

Road safety Update August 2020

We have continued to engage via Local elected members, primarily Cllr Burrows to ensure our concerns have been communicated to the relevant dept within NLC who will ultimately instruct the implementation of physical road safety measures on the Bellziehill Junction- which is his ultimately our goal.

Following our campaign over several years we had a meeting in October 2019 with Transport Scotland and Scottish Road Partnerships at the site. The update from which a couple of weeks later we were told that an agreement in principle had been made to put up Puffin Crossings at 2 points which would allow for much safer pedestrian travel .

Transport Scotland gave their permission (due to complicated layout/management of the roads) in principle for the work to go ahead but wanted a final piece of work completed by NLC and once that response was received it was hoped that construction could begin. No timescales were given at that time.

On 3rd December we were provided with a plan for timescales relative to the plan.

Detailed designs have to be completed by 3rd December, submitted to Transport Scotland for comment and returned by Friday 17th January.

SYSTRA will adjust the design following TS comments Friday 24th January.

A Road Safety audit has to be completed by Friday 21st February.

Submit for TS comment- return by Friday 6th march.

SYSTRA will then make adjustments to the design following TS comments Friday 13th march.

Due to COVID we haven't asked for an up to date position for some time (as children weren't at school but on hearing about the return to school and difficulties in allowing children onto the 240 Bus (as per letter from the school) on 4th June we asked Cllr Burrows to obtain an update on our behalf . He wrote to John Ashcroft at NLC environmental assets to obtain an update on our behalf. We received a reply on 23rd June, apologising for delay in update and confirmed that stage 1 and stage 2 safety audits had been reviewed and comments returned to the consultant to finalise the documents and that they hoped to receive the completed information in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Burrows replied on our behalf to John Ashcroft (environmental assets at NLC) indicating that he was aware that COVID costs had caused all non-essential work to be reviewed but that this had been on the table for at least 5 years and that the work is vital and asked to be updated on progress to convey to us.

On 6th August, I emailed Cllr Burrows again asking if he had any information, he then chased an update on our behalf. I also informed Cllr Burrows re the 240 Bus issues and he also conveyed them as an aggravating factor in the delay.

On 17th August, I received a reply from Cllr Burrows (sent to him by John Ashcroft) indicating that he was 'waiting receipt of the final design this week, there had been additional consideration relating to cycling at the junction which resulted in the delay. Once received the road safety and audit and design will be submitted to Transport Scotland for review. We will then ask for them to comment within 4 weeks, this should give sufficient time to engage a reviewer, if they do not have this resource internally'.

Finally on hearing that the LAP meetings have been cancelled and new Community Boards being set up, I have requested CNHS parent Voice be invited to be represented at the meetings so that we can continue to push this agenda item.

I will of course chase an update and take it as an action from the meeting to email for an update as of tomorrow- 4 weeks since our 17th August reply.

We were granted an invite to the new Community Boards meeting (held online) which took place at 2pm on 01/09/2020. Council officers, local elected councillors, police, fire, NHS, community groups all in attendance- roughly 25 interested parties. Whilst our issue was not on the agenda for an update, I have asked that at the next meeting in 3 months' time, possibly November/December, for it to be added to the agenda. This will allow the various groups to hear the most up to date position and consider if they think reasonable that we still remain without any tangible action on the roadway itself and ask for any support to progress as soon as possible.