

# intouch

with Alastair Redman



## MET MAST MADNESS ON ISLAY

The latest public consultation on the proposed erection of a 60 metre meteorological monitoring mast on Orsay would not have needed to happen if our local councillors had not voted unanimously in support of taking the mast proposal to the next stage of planning. Had they listened to local objections and taken note of the petition, (which was backed by Islay Community Council), then there would have been a swift end to the matter. Instead, we had councillors voting in the opposite way to the overwhelming opinion of the public that elected them.

If our local councillors are unwilling to go against the recommendations of their planning department, then why do we need to have councillors at these meetings in the first place? Why does the planning department of Argyll and Bute not listen to the public that they are supposed to be serving?

When this planning application goes before the next council, I would hope they heed the will of the public and do more than be "minded" to vote against the application. It is time for our public servants to decide who they really serve - the people of Islay and Argyll & Bute or the lobbyists of SSE Renewables.

## SURVEY SUCCESS

Thank you to residents from across the area for your constructive and interesting responses to my recent survey.

A range of issues were raised with me, from broadband speed to ferries, poor road conditions to planning issues. I can assure local residents that I will be campaigning on a full range of issues in the months ahead and will report back on progress through future newsletters.



**Alastair at the mast site. If approved, it will be erected next to the lighthouse.**

## MORE POWERS TO THE ISLANDS

I have long campaigned for greater powers to the western islands and welcome a long overdue recognition of our contribution to tax revenue and industrial output, whether through our farms, fisheries, forestry, dynamic small businesses or our world renowned distilleries. I will continue to press our elected officials on the matter of greater local powers and fairer allocation of public funds to our islands.

## BACKING THE TROOPS

Our men and women in the British armed forces are second to none. I am proud to be part of one of the largest voluntary parcel distributions to front line troops in Afghanistan, which ensure our troops know that they have our full support, by sending them moral boosting packages. If you are interested in doing more for our regiments then contact your local armed forces charity to get involved.

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## with Alastair Redman and Argyll & Bute Conservatives

### A NEED FOR MORE HOUSING

Many rural and island communities are facing housing shortages, with local people unable to find or afford accommodation. A recent Audit Scotland Report strongly criticised the record of the SNP Scottish Government, who have cut their housing budget by a quarter since 2009. This independent report shows that the Scottish Government are not planning for well documented demographic changes and lack the innovation required to lever in extra finance to build the homes we need. Rural and island communities have very different needs to the urban central belt of Scotland. We need politicians to deliver for us.

### COUNCIL CHARGE CARDS

Last year the bill to hard pressed Council Tax payers for council charge cards reached over £500,000. This is a significant increase on previous years and many of us will ask some serious questions about why this bill continues to go up - particularly as the council says there are fewer resources available for road repairs, bus shelters, grass cutting and other important public services. Argyll and Bute councillors have a duty as public servants to ensure value for money to the tax payer.

### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 17 August 2013, Tarbert (Loch Fyne) Harbour Authority celebrated its Centenary - I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes for the next 100 years.



### INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM - 18TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Next year, Scotland will be faced with a choice; to renew our centuries old partnership with England, Wales and Northern Ireland and remain part of the United Kingdom, or to break up that partnership.

The Conservative Friends of the Union is a voice and a vehicle for action for everyone who shares the goal of securing a fair, prosperous and safe Scotland within the United Kingdom. We welcome support from everyone in Scotland who shares our belief in the United Kingdom. If, like us, you believe that Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom, you can register your support by returning the slip below or visit:

[www.conservativefriendsoftheunion.com](http://www.conservativefriendsoftheunion.com) or  
[www.bettertogether.net](http://www.bettertogether.net)

## Contact Alastair REDMAN

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Issue/concern:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

I support Scotland remaining part of the United Kingdom

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