Orkney in the early 1950s. By the mid-1980s the largest commercial wind turbines in the world were manufactured by a Glasgow company (the absence of a UK policy for renewables was a major factor in their decision to end production in 1990).
- Scotland has roughly the same population as Denmark, and over twice the land area. Over the last 20 years wind energy has come to supply 20% of electricity in Denmark: At current rates of installation we can easily achieve a similar result.
Wave energy was pioneered in Scotland from the early 1970s, and the world’s first commercial offshore device has been designed and manufactured by an Edinburgh company, which has already won overseas orders. Scotland has among the best wave and tidal energy resources in Europe.

The largest biomass plant in the UK is currently being built at Lockerbie, to generate 44MW of electricity from waste timber. Another plant in Fife generates power from poultry waste. Scotland has ample supplies of these resources and the power stations are quick to build, they supply controllable output, and fuel stocks can be held in reserve as needed.

Solar panels for generating electricity or heating water are now becoming common in Scotland: one of the largest solar PV arrays in the UK is installed on the roof of a new school in the Outer Hebrides. Passive solar panels on the same building supply hot water, even in winter.

If we look at the above technologies, add up the resource, and consider the cost and timescale for implementation, Scotland can meet its energy needs sustainably and without recourse to nuclear power. I believe that if energy were a devolved matter, we would already have resolved to do this.

It is therefore essential that the nuclear power debate is opened up via the Scottish Parliament, and that any decision on Scotland’s energy future be made in full consultation with the Scottish electorate.

The alternative is that new nuclear stations may be sanctioned for Scotland on the basis of decisions taken only in Westminster. In the era of a devolved Scottish Parliament I believe this is unacceptable, and that the issue is simply too important for it to be dealt with in this way.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern, by for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MSPs. Details of those approached should be entered.

I have discussed this issue with a number of local MSPs, and received encouragement to submit a petition. I would also stress that this is an issue of national rather than local importance, and that the timescale to bring it to the Parliament's attention may be short.

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

A decision on the future of UK electricity supplies is currently being made, and it may involve building new nuclear power stations in Scotland. Many people (like me) believe these are unjustified and undesirable, and that Scotland has sufficient renewable energy resources that, together with improved energy efficiency, make further nuclear power unnecessary. Energy is, however, a reserved matter so the decision appears to lie with Westminster.

I believe that the Scottish Parliament must challenge this assumption, hold a full debate on the issue, and consult the Scottish public on their wishes. If the Parliament is to properly represent its electorate, it must take a clear position on an issue as important as this.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

The Convener of the Committee may invite petitioners to appear before the Public Petitions Committee to speak in support of their petition. Such an invitation will only be made if the Convener considers this would be useful in facilitating the Committee's consideration of the petition. It should be noted that due to the large volume of petitions it has to consider, the Committee is not able to invite all petitioners to appear before the Committee to speak in support of their petition.

Please indicate below whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee ☑

I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee ☐

a template for e-petitions, July 2004
Signature of principal petitioner:
When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>19th June 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5186 Fax: 0131 348 5088
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

Note
Completed e-petition forms should also be sent to petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

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**Details of principal petitioner:**

*Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.*

Ian Macpherson, Harvieston Villas Residents

**Text of petition:**

*The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.*

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

Petition by Ian Macpherson, on behalf of Harvieston Villas Residents, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to increase the Home Loss Payment.

**Period for gathering signatures:**

*Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks*

**Closing date:** 10 September 2006
Additional information:

Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.

As stated above, the low level of Home Loss Payment is disadvantaging us, and whilst Compulsory Purchase Rules state that we should not be disadvantaged, we can’t possibly replace what we have, with the amount of money we are being offered. We are currently looking at Advance Purchase of our properties, however action is necessary because if we can not reach agreement on the level of compensation, we would be forced down the Compulsory Purchase route, which could delay the building of the Railway.

