

13 Haddon Road
Perth
PH2 7JA

24th April 2012

Ms. Linda McConville
Education
Perth & Kinross Council
(By email)

Dear Ms McConville

CASE FOR ASSISTED SCHOOL PATROLS – KINNOULL CATCHMENT AREA

I am writing to put our case for an assisted crossing at three junctions within the Kinnoull Primary School catchment area. All of these junctions have been highlighted repeatedly in our school travel plan as danger spots:

- Back Wynd
- Manse Road
- Lochie Brae/Gannochy Road/Muirhall Road/Murray Royal Hospital entrance

Our travel plan has been accepted by the Roads department and I understand that they had put a request in on our behalf for an assisted crossing at Back Wynd however this was unsuccessful. We were told that unless vehicle numbers or pedestrian numbers change it is unlikely the outcome would be any different.

Given that Murray Royal Hospital has now been extended there will undoubtedly be much more vehicle traffic in that area, many of which will be unfamiliar with road layouts. The Back Wynd route is the one that most traffic would automatically take to get to Murray Royal. This has been proven with the use of SatNav systems where during construction, and despite plenty signage to the contrary, construction traffic would be directed up Back Wynd. One can only assume that visitors and staff to the hospital will take the same route. The traffic in the morning is horrendous as it is. Here are a few recent examples:

- Only yesterday at the Back Wynd crossing, there was a very dangerous situation where the traffic was backed up right along Dundee Road. Traffic turning right into Back Wynd could not see pedestrians properly and drivers were more concerned with trying to quickly sneak through breaks in the traffic;
- In addition, this morning a car jumped a red light coming down Lochie Brae to turn right and nearly knocked over a pedestrian who was legitimately crossing with the green man. Thankfully the pedestrian was alert enough to avoid being hit but a child could well have been a different story;

- Last week the junction at Lochie Brae/Gannochy Road/Muirhall Road had the lines repainted after complaints of a near miss involving a pupil on her bike and a car because of the ambiguous nature of the right of way at the junction and worn away road markings; and
- The pavement and kerb outside the Bridgend Inn has been destroyed because of traffic mounting it in an attempt to squeeze past backed up traffic in the right-hand lane (I have reported this via the Council website).

This is just what I have noticed in the last week and gives a clear indication of how busy this area is in the morning and how drivers' impatience is becoming more apparent.

There is underway a proposal to build out the junction at Manse Road and a consultation will take place sometime this year, however I thought I'd use this letter as an opportunity to put our case for that junction too as it would be preferable to the build out. I have already received some negative comments about this as it would mean that cars turning left onto Dundee Road would not be able to squeeze past cars waiting to turn right and these would then start to back up Manse Road.

Finally, you will no doubt be aware that the entire school is to be decanted to Inchview Primary as of February 2013 whilst construction and improvement works take place. Though the formalities have yet to be finalised, it is my understanding that pupils will be bussed to and from Inchview therefore they will still have to walk to the designated pick-up/drop-off points. Subsequently our request for assisted crossings is still valid during this time.

This is the third year of our travel plan and we are again about to issue our annual survey. The purpose of which is to gauge the extent pupils and parents walk to and from school and to encourage more sustainable journeys. So far we have not had any of our suggestions implemented which is somewhat demoralising. Surely it will not take the death or serious injury of a child before appropriate safety measures are put in place?

I truly hope that you will look upon this request favourably and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Susan Morrison
Chair
Kinnoull School Travel Plan

C.c

Cllr. Peter Barrett
Bridgend, Kinnoull and Gannochy Community Council
Mrs Jenny Sorrie, Headteacher, Kinnoull Primary School
Donna Cromb, Roads, Perth & Kinross Council