

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh MP Mike Crockart launches e-surgeries – Calders Residents Association meeting – Consultation on Grassmarket Nursery School – Portobello Community Council – Museum of Fire

Edinburgh's Liberal Democrat MP, Mike Crockart, has announced that he will be holding e-surgeries.

The first e-surgery is scheduled for 28th March from 5pm to 6pm. Anyone wanting to schedule an appointment will need to download Skype, the free software package, and is encouraged to contact Mike's constituency office to schedule a time for their e-surgery.

Commenting, Mr Crockart said:

"I know that people are busy and that often they can't make it along to my surgeries. I want to be as accessible as possible for people who wish to let me know their views and for people who need my help.

"For busy parents, business owners and those who live in the more rural parts of my constituency the e-surgeries offer a quick and convenient way to get in touch with me. At the moment those in some rural parts may struggle to secure the broadband speed required for the software, but I am confident that my campaign for better broadband will change that.

"If you would like any more information on the e-surgery or would like an appointment please call the office on 0131 339 0339."

Do you live in the Calders? Get along to the Calders Residents Association's meeting on Wednesday night, 6:30pm at the Sheltered Housing Community Room. You are invited by the [South West Neighbourhood Team](#).

The council have a consultation running until next week on their proposal to move the Grassmarket Nursery School to Tollcross later this year. This is what the council say:-“The City of Edinburgh Council has agreed to consult on proposals to relocate Grassmarket Nursery School to Tollcross Primary School from August 2013. If the proposals were to go ahead those children currently attending Grassmarket Nursery would be offered a place in the relocated nursery at Tollcross Primary School.”

You can access the consultation document and make your own comment [on the council website](#). The public meeting has already been held but the consultation is open till 28 February 2013.

A date for your diary if you live in Portobello. The Community Council meet on 25 February 2013 at 7:30 pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street. You can read the [draft minutes of last month's meeting here](#) but next week's meeting, which is the 300th, will include representations from Fort Kinnaird and Ocean Terminal regarding the [proposed planning application](#) for another 5,000 square feet of shops to be built at Fort Kinnaird. It seems that due to an oversight the community council had failed to respond, but presumably will respond when the planning application itself is lodged.

If you have not discovered the wonderful Tales of One City blog yet then we recommend it to you. It contains news about the city's libraries and today they have added a new article

about the Great Fire in Edinburgh in 1824 and a talk to be given tonight on the history of fire fighting. More information [here on the Tales of One City blog.](#)