We understand that there is a move afoot to change this, and I copy a paragraph from the Explanatory Notes Published on the Scottish Parliament Website in relation to the Waverley railway Bill –

5 “In fact, the law on compulsory purchase throughout the UK is recognised as being ripe for reform and there are current government proposals on the subject. See ‘Compulsory Purchase and Compensation – the Government Proposals for Change’ paras 1.1 and 3.1, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, June 2002; and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill, a Government Bill pending in the UK Parliament which proposes a number of reforms relating to compensation”

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

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Rhona Brankin MSP – who is currently looking into this, however time is not on our side, now that the Bill has been passed.
Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

The Scottish Parliament are disadvantaging Scottish people, by not having changed this archaic legislation.

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Please indicate below if you do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee

Signature of principal petitioner:

When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

Signature.

Date …..15/06/60....................................................................................................

For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5186 Fax: 0131 348 5088
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

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a template for e-petitions, July 2004
PE975 Petition by Malcolm Ouldcott calling on the Scottish Parliament to legislate that local authorities consider all environmental designations and, in particular, Areas of Great Landscape Value, when producing new Local Plans.
Public Petitions Committee – a template for public petitions

Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Public Petitions Committee please complete the template below. Please refer to the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on issues of admissibility before completing the template. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

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Malcolm Ouldcott

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The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

The latest Local Plan for the Scottish Borders has not reviewed the Areas of Great Landscape Value. The Scottish Parliament should legislate that local authorities consider all environmental designations when producing new Local Plans.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition:

Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern by, for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MPs. Please enter details of those approached below and append copies of relevant correspondence, which will be made available to the Public Petitions Committee prior to its consideration of your petition.

The omission of consideration of AGLVs has been objected to. The response from Scottish Borders Council is that AGLVs have not been reviewed as part of the Local Plan and therefore my objection has been rejected.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

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Please indicate below whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee

I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee

Signature of principal petitioner:

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Signature …..

Date …..
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<td>Peter Nield</td>
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Petition by Peter Nield calling on the Scottish Parliament to amend the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 to extend the prohibition of smoking to designated areas in the vicinity of no-smoking premises such as doorways and pavement cafes.

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Additional information:

Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.

The no smoking legislation in Scotland is so successful because it is clear and unambiguous. Its clarity means there is no doubt in the public mind of where and where not smoking is allowed. In addition the protection from associated diseases is going to be a long term benefit, not only to individuals but the nation as a whole. However as Angus Council report No334/06 states at (3) 3.4 an increase in premises wanting to place ‘street furniture’ to circumvent the legislation is increasing. Certainly in Angus we have had applications and have as the report states now applied a charge to the Licence.

Section 59: Control of Obstructions in Roads, the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Restrictions may be applied to the licence. It was felt appropriate that as the ‘rented area’ now becomes part of the delineated area of the licensee, that a no smoking restriction be inserted as a condition. Angus Council Report 540/06 states in the opinion of the Director of Law and Administration this is not possible.

Pedestrians now have to pass on a 1.6 metre width the remainder of the pavement being used as a licensed smoking area with seats and tables. Children and non-smokers are subject to the smoke and any none smoker entering such a premises has to pass through the seated are where people are smoking, which is I feel against the spirit of the Prohibition of smoking Act, and exposes those non-smokers and children to the dangers of secondary smoke.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:
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Angus Council considered this matter but felt it was not possible to enforce under the Road (Scotland) Act.

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:
Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

Smoking in a specific area outside pubs and clubs, which is on a public footpath, encouraged with tables and chairs, is not protecting the health of passers by. It is subjecting pedestrians to passive smoking to a much larger extent than is usual. This is being used as a means of pubs and clubs circumventing the Scottish Prohibition of Smoking legislation. As the street furniture area is owned by the state but rented to the licensee, any such area should be subject to the smoking ban.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
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I do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee
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Colin W. McCall

Text of petition:
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The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

Petition by Derek Rosie and Colin McCall, on behalf of Penicuik Community Education Association, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the provision of community leisure facilities across Scotland, given for example the proposed closure of Ladywood and Queensway Community Leisure Centres and the Jackson Street Community Learning Centre facilities in Penicuik.

Period for gathering signatures:
Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks

Closing date: 15th September 2006
Additional information:

Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.

Midlothian Council's decision to close two Penicuik Community Leisure Centres and the Penicuik Learning Centre owing to the need to make budget cuts.

This decision has been made as 'the facilities are surplus to requirements' according to Council leader Mr Montgomery.

