

Ellis McNeil, Then (2018) and Now (2026)

Clean Up Scotland Hero of the Month, September 2018



“Bothwell boy recognised for efforts to keep Scotland beautiful

Ellis McNeil, aged 12 from Bothwell, has received the prestigious Clean Up Scotland ‘Hero of the Month’ award in recognition of his ongoing efforts to protect his local environment. The award is part of the national Clean Up Scotland campaign, organised by environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful.”



Last Straw Campaign

Ellis McNeil

“Watching the legendary ‘Blue Planet 2’ television programme, I learned about the risks to our oceans. I became very concerned about the damage done by plastic, and have started a campaign to make Bothwell a plastic-free area. My first aim is to encourage people to use paper straws instead of plastic straws.”



Ellis presented his ideas at an assembly at Bothwell Primary School, where he is a member of the Eco Committee. He has already visited five of the hospitality outlets in Bothwell to discuss their use of plastic straws.

KSB asked if Ellis could make a presentation at its 2018 Autumn Seminar in Stirling. By this time, Ellis had progressed to secondary school. A video was made which was shown at the seminar. Above is one of the slides that Ellis used to explain his work.



Ellis McNeil

Bothwell Primary School / Uddingston Grammar



Ellis's commitment to caring for his local environment continued.

At the end of his first year at Uddingston Grammar School, Ellis was awarded a prize for Environment and Sustainability.

At our Brighter Bothwell Spring Clean in March 2026, Ellis was back again, as a leader at 2nd Bothwell Scouts. His Mum supports the Bothwell Spring Clean by arranging for Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from 2nd Bothwell Scouts to volunteer at this event.

Ellis is now in his second year at college studying cyber security and network technology.

Brighter Bothwell is delighted to see younger generations continuing to support its work.



Proud mother and son in Bothwell Community Garden ready for the start of Bothwell Spring Clean.

