

10th February KCC meeting with WDC Roads

Present :

KCC: Gavin MacLellan, David Scott-Park, Anita Anderson and Andy Sinnott

WDC: Gail Macfarlane - Chief officer Roads & Neighbourhood, Liam Greene - Roads & Transport Manager, Derek Barr - Capital Projects Manager (Roads)

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1 Ross LOAN / ABER MILL LOAN

- Potholes, repetitive SW remedial work, passing places and signage
 - A Condition Assessment was to be done to assess road surface and check passing place signage. Results?

DSP & AA added springs and other running water issues - exact location to be sent after the meeting.

The condition assessment showed that while there are many bad stretches, there are not enough at the moment to qualify for a full resurfacing all the way around. This will be monitored and when budget and criteria align then it will be put on the list. However, it is on the list for structural patching.

The running water issues will be looked at to see if it is field run-off, mains leakage or broken cundy.

2 GRITTING

- Gritting not being done as planned - Ross Loan horseshoe missed
- Add School Road and Duncryne Road to priority 1 plan
- Update grit bin locations

Gail explained the background to the reduction of services in the new Winter Plan and the expected savings. Liam explained the time constraints for routes to be completed to match driver operating hours.

After each winter, the plan is reviewed and tweaked accordingly.

AS informed Gail that Ross Loan was already allocated as a priority 1 in the plan but that it had not been gritted. Gail will check with drivers to see why it was missed.

KCC lobbied for 2 additional roads to be considered in the next review - School Road and Duncryne Road.

Liam explained the process for requesting additional grit bins and that he didn't know of any requests from our area. Existing grit bins are typically filled prior to the winter season and refills can be requested online by any residents.

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/roads-parking-travel/gritting-and-grit-bins/>

3 DRAINAGE

- Ownership
- Inspections
 - Results from Milton Grove works - blockage versus capacity
 - Any other remedial works done?

WDC have completed the remedial and improvement work to the road drainage at Milton Grove which has proven successful. The pipework at Milton Grove was

confirmed to belong to WDC and Liam confirmed that the pipe network in Gartocharn will also be owned by WDC.

The problems at Milton Grove were caused by large blockage which was cleared. The long running issue at Tullochan is ponding during heavy rain on the inside of the curve southwest of Gartocharn going towards Balloch which still needs looking at.

GM added that Gartocharn's School Road, leading to Auchencarroch Road, still has flooding issues and damage, reported by residents to WDC direct.

4 A811 FOOTWAY

- Remedial work,
- Management/removal of overgrowth,
- Pinch points assessment results?

There is a plan to complete the resurfacing of the last 'easy' section within existing 2026/27 Tier 2 funded budget.

The management of the weeds etc. was impacted by last year's budget cuts to Greenspace and grass cutting of public areas. As this has now been reversed, the grass cutting and weedkilling is expected to recommence.

The pinch points at Shanacles/Ashfield bend have still not been surveyed as per previous discussions with a view to a commercial and technical solution. Initial investigations indicate that the solutions may need land purchases to enable continuation of the pavement.

This is a Core Path and is in the Local Place Plan, community support might be possible.

5 SPEED LIMITS

- 20mph in village

DSP queried the comment from last year that a flashing sign, showing speed, would encourage irresponsible behaviour, particularly given this location. Liam proposed a compromise of a smiley face indicator but will in any case, look at what we have now and how it is powered and come back to us with options. DSP still preferred the measured speed to be displayed.

The 20mph pilot schemes have been implemented. AS pointed out that the section of A811 that forms the main road in Gartocharn fits all the criteria listed to become a 20mph zone. No additional traffic calming methods would be needed so it would just be a case of changing the signs from 30 to 20mph and notifying the public.

GM highlighted that the villages on the A811 in Stirling all have 20mph limits so, in principle, there is no reason Gartocharn couldn't have the same on this side of the boundary.

Liam explained the roll out of 20mph zones will be happening over the next 2.5 years unless the Scottish Government changes policy. Stirling started their rollout earlier hence are ahead of WDC in implementation.

6 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT PLAY PARK

- Drop kerbs at village shop / Cawley's - status?
- How to proceed with a new crossing?
 - Community Match Funding?

In conjunction with the discussion on a 20mph speed limit for Gartocharn, WDC suggested waiting for implementation of that to see if a new crossing would still be necessary.

AA pointed out that it is not just about speed of traffic but the constant flow at busy times. Pedestrians have to wait for a large enough gap and dash across, so a method of stopping traffic is needed.

Liam also highlighted that a demand study would be needed to justify funding, whether WDC or the community themselves were looking for grant funding money (~£80K). Should money be raised by the community then WDC would take care of the project on our behalf.

In the meantime, Liam will arrange a traffic speed survey.

Derek updated us that the drop kerb installation is funded and projected to be done within the next couple of months. This will allow wheeled access from the shop to the bus stop at Cawley's and will serve as a first stage in evaluating a more substantial crossing.

7 PEDESTRIAN & CYCLE CROSSING AT REID & ROBERTSON

- Status?

The cycle crossing upgrade at the John Muir Way/ NCN route 9 crossing the A811 has now been funded for the next financial year - 2026-2027 but no date can be given as yet for the installation. Design work is underway, Tier 1 Budget plan.

The ambition is to bring the start of the 40mph speed limit entering Balloch back to the crossing but this means installation of additional streetlamps.

8 STATUTORY CONSULTATIONS FOR NEW ROAD ACCESSES

- Can WDC comment on road access points that affect WDC roads, even if access point is outside WDC boundary?

Liam explained that for planning applications, this is the case but it is not clear if the same applies to licencing e.g. Heavy Goods Vehicle Operating Licence applications. He has been made aware of such a licence being applied for and would certainly like to give comment from WDC point of view on the suitability of roads around where the heavy goods vehicles will be operating from. His team is looking into the licencing process which comes under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commissioners GB, and if any planning application has been lodged through LLTNPA or Stirling Council.

9 SUPERVISION OF ROAD WORKS LICENCES

Gail and Liam explained the process for utilities companies to perform road works. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for a prescribed range of offences. The fine itself is £68 which is not much of a deterrent however, the frequency of fines is noted by the Scottish Roadworks Commissioner who can further penalise them based on poor performance and non-compliance with the Streetworks Code of Practice.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/new-roads-and-street-works-act-1991-code-of-practice-for-the-co-ordination-of-works-in-roads/>

All roadworks require to be registered on the Scottish Road Works Register. WDC have 4 inspectors who check utilities are compliant with timeframes and traffic management. The public can also report discrepancies to the Roads Dept via the WDC website. The Scottish Road Works Register website has details such as dates and reason for work.

<https://www.roadworksscotland.org/>

10 COMMUNICATION

- Suggestions for improvement with public
- Can WDC provide a contact person at SPT to liaise with regarding a new bus stop & shelter proposal?

Reminder - fault reporting can be done online :

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/roads-parking-travel/report-street-issues/>

SPT contact - Liam & Derek suggested Donald Booth as an initial contact person.

KCC thanked Gail, Liam & Derek for their time and willingness to engage with us. It will help us explain to our community how their issues are pursued, what the constraints are and help manage more realistic expectations.