The centres are used by more than 3000 users per week. Midlothian Council officials have confirmed these figures.

Mr Montgomery states 'they are way off the mark'.

Midlothian Council's aim is to house all 3000+ users per week into one Community Campus within Penicuik High School.

For 25% this will be fine but for the remainder they will lose out on accommodation.

Senior Citizens will lose valuable learning and socialisation experiences.

Voluntary adult and youth activities will be lost.

Youth services and drop in centres will cease to exist in the town.

According to Mr Montgomery the decision to make these cuts was made in agreement with all councillors of all political persuasions.

The health and welfare of many Penicuik residents will be greatly affected by the closure of these facilities.

The community spirit of each will be lost.

No consultation took place with Penicuik residents prior to the Council's decision on 9th February 2006.

A decision that has created uncertainty and anger throughout the town.

"Full agreement (if true) does not mean the decision was correct because

a) It was based on a Management assessment review of the Council's physical assets, which was complete for only about 20% of the 10 or so major centres of population in Midlothian. Decisions could only sensibly be taken once the review had been entirely completed.

b) in the case of the Ladywood and Queensway centres a SportScotland study assumed they were sports centres whereas they combine sports and more general community facilities (e.g. old peoples' lunch clubs, toddlers and mother and baby clubs, children's party provision) in roughly equal proportions.
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All Midlothian Councillors and Departmental Directors were contacted in February. Two replies were received from Departmental Officials. Not one councillor responded.

All Midlothian Councillors and Departmental Directors were contacted in April 2006. This was a communication for help to find other accommodation and an invitation to attend a meeting with users and user groups.

The response: -
One Councillor acknowledged he had received the letters. Two Councillors replied and attended the meeting.

Lack of response from Midlothian Councillors and Officials resulted in help being sought from MSPs. Leader of Council accepted the invitation to meet with groups to help find accommodation.

MSPs accepted invitation to attend. The purpose of the meeting was for users and user groups to air their views and opinions concerning the closure of the Penicuik Community Learning Centre. The leader of Midlothian Council refused to participate on learning of the MSPs presence at the meeting.

All attending the meeting disagreed with Midlothian Council’s decision to close the Centre.
Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

A “Tardis” approach to centralise Adult Community Learning, Recreation and Leisure with High School Education ignores completely the value of the community leisure facilities within the community. “The heart is being torn from local communities and the spirit destroyed.” Can new Community High School Centres ever replace what is being lost? Perhaps it is the fault of the Scottish Executive for not meeting its partnership agreement commitment to provide and improve social education and learning opportunities for all, including opportunities for the young to grow and develop through the provision of leisure activities and particularly the provision of youth and community centres.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

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I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee

I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee

Signature of principal petitioner:

When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

Signature

Date ……………………26th June 2006…………………………………………………

For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5186 Fax: 0131 348 5088
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

Note
Completed e-petition forms should also be sent to petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
Penicuik Community Education Association
www.penicuikcommunityeducationassociation.net

Penicuik Community Education Centre, Carnethy Community Education Centre,

20 September 2006
Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee

Petition PE 990

Petition by Derek Rosie and Colin McCall, on behalf of Penicuik Community Education Association, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the provision of community leisure facilities across Scotland, given for example the proposed closure of Ladywood and Queensway Community Leisure Centres and the Jackson Street Community Learning Centre facilities in Penicuik.

This communication is to create awareness of the steps taken by our association and Ladywood Steering group in the light of the proposed closures of Penicuik leisure centres and the Jackson Street Community facility.

Decisions made by Midlothian Council without prior consultation and the fact that such action seems out of step with the high level commitments outlined in the Scottish Executive publication ‘A Partnership for a Better Scotland: Partnership Agreement’ prompted the submission of this petition.

- The Scottish Executive’s pledge states ‘We will provide opportunities for our children and young people at all ages to grow and develop through the provision of:
- More flexible and more available child care.
- Safe places for our children to play and leisure activities that will excite and stretch our young people.
- Increase access to sports and leisure facilities.

This appears to render the decision to close the Ladywood Leisure Centre a wrong one as sporting opportunities will be curtailed. The new leisure complex at Penicuik High School will provide a much welcomed new swimming pool and a sixty station multi gym but will not provide sufficient provision for football, badminton, basketball, yoga, tai chi, indoor bowls, squash, dancing and other community activities.

