

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DOON VALLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25 JANUARY 2005**

#### **ROAD SAFETY ON THE RURAL SECTIONS OF THE A713**

##### **Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

### **1.1** The purpose of the report is to: -

- (a) Advise the Committee of the road safety measures which have been implemented for rural sections of the A713 within the Doon Valley Local Area;
- (b) Inform the Committee of the A713 Route Action Plan leaflet which outlines to drivers the measures that have been implemented on the A713 and which will help drivers to improve their safety as they travel along the route; and
- (c) Inform the Committee of the further measures which are proposed to complete the rural route action plan for the route.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Quality of Life Funding.** On 20 May 2003 a report to the Development Services Committee set out implementation arrangements for Quality of Life funded programmes for which Development Services is the lead committee. Approval was given for an allocation of £110,000, £123,000 and £200,000 for Road Safety Improvements for financial years 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 respectively .

In May 2003 the Committee, gave its approval for :-

- (i) 50% of the funds be used to implement rural route action plans on the rural sections of the A class routes.
- (ii) The remainder was to fund Twenty's Plenty Schemes and minor traffic calming.

### **2.2** Following this, measures have been designed and implemented for Stage 1 of a rural route action plan for the A713 from the Council boundary with South Ayrshire to Patna. The implemented measures consist of the following :-

- (i) Bend Assessment Measures – including improved traffic signs, verge marker posts and road markings on the bends along the route. These

improvements follow Scottish Executive guidelines which help to assist drivers to recognise the severity of bends as they approach them. These guidelines were designed for trunk roads and have shown to be effective in reducing accidents.

- (ii) Bollards have been placed at junctions and farm accesses along the route to alert drivers to the hazard of turning traffic.
- (iii) All road markings over this section have been refreshed and carriageway edgelines added.
- (iv) At the entrance to communities gateway features including road markings and traffic signs have been introduced to encourage drivers to reduce speed

**2.3** On this section of the A713, north of Patna, there had occurred 45 road accidents involving personal injury over the 5 year period prior to these improvements being implemented. This included 35 slight injury accidents, 7 serious and 3 fatal.

**2.4** The initial phase 1 measures were completed by August 2004. Following the work being carried out, a review of measures in the vicinity of Holehouse Cottage resulted in anti-skid surfacing being placed on 3 bends to supplement the improved traffic signs and road markings.

**2.5** Further road safety measures have also been implemented at the A713/B742 Dalrymple Road junction, including road markings, traffic signs and verge marker posts which are designed to alert drivers to the potential hazard of turning traffic and assist them to be aware of the geometry of the junction.

**2.6** All measures undertaken have been subject to consultation with Strathclyde Police. They fully support the Council's initiative and will continue to address problems of inappropriate driving on the A713.

### **3. ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION**

**3.1** All measures aim to adjust driver behaviour by making them more aware of alignment of the road and assist them in assessing the potential hazards they are approaching.

**3.2** In order to further influence driver behaviour, an A713 Rural Route Action Plan leaflet has been produced which is being distributed to communities along the route. The leaflet points out that many of the accidents have occurred as a result of speeding and often involve local drivers. The leaflet outlines the work that has been carried out and advises drivers of steps that they can take to improve their safety on the road and also the safety of other road users.

- 3.3** Strathclyde Police fully support the information contained in the leaflet. The Police have also undertaken to help reinforce the message incorporated in the leaflet by enhanced, high profile policing of the A713 during the initiative. Through ongoing education and enforcement, it is intended to make drivers aware of the need to exercise caution on the rural single carriageway roads and help drivers to adjust their speed to a safe and appropriate level for the prevailing road conditions.

#### **4. FURTHER PROPOSALS**

- 4.1** It is proposed that rural route action plan measures are implemented on the remaining section of the A713 within the Council in the 2005/06 financial year.

Bend assessment measures, which are graded according to the severity of the bends along the whole route will provide a consistent standard which will assist drivers to recognise the degree of hazard being approached and help them reduce their speed to an appropriate level.

#### **5. TIMESCALE**

- 5.1** It is proposed that the rural route action plan measures, over the remainder of the A713 in East Ayrshire, will be completed within the 2005/06 financial year, subject to the availability of funding.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The implementation of further rural route action plans measures will be funded from the Quality of Life budget allocation for financial year 2005/06.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1** None

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1** It is recommended that the Committee : -
- (a) notes that Rural Route Action Plan measures have been implemented as detailed in Section 2;
  - (b) notes that the A713 Route Action Plan leaflet outlined in Section 3 is being distributed to communities; and
  - (c) notes that further Rural Route Action Plan measures are to be implemented on the remaining rural sections of the A713 south of Patna.

**James Lavery**

**Executive Director of Development Services**

**NB**  
**6 January 2005**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

**For further information please contact Neil Bell on 01563 576310**