

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2007**

**QUESTIONS ARISING FROM 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

<u><b>MATTER RAISED</b></u>	<u><b>RESPONSE/ACTION TO BE TAKEN</b></u>	<u><b>CURRENT POSITION</b></u>
<p>Community Representative Ian McVey reported that the 20 M.P.H sign at Grassyards Road/ Holehouse Road was not operational.</p>	<p>The Area Engineer in attendance noted the fault which would receive attention.</p>	<p>The Acting Head of Roads and Transportation has since advised that the cause of the fault is being investigated and when determined, arrangements will be made for the sign to be reprogrammed and brought back into operation.</p>
<p>Community Representative Tom Cook was concerned about drainage from the new development at Moorfield. Mr Cook reported the appearance of a pond at Annanfield Golf Course and sought clarification on responsibility for maintenance.</p>	<p>The Area Engineer in attendance would investigate the issue and report back to Committee.</p>	<p>Officers from Roads visited the site and were unable to identify any works affecting drainage in the Golf Course.</p> <p>Planning have been asked to clarify who will maintain the drainage system when the developer vacates the site and an update will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>Community Representative John Donaldson was concerned about the apparent non operation of the Town Centre traffic system during the Christmas period.</p>	<p>Strathclyde Police representatives in attendance confirmed that police officers had been monitoring the situation and the problem was attributed to the volume of traffic.</p> <p>The Roads Engineer in attendance would report the Committee's concerns to the relevant officer within the Traffic Section, and highlight the Committee's comments about the possible requirement for more box junctions; and Strathclyde Police officers noted the request for more traffic wardens at key times, to prevent gridlock.</p>	<p>The Acting Head of Roads and Transportation has since advised that traffic congestion occurred only on Friday 22 December 2006 from around midday.</p> <p>The Town Centre traffic lights are controlled centrally via the urban traffic control system. On 22 December the system was operating normally with no system faults logged.</p> <p>It appears that the difficulty arose due to the combined effect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday peak shopping traffic;</li> <li>• Additional Christmas shopping traffic;</li> <li>• Early closure of offices and schools.</li> </ul> <p>Analysis of 3 automatic count sites on radial routes leading to the Town Centre showed that traffic volumes</p>

were 26% greater over the 3 hour period between midday to 3pm on 22 December compared with the same time period on the previous Friday. For the single hour between 2pm & 3pm traffic volumes were 33% greater on 22 December than on the previous Friday. A further comparison with the last Friday in November showed that flows on 22 December were on average 33% higher between midday and 3pm rising to a maximum of 53%. It is likely that there was an even larger increase in internal traffic volumes within the Town Centre core.

It is understood that there were no recurrences of the congested traffic conditions during the remainder of the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

Transportation consultants have been appointed to review the current signing and road markings in the Town Centre. The consultant will note problems arising from indiscriminate parking and will examine the existing traffic circulation before making recommendations on improvements to signing and layout of road markings to improve the flow of traffic, particularly at peak periods. Consideration will be given to the need for any further box junctions as part of the review.

Effective enforcement of Town Centre waiting and loading restrictions is crucial to ensure the free-flow of traffic around the one-way system, particularly at peak periods. Illegal parking in loading areas, bus bays and disabled spaces can disrupt the flow of traffic around the system. Roads will continue to liaise with police and traffic wardens to ensure that enforcement to facilitate free flow of traffic is a primary objective.

<p>Community Representative Tom Cook sought clarification regarding the extent of the disposal of land at Annanhill Gardens.</p>	<p>Councillor Linton advised that the disposal extended only to boundary of the former Nursery.</p>	<p>The Principal Surveyor has since advised that although the former nursery has closed, there are other buildings at this location still used by the Council, including a water header tank which serves Annanhill Golf Course. The feasibility of relocating these facilities to an alternative location is currently being investigated as this will be necessary if the land is to be sold at a later date. The extent of the subjects which may be for sale has still to be determined and before subjects can be marketed for sale, they require to be declared surplus to requirements by the Council's Community Services Committee. This will include the submission of a report to the Community Services Committee for consideration.</p>
<p>Community Representative John Donaldson reported a recurrence of the litter problem at King Street.</p>	<p>Agreed to pass comment to the Executive Head of Neighbourhood Services for action.</p>	<p>The Cleansing Services Manager has since advised that the owners will be lettered to take measures to deal with the littering problems failing which the Council may pursue legal action against them individually in terms of the Environment Protection Act 1990. The owners have already received 2 written requests to tidy up. Cleansing Services cleared the area as a one-off (at a charge) but the owners could not collectively agree to continue on a cyclic basis.</p> <p>While the Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Environment Protection Act it has no direct responsibility to clear private ground unless invited to do so by the owners.</p>

27 February 2007  
GH/KS