

Neale Hanvey MP

# NEWSLETTER

October

## Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituency

### QUOTE

*"The wrecking-ball Bill takes decision-making powers away from Holyrood and hands them to an unelected body of the Office of the Internal Market."*

Neale speaking about the UK Internal Market Bill that will give the UK Government an effective veto over all laws coming out of Holyrood

### DEVOLUTION



Neale giving a barnstorming speech in the House of Commons as the UK Internal Market Bill is debated on 15 September

### CONSTITUENCY

Town centre Spirit of community



#### Litter picking

With borrowed pickers, donated bags and his trusty hat for the inevitable downpour, Neale has been heading out with litter picking teams across the constituency. Litter picking has become hugely popular since lockdown and Neale is keen to harness that spirit of community moving forward.

Neale has joined teams in Dysart, Kirkcaldy, and Burntisland. As well as lending a hand picking up the litter, Neale believes he can play a role in bridging these community groups and Fife Council, ensuring there is a joined-up approach.



#### Confidence in Kirkcaldy town centre

Neale believes that with a clear strategic plan, enthusiasm, and the cooperation of people from all sections of our community, we will see rising confidence in the regeneration of Kirkcaldy town centre. He has said that he is "more than up for the challenge" and is keen to work with the "great people in Kirkcaldy who are passionate about building a brighter and fairer future".

#### Youth disorder

There has been a rising problem with youth disorder and antisocial behaviour since lockdown. Neale has called for a "constructive approach to the issue" and has been assisting constituents affected by the problem.

He said that monitoring one area "usually just shifts the problem elsewhere" and that questions need to be asked about youth facilities and the psychological impact of coronavirus on young people.

#### Shopworkers

Neale signed the British Retail Consortium's (BRC) Shopworkers' Protection Pledge, vowing to stand with retail staff and support legislation to better protect shopworkers from violence and abuse.

A Member's Bill is currently going through Holyrood and has cross-party support.

#### Good month

#### Bad month

#### Small breweries

Neale wrote to the UK Government to demand an urgent rethink after they announced plans to change the Small Brewers Duty Relief (SBR).

Neale said the UK Government was "pulling the rug from under small brewers at the worst possible time" and was leaving small breweries, like those in his constituency, vulnerable to the "predation of large, multinational breweries".

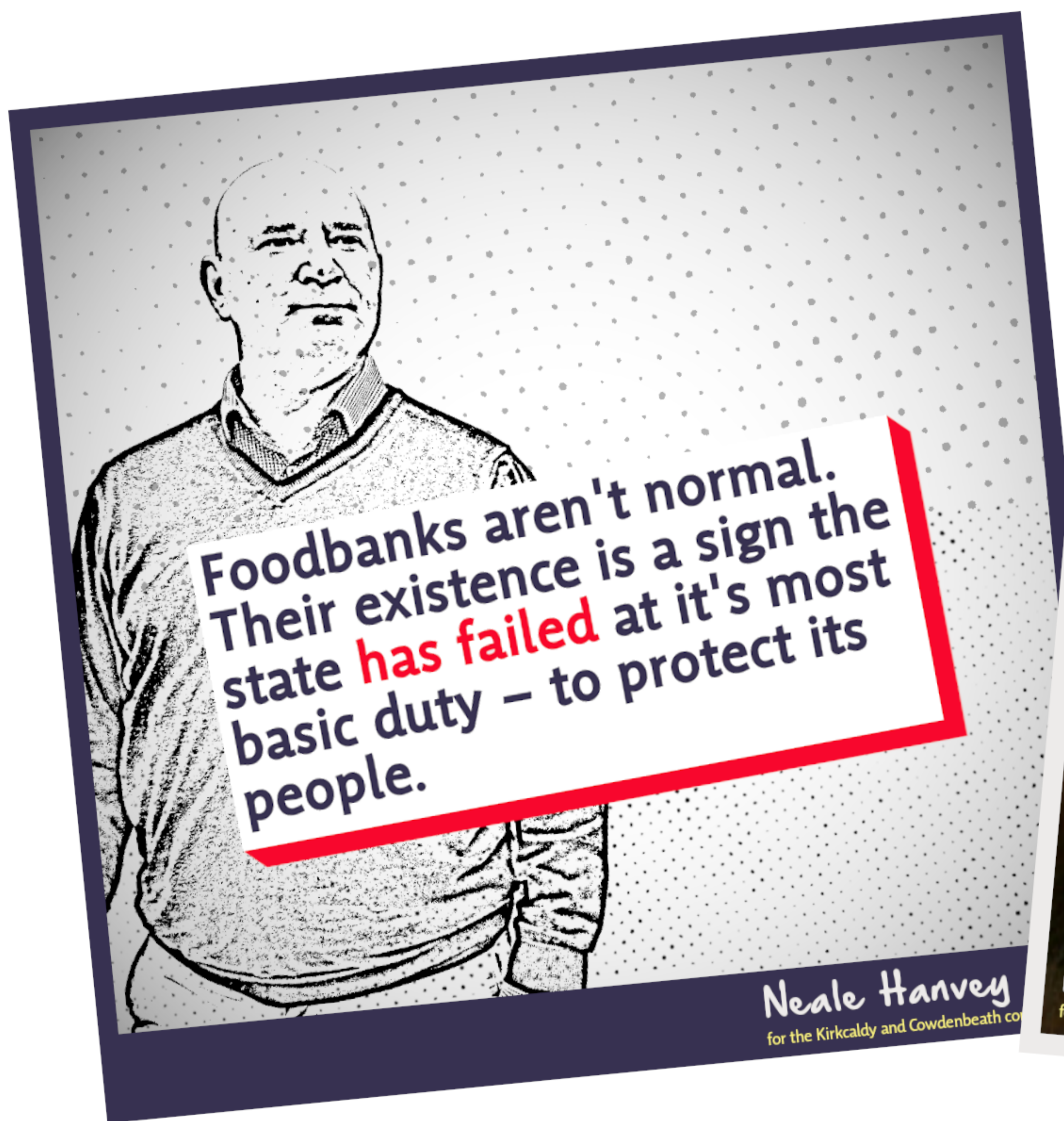
## FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



