

Bridge Crescent Update – February 2011

The ongoing saga of Bridge Crescent seems to be concluded at last! Following the recent article in our local newspaper, Torphins Community Council (TCC) would clarify the plan is as follows:-

At the December 2010 meeting of TCC, your Community Councillors found Aberdeenshire Council's proposal to support "Option 4" to be outwith the wishes of the Community. Accordingly, it was agreed that a further proposal be submitted to Aberdeenshire Council that would go some way to meet the Community needs and also those of Aberdeenshire Council, considering its current financial constraints. Herewith is an extract from the TCC letter sent outlining this proposal to Aberdeenshire Council:-

- a) *A weight restriction be implemented and appropriate notices erected at either end of the road.
This will help ensure the road is used only by private cars and school mini buses, and should therefore solve the problem of "overweight" vehicle use.*
- b) *A 20 mph speed limit be applied over the length of the road with, once again, the appropriate signage being erected.
This will improve the safety of pedestrians – particularly school children – who use the road.*
- c) *The carriageway be narrowed, on the bridge itself, to allow passage of only one vehicle at a time over the bridge, with appropriate signage at either side of the width restricted area.
This will further increase pedestrian safety by providing a safe footpath across the bridge and will also further discourage its use by larger vehicles.*

The above will help satisfy the needs of our Community through provision of safer pedestrian use; slower traffic speeds; prevention of large vehicle use, and continued availability of parking for teachers and for parents dropping off / collecting children from school.

It will help satisfy the needs of Aberdeenshire Council by limiting the payload on the bridge; providing a cost effective solution to the problem, and by recognising - and addressing - the main requirements of our Community.

The subject of Bridge Crescent has been under discussion for some two years and we wish to finally bring it to a mutually agreeable conclusion, albeit on an interim basis. We would, however, propose to revisit the matter following future village developments which may afford an improved, permanent, solution which is not currently available.

At the Marr Area Committee meeting, held on 25th January 2011, our proposal was supported. Rather than commence a lengthy planning process, the work has been classified as "for a trial period of 12 to 18 months". This in effect allows the work to commence within the next few weeks. At the end of the trial period the road alterations will become permanent, assuming of course they have been a success.