The Penicuik Learning Centre at Jackson Street closure will affect the Scottish Executives commitment to Long Life learning as insufficient classroom space has been offered and adult gym users have been told that no gymnasium facilities will be available during the day. The Jackson Street community Café will close thus preventing our planned extension to this popular facility in providing a youth café for the town. This contradicts the Scottish Executives’ statement ‘We will continue to support the establishment of youth cafes and other alcohol free activities for young people.’

Cheques should be payable to “Penicuik Community Education Association ”

Working in partnership with Midlothian Council to provide and improve social education and learning opportunities for all members of the community.

Penicuik Community Education Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland, number 214719.
Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity, Number SC030904
Registered Office: Carnethy Centre, Muirhead Place, Penicuik. EH26 0LE
Penicuik Community Education Association
www.penicuikcommunityeducationassociation.net

- Initial complaints were ignored by councillors and council official therefore a first petition by Ladywood users to petition the council was set up. The results are included with materials relating to this petition.

- A questionnaire was created and completed by around seven hundred residents. The results indicated strong opposition to Midlothian Council's decision to close the centres.

- The Ladywood Steering Group produced a newsletter paid for by group members. One thousand five hundred letters were distributed and from these almost one thousand replies were received showing overwhelming opposition to the closures and Midlothian Council's decision to close the Penicuik facilities.

- The response to this petition has also been very encouraging and supportive. Signatures in support of the petition have reached the three thousand mark.

- One hundred and sixty epetition signatures have been lodged in support.

- A website has been set up to seek opinion and keep people informed. www.penicuikaction.net

In the course of seeking signatures many people indicated to us that more facilities are required not less. Some have expressed the notion that there is a lack of personnel with flair to promote activities to young people so that more become involved in meaningful and worthwhile pursuits.

Asset stripping appears to be Midlothian Council's strategy to balance the books.

This leads to the question: Is this bad management on Midlothian Council's part or is it lack of support from the Scottish Executive? If it is bad management on Midlothian Council's part surely they must be accountable to the Parliament and the Scottish Executive.

Valuable and much loved facilities are about to disappear from Penicuik and I fear this may be happening throughout Scotland, therefore, I call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the provision of community leisure facilities across Scotland, given for example the proposed closure of Ladywood and Queensway Community Leisure Centres and the Jackson Street Community Learning Centre facilities in Penicuik.

Yours sincerely
Colin W. McCall
Chairperson

Cheques should be payable to "Penicuik Community Education Association"

Working in partnership with Midlothian Council to provide and improve social education and learning opportunities for all members of the community.

Penicuik Community Education Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland, number 214719.
Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity, Number SC039904
Registered Office: Canthieth Centre, Muirhead Place, Penicuik. EH26 0LE
18 September 2006

Letter to Midlothian Council.

**Ladywood User Groups**

I have made contact with Ladywood User Groups and none have been given acceptable offers. Some are resigned to accepting a verbal offer because they fear losing out totally. These offers are generalised offers such as ‘we should be able to accommodate you in the Town Hall, Queensway or Penicuik High School.’

The **Pentland Childminder Mother and Toddler Group** have been offered Town Hall use despite the fact a council press release states that the Town Hall will be closed for refurbishment between December 2006 and April 2007. The **Senior Citizen’s Bowling Club** received a similar offer as have the **Monday Lunch Club**, the **Wednesday Lunch Club, Neighbourhood Watch, the Friday Lunch Club** and the **Kirkhill Community Association** whilst the **Line Dancing Group** have been given an unsatisfactory offer in which times don’t suit some members.

**West Port Football Club** describes the Ladywood facilities as excellent but has decided to disband rather than seek alternative accommodation.

All the football groups are unhappy about the Ladywood closure and some were given a telephone number to call if they wanted alternative accommodation. **Jake Bald's Group and Kerry Gordon's were offered facilities at Loanhead and Newtonrange.** Neither offer was acceptable to the groups concerned. **Derek Harris and Ray Steel** have received no alternative offer for their groups. **Eskmill Boys Club** have been informed that the only available space for their Under 12 group is in Penicuik High School. To accept this offer means a change from Wednesday nights 6.00pm to 8.00pm to a Tuesday Night 7.30pm to 9.00pm. This young group's session would start one a half hours later than the present facility offers them. This fact is causing concern to parents and the volunteers running this group. No alternative accommodation was offered to this group. The leader concerned with club organisation, sought accommodation himself. Voluntary leaders have had to change family and work related commitments to ensure the group continues to function. This seems to be the case with other groups.

The **Cheerleading Group** and the **Storm Cheer and Dance Squad** have been informed that accommodation may be available at Penicuik High School. No confirmation of this has been received and the group are unaware of the exact location or whether they will be given the same nights and times as the present Ladywood Centre provides.

**Penicuik South Badminton Club** have not received an acceptable offer of accommodation. Cheques should be payable to "Penicuik Community Education Association"

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The Ladywood facility is ideal for this group but closure of the centre may mean a change of night and insufficient court time for all members of the group. **Many casual badminton** players also book into the Ladywood Centre and they are concerned at the loss of the facility and the absence of another similar facility locally.

Smarting as a result of the Council’s decision to close the centre is **Penicuik Basketball Club**. This club have utilised the Ladywood Centre since it opened. Now they have been offered facilities at Penicuik High School. A shorter session time has been offered and a facility half the size for £26 (the amount charged for the Ladywood hall at present). This is not acceptable to them as they require a full sized court for competitive basketball. They have been informed that the use of a full sized court in Penicuik High School will mean a charge of £32.00 per session. They have also been told that there is no guarantee that they will be offered their usual Monday night slot.

It appears that **Mini Kickers** football and other social activities such as **children’s party bookings** will disappear from the activity list.

I have spoken to thirty user group leaders and casual users. Some have been given generalised offers, others have been given a telephone number to call to arrange alternative accommodation and a number of users have received no communication regarding closure. It appears that all groups will be charged fees in relation to the area size of the facility the group is using.

Other issues that have arisen is the feared loss of the squash courts at Kirkhill should the YMCA/YWCA move to Queensway and concern that the Adults with special needs using the John Chant Centre would be moved to Bonnyrigg to accommodate Ladywood Centre users.

Yours sincerely
Colin W. McCall
Chairperson PCEA

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Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered online on the Public Petitions Committee e-petitioner web pages please complete the template below. Before submitting your e-petition please consult the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on what is and is not admissible. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

Details of principal petitioner:

Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.

Text of petition:

The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

"Petition on behalf of Woodlands Primary School, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to take greater action to protect the public, domestic and non-domestic birds and animals from the dangers of broken glass, to promote the use of plastic bottles as an alternative to glass and to introduce a refundable deposit scheme aimed at reducing the levels of broken glass in public places.

Period for gathering signatures:

Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks

Closing date: 25 August 2006
The issue is one which concerns a wide variety of people not just in our local community but in the country as a whole. Three quarters of the pupils in our school are affected by broken glass in their streets and the places where they go to play. Why should they be faced with the dangers of broken glass in a swing park, on their sports grounds and in the few natural places that they have to play in? There are a wide variety of issues associated with this petition – litter, vandalism, animal welfare, public health and safety, etc. Everyone of the pupils has a story – some are scared by the noise of bottles being broken in the vicinity of their homes at night, others have been threatened with injury from broken bottles, some have had tyres punctured by broken glass – the list goes on and on.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern, by for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MSPs. Details of those approached should be entered.

P6/7 delivered a successful presentation of their findings on the effects of broken glass on our school community to local MSPs: Cathie Craigie (Constituency MSP), Carolyn Leckie, Michael Matheson and Margaret Mitchell (Regional MSPs). A report of this meeting can be found on page 6 Cumbernauld News – 17/5/06.

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

“Safe grass, not broken glass!” What do you think?

Do you have any stories of how broken glass affects your amenities?

Have you been a victim of a road accident due to bottles being thrown from a bridge?

Is the work you do, affected by having to deal with injuries caused by broken glass?

Any other suggestions and comments to support this petition would be greatly appreciated by the children for whom this petition means so much!

