HARBOUR ROAD GARDENSTOWN – Update 9th February 2018

Geotechnical Investigations:

Geotechnical Engineers, BAM Ritchies, have been appointed by Aberdeenshire Council to carry out investigative works in and around the area of the slip. These works will involve the drilling of boreholes in order to determine the underlying ground conditions in the area between the New Church and the bottom of the slip on Harbour Road. The works are due to start on Wednesday 14th February and are expected to take approximately 19 days to complete.

The work will take place between 8am and 6pm and, unfortunately, will cause some additional disruption. Discussions are ongoing at the moment to minimise these impacts and the Council will keep residents informed as the works plan develops.

Once the ground investigations are complete, the stability of the slope will be modelled to estimate the volume of material which may still fail and provide more detailed information to aid in the design of both temporary and permanent solutions.

Road Openings:

As you may be aware, gates have been erected, although not yet closed, on Harbour Road, on the topside of the slope – red and white pedestrian barriers will be erected on the lower side. These gates will replace the current concrete blocks used to block vehicular access. The installation of the gates will allow easier access for the emergency services in the event of an incident in the lower half of the village. To this end, keys have been provided to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (both Banff and Macduff stations), Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland and the local Coastguard stations in both Banff and Fraserburgh. The gates will also ease the operation of the manned openings as there will be no need to employ the services of a JCB to move the blocks and will allow easier access for gritting, when required, of the lower half of the village.

It is the intention to remove the concrete blocks, and formerly close the gates, on Monday 12th February.

The next proposed road opening will be on Thursday 15th February between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

Due to the above geotechnical investigations, openings over the following two weeks may change but updates will be provided following detailed discussions with the contractor.

Following the completion of the investigations it is proposed, subject to a site inspection, to open the road, on a supervised basis, on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm. The start date of the 3 day openings will be advised in due course.
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