

Action note from Wick Ward Forum (Wick High School A.S.G.) held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Wick Town Hall Chamber.

### **Present (top table)**

Cllr. Gail Ross (GR), Chair – Elected Member, Wick Ward, Highland Council (THC)  
David Sutherland (DS) – Ward Manager, Thurso, Wick and Landward Wards, THC  
Iain Moncrieff (IM) - Assistant Area Manager, Community Services, THC  
Sgt. Debbie Simpson (DS) – Police Scotland (PS)

### **Present**

Cllr. Gillian Coghill (GC) – Elected Member Landward Ward, THC  
Cllr. Willie Mackay (WM) – Elected Member Landward Ward, THC  
Cllr. Neil Macdonald (NM) – Elected Member Wick Ward, THC  
Cllr. Bill Fernie (BF) – Elected Member Wick Ward, THC  
Donald Henderson (DH) – Tannach Community Council  
Elizabeth Henderson (EH) – Tannach Community Council  
Nicola Sinclair (NS) – Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council  
Joanna Coghill (JG) – Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council  
Catherine Patterson (CP) – Caithness Voluntary Group (CVG)

### **In attendance**

Alex Macmanus (AM) – Chief Executives Office, HC (clerk)

14 members of the general public.

1 member of the Press.

### **Apologies**

Cllr Matthew Reiss

Inspector Nick Clasper

Neil Buchanan – Berriedale & Dunbeath Community Council.

### **1. Welcome and introductions (GR)**

GR advised the rationale behind tonight's Forum following issues raised at meetings of the Caithness Community Safety Action Team (CCSAT)

### **2. Traffic management in Wick and surrounding area.**

#### **a. Safer Routes to School (SRtS) improvements.**

A lively debate was held over the traffic order that covers the new Noss School primarily from occupants of Leith Walk and Girnigoe Street. The debate included IM

explaining the whole process of obtaining traffic orders. The following actions were then agreed/confirmed.

- No buses would be going up and around Leith Walk. School buses would use Ackergill Street and the new turning point which would be built. GR would confirm this to Mr & Mrs F
- A meeting would be arranged between Safer Routes to School, Leith Walk resident group and Noss School Stakeholders group to discuss new traffic order proposal for part of Leith Walk put forward by LS.
- IM would look at the entrances to Girnigoe Street and Ackergill Street leading off from Henrietta Street in relation to the perceived narrowness.

Concerns were raised over the parking of vehicles on both sides of Thurso Road which results in passing cars weaving in and out of the carriageway. Question was asked on why residents with driveways do not use them. The issue was also raised about the speeding on Thurso Road heading west after the SSE building as this was still within the 30mph limit.

SRtS would be looking at Thurso Road in relation to the new school campus and the footpaths from Milton.

Concerned resident from Keiss asked about the SRtS path/cycleway from the Wick side leading into the village. Path is becoming overgrown with weeds and is also being eroded by large vehicles encroaching. Action agreed as follows

- IM would inspect the pathway at Keiss and report back to the local member (WM)

## **b. Enforcement**

This sits entirely with PS. DS provided some statistics since 1<sup>st</sup> April to the meeting i.e. 31 speeding incidents, 6 using mobile phones, 1 no insurance.

DS had just recently issued 4 parking tickets on Bridge Street and gave legal parking advice to 10 motorists.

No excuses for illegal parking in Wick e.g. Dempster Street, bus stops, Bridge Street, Market Place, High Street. As all car parks in the town have free parking. Parking to be de-criminalised next year with responsibly passing to the Council to monitor.

Lack of white lining on some streets in the town was noted as a problem and causing near misses. Action agreed as follows.

- IM would as a matter of urgency arrange to have the white lining renewed on Shore Lane and the corner of Martha Terrace and Harbour Quay (at Henderson's)

Concerns raised over nightly increased speeding around Leith Walk following the introduction of the 20 mph limits. DS needs information on the vehicles involved and residents can either phone 101 or Crimestoppers.

WM would like to see the traffic wardens back in both towns as there is now no visible deterrent to illegal parking.

Comment made about how the A9 is covered by speeding surveillance cameras can Wick not be covered by parking surveillance cameras.

Driving Ambitions event which are run by THC and PS was described to the meeting by DS.

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads\\_and\\_pavements/87/road\\_safety/3](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/87/road_safety/3)

### **c. Council road maintenance**

General public feeling was that the repairs to the roads are haphazard and are poorly done resulting in the hazard becoming greater. Follow up inspections of repair work requires to be done. IM advises that a new road inspector has now been employed by THC and would be 'out and about'.

Explanation given by Director of sub-contractor over traffic delays at Tesco due to lights not working and their duty to employ an external traffic management company. They acknowledge that these works should have been carried out at night.

IM action

Inspect work around service hatches on Thurso Road.  
Inspect main road from Bignold corner to Business Park and repair many potholes.  
Inspect Glamis Road pavement, Thurso Street pavement and Girnigoe Street pavement.

Tree lorries – THC aware of the issues over large log carrying lorries and the damage being done to country roads e.g. Stroupster and Tannach area. Scottish Government does provide matching grants.

Killimster Road is now on THC capital programmes for 2016/17 and 2017/18

GR suggested that when reporting faults to THC that the electronic reporting link be used.

Link here -

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/591/council\\_and\\_government/548/report\\_a\\_problem](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/591/council_and_government/548/report_a_problem)