



MILNGAVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Email: communitycouncilmilngavie@gmail.com

BEARS WAY

Dear Mr Cornes,

PHASE 1

In response to the limited timescale given for the submission of comments by the 19 September 2016 we wish to express the views of Milngavie Community Council and the residents of Milngavie to the existing Phase 1 of the Bears Way.

It should be noted that Milngavie Community Council endorse and welcome the provision of dedicated cycle paths/lanes as a general principle. It is, however, our view that the current segregation and interface of traffic, cyclists and pedestrians in the present phase 1 scheme on the Bearsway is inappropriate, sub-standard and deeply flawed.

The foregoing view has been derived from members of Milngavie Community Council and residents who travel the A81 on a daily basis as Cyclists, Motorists, Bus Users and Pedestrians. It has been articulated at our meetings as well as in correspondence from residents.

The concerns on Phase 1, of which there are many, are mainly related to increased traffic congestion, consequential 'rat runs' through residential areas and the safety of cyclists and motorists negotiating sub-standard junctions and the torturous alignment of the A81, not to mention increasing conflict between pedestrians and cyclists and safety fears for the elderly and 'at risk' pedestrians along the route.

INCREASED CONGESTION

There is now daily congestion on the A81, particularly at peak periods, due to reduced road and lane widths, limited right hand turn facilities, substandard junctions and no bus laybys. Any maintenance work required by Highways authorities or Service Companies have to now employ temporary traffic lights, due to restricted width of usable highway, thus creating long tailbacks, increased congestion, higher pollution levels (one would assume) and driver frustration.

This increase is a direct contradiction of the traffic planners' models which, allegedly, predicted no increase in congestion post Phase 1.

SAFETY

Milngavie CC have been made aware of numerous minor accidents and near misses on the A81 by quite a few residents.

We understand that safety audits have been undertaken along the A81 and these have indicated no problems. The results of said audits gives us grave concern about their validity and

authenticity. Indeed, the safety audit published on your webpage is dated 4th September **2015**, so hardly current. In parallel the actual increase in congestion surely increases the possibility of accident to all users of the A81 both wheeled and pedestrian. We are concerned about the lack of congruence between these two sets of data.

The location and lack of visibility of certain Bus Stops also gives cause for concern. When near a bend there is increased difficulty for the elderly with more limited mobility, as they struggle with limited time to cross the two-way cycleway.

It reinforces our concern that decisions of local significance are being made on the basis of un-evidence assertions rather than established "fact". This concern is reflected too in people's experience of an increase in congestion in contradiction to the traffic planners' models which predict no increase in congestion.

Therefore, Milngavie Community Council consider that Phase 1 of The Bearsway will not fit for purpose until realistic and pragmatic remedial works are undertaken to address all the outstanding issues and concerns of the Community, Tax Payers and Voters.?

Yours sincerely

MILNGAVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL