

DYKE LANDWARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH A96 THROUGH BRODIE

Present: Carol Shaw, Alistair Sutherland, Steve Arkley, Jane Foster, David Shaw; all DLCC

Allan Campbell, Bear Scotland; Steven Davis, Transport Scotland; Kunal Shah, Transport Scotland; Insp. Paul McCrudden, Police Scotland; Cllr Aaron Mclean, The Moray Council.

In addition there were 18 members of the local community present.

The meeting started at 19:30 when Carol Shaw, Chair, introduced herself and invited the representatives from Transport Scotland and Bear Scotland to introduce themselves. The Chair outlined the basic issues surrounding the A96 at Brodie and then asked for questions, comments and observations from the attending members of the public.

As many of the remarks from the floor were repetitive and members were emphasising the significance of the same issues it is easier to note these issues rather than try to give individual transcripts.

Traffic Accessing A96 at Brodie

There were many references to the volumes of traffic entering and leaving the A96 at Brodie. It seems that with the new extension to Brodie Countyfare (BCF) the number of table covers in the restaurant has doubled. At the level crossing junction (C9E) traffic enters from Kintessack, Dyke, Brodie Castle and the Lochloy housing in Nairn. The Old Mill Inn reports 50,000 car movements per year and there are many touring vans entering and leaving the caravan site during the season. During special events at Brodie Castle and BCF there can be a 'very large' if localised, increases in traffic.

Proximity of speed limit signs to ends of village

The proximity of the speed limit to BCF in the west and the Old Mill Inn in the east was questioned and it was asked if any impact assessment had been carried out at the planning stage to the large extension of BCF. Steven Davis explained that an impact assessment would have been done in conjunction with Transport Scotland and that he would investigate the results of this on his return to the office.

Reporting of Accidents

It is the writer's understanding that an accident is only officially noted if someone is injured. Shunts and cars coming off the road do not figure in official accident statistics.

Speeding and Overtaking

This was the most frequently mentioned topic of the meeting. Members of the audience gave many examples of following traffic tailgating vehicles in front when they slowed to 50mph, of the jamming on of brakes of vehicles following those turning in to BCF and the Old Mill Inn. Timber lorries in particular were picked out as examples. Kevin Edwards, Old Mill Inn, reported that many vehicles accessing the Inn from the east suffered rear shunt damage and that this happened on a regular basis. It was reported that there are numerous incidents of vehicles turning left at the level crossing junction being overtaken by following traffic driving in the filter lane and the red road hatchings. Responding to these comments Insp. McCrudden advised that such incidents should be reported to Police Scotland (tel. 101)

and that they would be followed up. He will try to increase the police presence and visibility in Brodie.

Pedestrians

A large number of people use the public bus service from Brodie for work or leisure purposes. They come to visit the castle and BCF, both as guests and staff, and local people leave for work or shopping in neighbouring towns. This means that they have to cross the A96 to the bus stop in one direction or the other. One resident has a son in a wheelchair and needs to cross the A96 at least twice a day. She described the difficulty of achieving this. Suggestions were made regarding a traffic island in the middle of the road or pedestrian operated traffic lights but it would seem that the proximity of adjacent junctions would make this a difficult option.

In summary, the representatives listened to what was being said to them, took notes to follow up on and made some positive comments during the course of the meeting. They will analyse what has been said to them and carry out a traffic survey and speed monitoring in conjunction with Police Scotland. They will then come back with their recommendations to the Chair of the Community Council.

A96 Issues outwith Brodie

After the specific issues at Brodie had been dealt the Chair allowed discussion to include topics to be raised concerning issues away from the village.

Tanya McLaren, speaking as a local resident, expressed concerns at the two Findhorn Bridge junctions where there had been a serious accident two weeks previously. Approaching the bridge from the west there is no prior warning of the Kintessack junction on a right hand bend. There is a right-turn reservation in the middle of the road and approaching traffic, at 60mph, come very close to waiting vehicles. The Traffic and Bear Scotland promised to look at this junction after the meeting. Neil Jeronim again raised his issues with the lack of a safe cycle lane to Forres and was advised that a separate group was looking into this issue.

Report by Moray Councillor

Aaron Maclean reported on recent meetings within Moray Council, the primary issue at this time is the increase in size of classes 2 and 3 from 25 to 30 in some Moray schools (this will not affect Dyke) and the reinstatement of non-teaching Principal Teachers.

AOCB

The Chair then advised the meeting that following talks with Shona Sutherland and Tracey Rae Pedestrian Crossing signs would be erected either side of the C9E. Moray Council has also advise NTS to fence off the verge areas where parking is taking place and erect no parking signs.

Concern was raised at the speed to traffic entering Dyke village at both ends. The Chair advised that speed signs were going to be erected temporarily to help raise awareness of this issue but, as yet, she didn't know when and would follow this up with Moray Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm with the Chair thanking everyone for attending.