If you've been out and about in any parks around Kirkcaldy, Dysart, or Burntisland, then you might have come across the golden bikes. They're part of the Glow Gold September campaign which marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Neale wanted to do his small bit to promote the campaign. So here it is.

He knows this must be a very personal campaign for Kelly and Martyn Clarkson and their organisation Megan's Journey.



"It's encouraging to see the Scottish Government recognise the need for action by proposing a £108m increase in flood investment. That money now needs to find its way to Fife."

Neale Hanvey MP  
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituency

## FLOODING

The storm that hit Fife in August was the worst we've ever seen. It was genuinely frightening to watch, and the damage caused to people's property was devastating.

We had folk evacuated from their homes, caravans hanging off a cliffside at Pettycur Bay, and cars badly damaged as they floated around in the carpark at Victoria Hospital.

Now, there's a good chance that it was a freak storm, but Fife has suffered problems with flooding for too long. Yes, Neale represents a coastal constituency, but we shouldn't have to just accept flooding as a normal part of life.

That's why Neale put his name to a joint letter welcoming the Scottish Government's proposal to increase spending on flood risk management from £42 million each year to £150 million. And why he's calling on the Scottish Government to make Fife a priority when allocating these funds.

## IN THE CONSTITUENCY



### BIFAB

Neale has written to the Scottish Government to request a meeting to discuss the "serious economic consequences" of Fife's BiFab losing out on Scottish wind farm contracts.

BiFab, that is part-owned by the Scottish taxpayer, had hoped to secure contracts to supply turbine jackets for Scotland's largest offshore wind farm located just miles away from its yards in Burntisland and Methil. The contracts were awarded instead to companies in China and the United Arab Emirates.

Neale brandished the decision as "utterly perplexing" and said that Fifers were right to wonder why workers and communities on the doorstep of projects that will harness the rich renewable resources of Scotland are effectively excluded from any direct benefit.

Neale has called for a clear strategy and he hit out at the UK-wide system of procurement known as 'contract for difference'.



## IN NUMBERS

**8**

The number of debates in which Neale spoke this month. He commonly spoke more than once in each debate.

**3**

The number of written questions Neale submitted to UK Government ministers in September.

**5**

The number of Health and Social Care Select Committee meetings Neale attended this month.

**67**

The number of new constituent cases opened this month.

**351**

The number of casework emails sent by Neale's team.

**299**

The number of emails received from constituents in relation to campaigns.

**25** is the number of press stories covering Neale's work this month and **1** front page.

### QUOTE

*"I am grateful to SEPA for their recent actions that bring us closer to having a well-functioning plant that is safe, with minimised flaring, and that secures the jobs that are vital for the local economy and our transition to a net zero future."*

Neale commented following an update from SEPA about emissions at Mossmorran. SEPA confirmed that pollutants emitted from flaring had no impact on local air quality.

## COMMENT



I headed back down the road – well, train track – at the start of last month as Westminster returned from recess. It's been a pretty hectic time in parliament. But meetings and debates aside, I'm in Westminster for one reason – to settle up, not settle down.

And as opinion polls show, my days heading down the train track, and our time being governed by Westminster, are numbered.

But it's not going to be a straight-forward process to get from here to independence. Just look at the latest shenanigans coming out of Westminster – the UK Internal Market Bill. This is the Bill that would render our parliament in Holyrood toothless. As I described it in the Chamber, it is a wrecking-ball Bill designed to smash devolution.

Unfortunately, it can feel like us SNP MPs are shouting into the wind. The Labour Party appear either blind to the danger of this Bill or simply do not care.

But there is of course an obvious way out of this mess...

Back in the constituency, I've been so impressed by the spirit of community that I've witnessed in the last month. I've been out and about with large groups of litter pickers – folk who are taking a bit of pride in their surroundings. And that's rubbing off on everyone. As one group in Dysart has found since starting the litter picks, there's less and less to pick up each week as people who might once have dropped that can of juice find a nearby bin.

At the time of writing, we've just had some terrible news that the TSB branches in Burntisland, Cowdenbeath and Templehall are to close. I have written to the TSB to request an urgent meeting to discuss what banking services will be available to my constituents in the future and to also get accurate figures on the number of jobs that are threatened in my constituency. At the very least, the TSB must have a plan to relocate staff.

There was also the utterly perplexing news this month that BiFab had lost out on Scottish wind farm contracts, with these going instead to firms based in China and the UAE. I've written to the Scottish Government to request an urgent meeting to discuss the next steps for renewables in Fife. I understand that there are issues around the way renewables contracts are awarded, through a process called 'contract for difference', and the way companies aren't punished for failure to deliver on their bids in the timeframes and budgets they promised. Obviously, this leads to speculative bidding and punishes companies who are more upfront about the true costs of the project. That is a UK system and if the Scottish Government tells me that is where the challenge lies, then I will pursue this at Westminster.

Until next time, stay safe and stay well.