



The SNP & Labour gang up to kill economic growth in Stonehouse!

At the South Lanarkshire Council planning committee on Tuesday 29th May 2018, the SNP (all but 2) and Labour (all) voted against Conservative leader Alex Alison's motion to have Stonehouse designated an economic growth zone.

During the committee meeting, George Smith from Stonehouse Community presented why mixed-development land should be released in Stonehouse to improve social housing, retail and commercial opportunities in the village. I was then given the opportunity to speak next: highlighting the many reasons why Stonehouse needed large-scale development to deliver the town's priorities: secondary school, completion of the bypass, more shops, leisure facilities and places to work. I was therefore utterly flabbergasted when the SNP voted down the motion, supported by Labour (all but one)!

I've long known that the Scottish Labour party don't care about Stonehouse but just over one year into administration: the SNP are clearly carrying on where Labour left off!

I'm proud to be the Conservative Councillor for Avondale and Stonehouse. I love the community I serve but feel let down by politicians who should have stepped up and supported Councillor Alison's motion, which would have allowed the council to take a fresh look at Stonehouse with the goal to deliver what my constituents have been asking for, for years: For Stonehouse to be ignored by the majority of SNP councillors and all the Labour members, just tells me that neither party care about our rural community and wish to continue taking council tax, while at the same time: giving nothing back in return.

At the local government hustings in Stonehouse last year: the SNP promised those attending, that only they could bring power to the people and deliver the priorities set by Stonehouse: collected from independent surveys and countless community meetings. I therefore feel that Tuesday 29th May 2018 was a sad day for Stonehouse and a sad day for democracy; because the SNP seem hell-bent on maintaining Labour's policy to focus on East Kilbride and Hamilton; ignoring our rural communities.

I'd like to thank Alex, my Conservative colleagues and the two SNP rural councillors on planning for trying to support a town in my rural ward; a town that needs support from the private sector to deliver economic sustainability and growth. I'm disappointed and will not give up as we move towards the consultation phase of the Local Development Plan to deliver what the people of Stonehouse tell me they want for their community.

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