



Council Offices, Almada Street
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Monday, 19 August 2019

Dear Councillor

Petitions Committee

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the above Committee to be held as follows:-

Date: Tuesday, 27 August 2019

Time: 15:00

Venue: Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Members are reminded to bring their fully charged tablets to the meeting

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Freeland
Chief Executive

Members

Jackie Burns (Chair), Robert Brown, Stephanie Callaghan, Mary Donnelly, Mark Horsham, Eileen Logan, Mark McGeever, Graham Scott

Substitutes

John Anderson, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Monique McAdams, Lynne Nailon

BUSINESS

- 1 **Declaration of Interests**
- 2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** 3 - 4
Minutes of the meeting of the Petitions Committee held on 24 June 2019 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

- 3 **Petition Relating to Flooding and Deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang** 5 - 10
A report dated 14 August 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)

Urgent Business

- 4 **Urgent Business**
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name: Gordon Bow

Clerk Telephone: 01698 454719

Clerk Email: gordon.bow@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

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Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 24 June 2019

Chair:

Councillor Jackie Burns

Councillors Present:

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Graham Scott

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Mark McGeever

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

F Jack, Team Leader, Roads and Transportation Services; M Muir, Roads Area Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Bow, Administration Manager; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Petition Relating to Flooding and Deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang

A report dated 9 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the terms of a petition which had been lodged in relation to flooding and deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang.

The petition met the approved criteria and details of the petition, including the views of the petitioners, were provided in the report and in an attached appendix, together with comments from Roads and Transportation Services.

The Head of Administration and Legal Services advised that, although there was no representation from the petitioners, the Committee could consider the terms of the petition and take a decision, based on the written submissions provided.

The Committee decided:

that consideration of the petition in relation to flooding and deterioration of Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang be continued to allow the opportunity for the petitioners to be represented at the Committee.

3 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Report

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Report to:	Petitions Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 August 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Petition Relating to Flooding and Deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ allow the Petitions Committee to consider a petition in relation to the flooding and deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that members of the Petition Committee give due consideration to the Petition Lodged in relation to Flooding and Deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang.

3. Background

3.1. A petition has been lodged with the Council which meets the Guidelines in terms of:-

- ◆ the matter has been raised with the Council prior to submission and relates to services provided by South Lanarkshire Council
- ◆ the numbers of Petitioners exceeds the minimum limit of 50

4. Petition Details

4.1. The petition relates to flooding and deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang and the statement by the lead petitioner states that:-

Despite pleas to provide a permanent and proper solution to the flooding and road deterioration on Gilbertfield Road, Cambuslang (near the War Memorial) nothing has been done.

The road is constantly closed and even shallow standing water hides massive pot holes that have damaged vehicles on numerous occasions.

It is not acceptable to suggest that this was only apparent after Dundas Estates started building here. The road has always had historic drainage issues and the relevant departments within the authority should have ensured that this was taken care of as part of the first building phase.

It is also unacceptable to kick this into the long grass in the hope that Dundas will provide a permanent fix IF they build another 2 housing developments on the adjacent fields. They have been locked in a dispute with the land owner for years and there remains no firm commitment or plan to build anything on those sites.

The Council needs to take ownership of this issue and come up with a solution instead of hoping that a private organisation will solve a problem on a public road. Additional information to support this statement are attached in Appendix 1.

5 Support for Petition

5.1 The Petition contains 337 names broken down as follows:-

- ◆ 93 names from Cambuslang specifically
- ◆ 131 names from Glasgow
- ◆ 58 from other areas within South Lanarkshire
- ◆ 17 from other locations in Scotland
- ◆ 37 from other locations in the UK
- ◆ 1 from abroad

6 Comments from Roads and Transportation Services

6.1 As further background on the terms of the Petition, Roads and Transportation Services have provide the following comments:-

- ◆ Construction of a new housing development appears to have severed a historical and uncharted drain
- ◆ In the absence of this drainage outfall flooding now occurs at a low point on Gilbertfield Road during/after heavy rain. This has required the road to be closed for extended periods (weeks at a time)
- ◆ An outline solution was developed which would have involved a replacement drain being constructed as part of an extension to the existing housing development (referenced at 1). However, this housing site is not currently progressing hence this solution is not currently available
- ◆ In the meantime efforts have been made to keep the local drainage system on Gilbertfield Road free of any accumulated silt and debris. However, as an interim measure, the drains are being inspected regularly and cleaned as necessary. This appears to have been successful to some degree as the locus has not flooded during recent heavy rainfall events. However, given the scale of the flooding experienced this is expected only to provide limited short term relief
- ◆ We have undertaken a topographical survey of the wider local area with a view to developing a feasible medium term solution which we can implement ourselves. Development of such a solution is ongoing at present. This will likely involve pumping water from the existing low point on Gilbertfield Road to a suitable watercourse. A professional services commission to design a solution is currently being tendered. It is expected this work will be awarded within the next fortnight with a solution hopefully being available some 8 weeks after the commission is awarded
- ◆ It should be noted that implementation of a solution will likely require the approval of an adjacent landowner through whose land a drainage outfall will require to pass. The landowner is the Ministry of Defence; however, the situation is complicated by a sub-let arrangement they have in place with a local landowner. Discussion with these parties are in hand
- ◆ The estimated cost of a solution is estimated to be of the order of £50,000

