

Councillor Neill WATTS



BANK OF SCOTLAND CLOSURES

Sharon Dowe MSP and Cllr Neill Watts recently visited the branch to monitor local usage on weekdays.

Local Councillor Neill Watts has expressed concern over the Bank of Scotland's decision to close the Cumnock branch, the only remaining branch in the area.

Alongside colleagues Councillor Alyson Simmons and Sharon Dowe MSP, he recently visited the Cumnock Branch to monitor local usage on a normal weekday.

Neill said, "We have major concerns about this bank branch closing, not least the issue of free access to cash within our town. Currently, in the town centre we have only two free cash machines which will shortly be reduced to just one. This is totally unacceptable.

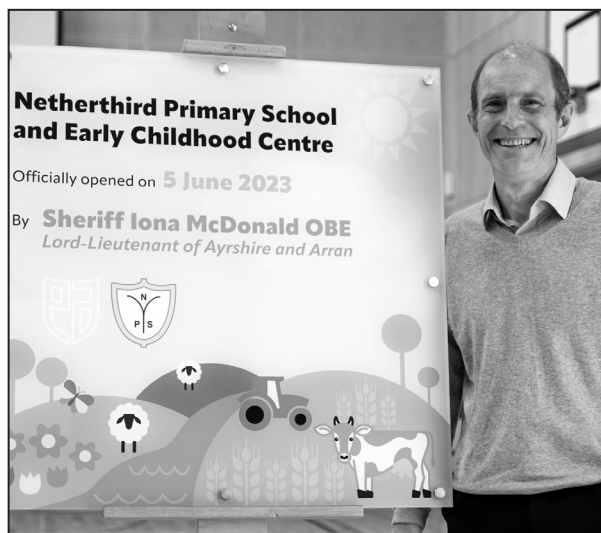


"Whilst banking hubs have a place, they can never replace the service provided by the only remaining branch in rural East Ayrshire."

Neill continued, "I have personally asked the Council's Chief

Executive Officer Eddie Fraser to urgently look into this issue, highlighting the poor availability of free cash machines within our area. The Council has now started looking at ways this situation can be improved locally."

NEILL WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL FOR NETHERTHIRD



Neill had the great pleasure of attending the official opening of the new Netherthird Primary School and Early Childhood Centre.

Joining Neill was Sheriff Iona McDonald, Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, head teacher and Depute Lord-Lieutenant Eric Ross, members of Netherthird and District Community Council, representatives from Kier Construction and Graham Construction, and all the

children from Netherthird Primary School to perform the official opening of the 'New' Netherthird Primary School and Early Childhood Centre.

Neill said, "I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new school, a state of the art, two-storey school built on the site of the old school and opened to children and young people in February this year. The new building will help deliver a first-rate education for local youngsters."

CLLR NEILL WATTS - OUT AND ABOUT ACROSS THE WARD

Railway station campaign



Cllr Neill Watts is leading the campaign to re-open Cumnock and Mauchline Railway Stations which would drastically improve travel times between Cumnock, Mauchline and Glasgow.

These journeys currently take up to 1 hour 20 minutes by car, and up to 2 hours 24 minutes by bus, including a long change in Kilmarnock.

Re-opening Cumnock station could reduce the journey time to and from Glasgow to just 50 minutes and provide a much needed connectivity boost to rural Ayrshire. Rail provision in Cumnock, Mauchline and the surrounding areas is totally inadequate, especially as Auchinleck Station (which serves such a massive and growing) area only provides less than 30 car parking spaces.

Woodroad Park Summer Police Campaign Launch

As facilitator of the Woodroad Park and Leisure Group, Neill was delighted to attend the launch of Ayrshire Police's Summer campaign at the local green space.

Together with other elected council members, Neill is working closely with local officers to ensure residents have a safe and enjoyable summer in East Ayrshire.

Neill said, "I am pleased to support local police officers in their efforts to ensure a safe summer for all residents in Cumnock and New Cumnock and beyond, and I was delighted to welcome fellow councillors and stakeholders to Woodroad Park for the launch of the local officers' summer campaign."



Contact

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Neill said, "Together with Sharon Dowey MSP, the East Ayrshire Conservatives group, and the Cumnock and Mauchline Railway Stations Action Group, I am continuing our campaign to get Cumnock and Mauchline 'Back on Track' and deliver on our election pledges to campaign on this issue.

"If you haven't signed the petition to reopen Cumnock and Mauchline stations, you can do so by scanning the QR code opposite."



COUNCILLOR SUMMER SURGERIES

Neill will be holding his Summer 2023 Drop-in Surgeries across the ward on the following dates between 6pm - 7pm:

Monday 21st August 2023:
Ochiltree Community Hub

Tuesday 22nd August 2023:
Cumnock Town Hall

Wednesday 23rd August 2023:
New Cumnock Town Hall

Thursday 24th August 2023:
Netherthird Community Centre