

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE – 18 March 2010**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Emergency Works – C1087 “Bealach na Ba” and Henrietta Bridge (Avoch)

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

SUMMARY

Members are invited to note the emergency traffic restrictions, and safety measures, which have been put in place to protect public safety following structural damage to a retaining wall on the C1087 “Bealach na Ba”, and Henrietta Bridge (Avoch).

Members are invited to approve that remedial works are carried out to stabilise the retaining wall on the C1087 “Bealach na Ba”, and that a further report, outlining remedial works for Henrietta Bridge, is taken to the next Transport, Environmental and Community Service Committee.

1. C1087 “Bealach na Ba”

- 1.1 The C1087 “Bealach na Ba” is a tortuous route serving Applecross in Wester Ross. It is a poor quality single track road with passing places, and until the 1970s, provided the only road access into the Applecross peninsula.
- 1.2 The C1087 is the most direct route from Applecross to Lochcarron, the main service centre for the area. It is a highly scenic route and popular with tourists in the summer months.
- 1.3 A recent structural inspection has revealed structural damage to one of the many dry stone retaining walls which supports the road. The retaining wall is identified with the code number C10870020R45, and is referred to as “Retaining Wall 45”.

2. Retaining Wall 45 – Structural Assessment

- 2.1 Retaining Wall 45 lies near the summit of the “Bealach na Ba” and consists of a dry stone random rubble masonry wall some 120m in length with a maximum retained height of 3.5m.
- 2.2 The retaining wall is bulging in several places, and at one location a severe bulge extends to some 350mm from the geometric face. A number of pinning stones have fallen out of the wall indicating structural weakness, and the infill behind the wall is visible in several locations.
- 2.3 Given the condition of the retaining wall, emergency measures have been put in place to protect public safety, and emergency works will be required to stabilise the retaining wall.

3. Retaining Wall 45 – Emergency Measures / Remedial works

3.1 In order to protect the public, the following emergency measures have been put in place, and will remain in place until remedial works are carried out to stabilise Retaining Wall 45:

- A temporary weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes has been put in place with immediate effect to prevent larger vehicles from using the road.
- Measures have also been put in place to divert traffic away from the retaining wall to minimise vehicle loading on the retaining wall.

3.2 A number of options for stabilising Retaining Wall 45 have been considered, and the following actions are recommended:

- A scheme to allow local reconstruction of the retaining wall be prepared with a view to having this work carried out as soon as possible. Local reconstruction will retain the unique local character of the road.
- A temporary road closure to be arranged to allow the remedial works to be carried out safely. There will be full consultation with Ward Members and the local community regarding this nearer the time.
- Regular inspections of the retaining wall are carried out until the remedial works are implemented.

4 Henrietta Bridge - Avoch

4.1 Henrietta Bridge in Avoch suffered severe damage to its upstream spandrel wall during the period of very cold weather. As a result of this failure the bridge was closed to all vehicular traffic, but remains open to pedestrians.

4.2 The bridge will remain closed to all vehicular traffic until remedial works are carried out, and will be subject to regular weekly inspections.

4.3 Options for remedial works are currently being assessed, and a further report setting out the options and costs will be taken to the next TECS Committee.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 The estimated cost of stabilising Retaining Wall 45 is £130,000 and it is recommended that this is accommodated in the Capital Programme for 2010/11.

5.2 The cost of repairing Henrietta Bridge has still to be assessed, and a further report will be taken to the next TECS Committee.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are invited to note that a 7.5 tonne weight restriction has been put in place on the C1087 "Bealach na Ba" to protect public safety and that regular inspections will be carried out until the remedial works are completed.
- 6.2 Members are invited to approve the remedial works which are required to stabilise Retaining Wall 45, and that consultation takes place with Ward Members and the local community.
- 6.3 Members are invited to approve that the cost of the remedial works, estimated at £130,000, is accommodated from the Capital Programme in 2010/11.
- 6.4 Members are invited to note that Henrietta Bridge (Avoch) has been closed to vehicular traffic to protect public safety, and that a further report outlining remedial works will be taken to the next Transport, Environmental and Community Service Committee.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 5 March 2010

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Background Papers: