HARBOUR ROAD GARDENSTOWN – Update 26th January 2018

Following the Public Meeting on Wednesday 17th January, it was agreed that Aberdeenshire Council would provide regular updates. It is proposed that these updates will be provided on a Friday and forwarded to the local Area Councillors, Community Council secretary and, in this instance, to Andrew Sturdy for onward posting on the local Gardenstown Facebook page.

In response to some of the issues raised at the meeting, I can advise that:

1. The questionnaires that were issued at the meeting will be assessed next week having, as agreed with Andrew Sturdy, to have a cut-off point for their submission of Thursday 25th January. The forms received will be forwarded to Gavin Penman, Projects Manager and the results posted in the next update.

2. Consultants are continuing to look at various options in order that the public road can be re-opened, un-supervised, as soon as is practicably possible. A ground survey was carried out earlier this week, the data for which will be used in the design process of both the geotechnical survey works and the final design.

3. Notice Board – A scheme notice board has been erected on the handrail at the junction of Main Street and Harbour Road. It is intended that future Road Opening details will be displayed on the board. This will provide a central point for public notices and will remove the need for so many unsightly, notices displayed on poles around the village.

4. Signs are being fabricated, and hopefully installed next week, on both the B9123 from Banff and the road in from Bracoden School, advising visitors that “Road ahead closed due to landslip. No vehicle access to Seatown or Harbour area. Due to increased on-street parking turning space is restricted.”

5. The Council have been in contact with the various Emergency Services to ask for details of their alternative response procedures during the road closure. These will be provided in due course.

6. The Road Service will be installing gates at either end of the closure, replacing the current concrete blocks which require a JCB to move when opening/closing the road. Keys will be offered to the Emergency Services in order that they may gain vehicular access in an emergency situation. It will be for the Emergency Services to assess the safety of the slope in respect to their staff and vehicles, should they wish to pass through.
7. As most of you will be aware, Stagecoach Bluebird have resumed their service to the lower half of the village, reverting, at the current time, to their previous manoeuvres at the junction of Main Street and Harbour Road. They have apologised for previously cancelling their service but it was almost impossible for them to turn at the junction due to the parking issues caused by the closure. As a result, the “Prohibition of Waiting” traffic order has been extended for Main Street and “No Waiting” cones installed. May I point out that these cones should not be moved as no other streets have such an order in place and the cones are not legal without the appropriate traffic order. I would also ask residents to consider their fellow drivers and refrain from parking at junctions (eg High Street) and at other locations that may present more of a hazard for other road users. The system appears to be working at the current time, however, should the bus operator be forced to remove the service to Main Street due to inconsiderate/congestive parking, Aberdeenshire Council will take the appropriate actions to resolve the situation.

8. The next planned Temporary Road Opening will be on Thursday 1st February 2018, between 0900 and 1500hrs.

Regards

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