7 Options Open to the Committee

7.1 In terms of the approved Guidance, the Petitions Committee can:-

- ◆ agree the issues raised deserves further action and agree to refer the petition to another Council Committee, officer or other organisation with recommendations
- ◆ agree that the issue raised does not merit further action
- ◆ refer back to Resource with recommendations for further action

8 Employee Implications

8.1 None

9 Financial Implications

9.1 None at this time.

10 Other Implications

10.1 None

11 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1 No requirement to carry out.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources Resources)

14 August 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambition/Objectives

- ◆ None

Previous References

- ◆ Petitions Committee, 24 June 2019

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Gordon Bow

Administration Manager

Ext: 4719 (Tel: 01698 454719)

E-mail: gordon.bow@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Flooding – Gilbertfield Road, Halfway.

THE PRIMARY ISSUE

The road is frequently rendered impassable due to regular flooding on a section of road near the war memorial and the gas station. This has been going on for many years and occurs not just in extreme weather conditions but in moderate wet, (typically Scottish) weather. It is our view this flooding is part of a wider problem; the road is no longer fit for purpose.

The constant standing water on the road and the poor road surface, particularly at the junction with Flemington Road is regularly in a terrible state of repair. The junction at Flemington so much so that the passable span of road is much reduced meaning drivers cannot easily see if traffic is coming along Flemington Road when exiting the junction.

The road is too narrow and has no kerbing, which means the woodland overgrowth always creeps into the edges and narrows it further. Then, even when the road is not fully flooded the surface water on both sides acts as a chicane.

The overall result is that drivers are encouraged to drive along the centre creating a hazard for those travelling in the opposite direction.

SECONDARY ISSUES

Gilbertfield road acts as a main artery for residents living in the new Persimmon development, the existing Dundas develop as well longstanding residents further along to Cairns and East Greenlees. The current (and growing) volume of traffic exacerbates the above problems but also forces drivers to use alternative routes, such as Lettrickshills Crescent. This and the surrounding streets are under a 20mph speed limit due to lots of parked cars and the road layout, with Lettrickshills Crescent being particularly dangerous for children enroute to school as it is one long, blind bend.

THE COUNCILS POSITION

Over the last number of years local councillors, the roads department, MPs and the Chief Executive have all been contacted about this issue. The council's historic position is that they were unaware that the road flooded and that when Dundas estates develop the adjacent field, they will include a SUDS pond that will permanently deal with the issue.

The issue with the above position, is that firstly the council WAS aware of historic flooding on the road (as many of our petitioners have testified to in their comments) and letters of objection available to view on the original planning application confirm that the problem existed long before the development of the site.

The second problem is that Dundas have not purchased the adjacent field and although a planning application was lodged for it, they have not confirmed any timeline or plan to complete the purchase (they have been in dispute with the landowner for over three years now) or whether they will develop the site at all.

The council have been happy to “pass the buck” on this issue but now with the realisation that Dundas are nowhere near to developing the adjacent field, numerous complaints to various council departments and representatives, articles in the press and our petition, they have said that they

would undertake a topographical survey to discuss options. This is a step in the right direction but one that is entirely non-comital and represents very little tangible progress after so much time and effort has been expended by constituents who are affected by the issue.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

For years, despite lots of complaints to councillors, MPs and council departments nothing has happened. It is only recently that the tone from the council has shifted slightly. The road was recently closed to allow a topographic survey to take place. The road surface at the flooding site has been repaired but issues at the junction still remain with the road broken up at the junction itself. The lack of kerbing has not been addressed.

WHAT WE WANT

- For the council to take ownership of the issue instead of hoping that the problem will resolve itself if Dundas ever develop the adjacent field.
- A permanent solution to the flooding to be implemented that stops the road being closed or significantly flooded.
- For the road to be developed so that it is properly equipped to cope with the volume of traffic and so that it is safe for all.
- Active and pragmatic engagement instead of regurgitated press-bites from the Chief Executive.
- A commitment to solve the problem and a time-line of what will happen and when.