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

The Convener of the Committee may invite petitioners to appear before the Public Petitions Committee to speak in support of their petition. Such an invitation will only be made if the Convener considers this would be useful in facilitating the Committee’s consideration of the petition. It should be noted that due to the large volume of petitions it has to consider, the Committee is not able to invite all petitioners to appear before the Committee to speak in support of their petition.

Please indicate below whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee

I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee
**Signature of principal petitioner:**

*When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348 5186  Fax: 0131 348 5088  
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

**Note**  
Completed e-petition forms should also be sent to petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
19th September 2006

Dear Mr McGill,

Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee – Consideration of PE986

I am writing to enclose written evidence in preparation for our meeting on 27th September 2006. There are other pieces of information which I will bring with me, but the evidence enclosed provides the following:

- The impetus for the petition in the form of the children’s tables which illustrate the numbers of children who are affected.
- Statistics from the ISD NHS Scotland organisation.
- Journal Article received from Monklands Hospital.
- Information about Barr’s glass bottle deposit scheme.

The pupils worked very hard prior to the summer break writing letters to various bodies, and we appreciate the opportunity to present our evidence to the Public Petitions Committee next week.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Macleod
Class teacher
Table to show the number of children in Woodlands Primary School who are affected by glass in the areas where they live
(information collected 10/5/06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>P1</th>
<th>P2</th>
<th>P3</th>
<th>P4</th>
<th>P5</th>
<th>P6</th>
<th>P7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children affected</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 320 pupils, 212 of them are affected by broken glass or empty bottles where they play. That is 66.25%
Table to show the number of children in Woodlands Primary School who are affected by glass in the areas where they play
(information collected 10/5/06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>P1</th>
<th>P2</th>
<th>P3</th>
<th>P4</th>
<th>P5</th>
<th>P6</th>
<th>P7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children affected</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 320 pupils, 227 of them are affected by broken glass or empty bottles where they play. That is 70.9%
Table 1
Number of discharges from acute hospitals (non-obstetric, non-psychiatric) with a diagnosis of contact with sharp glass by NHS Board of Residence; years ending 31st March 2001 to 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>LoS 4</td>
<td>ALoS 4</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>LoS 4</td>
<td>ALoS 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1,339</td>
<td>1,481</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyll and Clyde</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayshire and Arran</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Borders</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumfries and Galloway</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forth Valley</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampian</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Glasgow</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanarkshire</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lothian</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orkney Islands</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shetland Islands</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayside</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. These statistics are derived from data collected on discharges from non-obstetric and non-psychiatric hospitals (SMR01) in Scotland.
2. Up to six diagnoses (1 principal, 5 secondary) are recorded on SMR01 returns. All six diagnoses have been used to select contact with sharp glass. All codes were selected from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Other Health Related Problems, tenth revision (ICD10): W25
3. SMR01 is episode-based: the same patient may undergo several admissions to hospital in the course of a year or number of years and will be counted each time in the above table
4. This refers to the Length of Stay in days and Average Length of Stay
5. This includes patients who are resident outwith Scotland (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), the UK, no fixed abode or not known. This group has been excluded from the Scottish total

Source: ISD Scotland (SMR01)
Data Extracted: 31st May 2006
v1 R2006.01586
The impact of 'Bottle Bill' legislation on the incidence of lacerations in childhood

MD Baker, SE Moore and PH Wise

We studied the effect of legislation requiring deposits for beverage containers on the incidence of lacerations in urban children. Records of emergency room visits for lacerations and fractures were reviewed for three years pre-legislation (1980-82) and the immediate post-legislation period (1983). The incidence of total sutured lacerations did not change substantially after the legislation, but glass-related lacerations fell by 60 per cent, due to a reduced incidence in lacerations occurring outside of the home.

Packaging and the Environment

Refillable Bottles
The BSDA (British Soft Drinks Association) supports the use of refillable glass bottles for soft drinks, a traditional pack of the soft drinks industry. However, the use of such bottles is declining. To encourage the return of the glass bottle a deposit is charged and redeemed on return.

Non-refillable Glass
Not all glass bottles used for soft drinks are intended to be returned to the manufacturer for refilling. Non-refillable glass bottles are designed to be used only once and are lighter in weight. These bottles can also be returned to the glass industry for re-use through the Bottle Bank scheme.