
Report To:	The Petitions Committee	Date:	16 March 2023
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No:	LS/014/23
Contact Officer:	Peter MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712618
Subject:	Pedestrian Crossing, Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to bring before the Committee for consideration a petition by Ms Lesley Pieri seeking the Council to consider the construction of a new Pelican Crossing on the Lochwinnoch Road, in Kilmacolm in the vicinity of the local shops.

1.3 This petition was handed in to the Council and it has gathered in excess of 100 signatures, it is now being brought before the Committee for consideration.

1.4 The comments on the Petition by the Council Services affected by it are set out in Appendix2.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee

considers the terms of the petition as set out in this report, and as part of that consideration consider oral representations (if any) made by the relevant Council officers and by the Petitioner, all in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations adopted previously by the Committee (Appendix 1); and

following such consideration **either:**

- (a) Decides that the issue raised merit further action, remitting to the Head of Shared Services – Roads and Environmental Services to bring a report to the Environment and Regeneration Committee with recommendations on this matter: or
- (b) Rejects the petition, bringing matters to an end.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 The Petitioner, an individual residing in the Inverclyde Council area has been submitted by Mrs Lesley Pieri, in the following terms:

“We are petitioning the local council to consider the construction of a new Pelican Crossing on the Lochwinnoch Road in Kilmacolm in the vicinity of the local shops”.

3.2 The full description of this petition entered by the Petitioner is as follows:

“We are petitioning the Local Council to consider the construction of a new Pelican Crossing on the Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm in the vicinity of the local shops. Over a period, the volume of road traffic through our village has increased significantly. At times, crossing the road is a major challenge and more worryingly a safety risk especially to younger and older members of our community”.

3.3 As at the date of this report, this petition has received 269 signatures. As it has received more than 100 signatures, the petition is being brought forward for consideration by the Committee, all as provided for in the Council’s Petitions Criteria.

3.4 The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee were approved by the Committee at its meeting of 15 June 2017 and are designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These will apply in relation to the consideration of this petition by the Committee and are reproduced at Appendix 1 for ease of reference.

3.5 The appropriate Council service, in this case Roads and Environmental Shared Services, has set out its view in relation to the Petition in terms of Appendix 2.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		x	
Legal/Risk		x	
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		x	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

4.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

4.3 Legal/Risk

The Committee approved “The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee” on 15 June 2017, which were designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These rules will apply at this meeting of the Committee in relation to the consideration of this petition

In terms of the Council’s approved petitions procedures, in their consideration of a petition, the Committee can decide that:

1. that the issues raised merit further action and will refer the matter to the relevant decision making body (which may be within the Council) and which may require further work, resolution or influence from the Council;
2. that the issues raised do not merit any further action; or
3. to take any other action, provided there is no financial impact for the Council’s service committees, as may be decided as appropriate.

It is the view of Officers that, by its nature, support of this petition will have financial implications and that the appropriate route, should the Committee decide to support the petition, is that the matter be remitted to the appropriate Service Committee.

4.4 Human Resources

There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

4.5 Strategic

There are no Strategic implications arising from this report.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Head of Environmental and Shared Services – Roads and Environmental Services has been consulted on the terms of this report.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None

Appendix 1 – Rules of Procedure as approved at the 15 June 2017 meeting of the Petitions Committee.

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AT THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

During the consideration of a petition as an item of business (“**the Petition**”) at the Petitions Committee, the person responsible for the submission of the Petition (“**the Petitioner**”) will be given an opportunity to make oral representations in relation to the subject matter of the Petition. Council Officers (“**the Council Officer(s)**”) from affected Council Services will also be given the opportunity to make such representations, as will any Ward Members (see g) below). Below are the rules of procedure under which such representations will be heard at meetings of the Petitions Committee (“**the Rules of Procedure**”), and they have been designed to:

- create the right atmosphere for discussion;
- eliminate or reduce formalities; and
- give everybody a fair hearing.

The Rules of Procedure are as follows:

- a) The Convener will conduct the consideration of the Petition.
- b) At commencement of consideration of the Petition, the Convener will identify those intending to make oral representation on the merit of the Petition, namely : the Council Officer(s) present; the Petitioner (if present, or any person who, with the approval of the Convener, the Petitioner wishes to speak on his or her behalf); and any Ward Member in terms of g) below.
- c) The Convener will outline the procedure, explaining that it will take the form of a discussion which he/she will lead based on the Report to the Petitions Committee issued in relation to the Petition (“**the Report**”). The Report will have been circulated to the Members of the Committee, the Council Officer(s) and the Petitioner prior to the meeting. Copies will also be made available at the meeting.
- d) The Convener will ask the Petitioner whether or not he/she is content with the synopsis of the Petition contained in the Report. If the Petitioner disagrees with the summary he/she will be invited to clarify. This allows the Petitioner to ensure that the members of the Committee have a good understanding of the Petition.
- e) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to present the view of the affected Council Services on the merit or otherwise of and implications of the Petition, with their recommendation as to whether or not it should be supported, to set the scene for the discussion, with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- f) The Petitioner will be invited to speak to his/her Petition and comment on the representations made by the Council Officer(s), with a time limit of 5 minutes.

- g) Where the Petition relates to a specific part of the Inverclyde Council area, any Member of the Inverclyde Council whose ward includes all or some of that part (“**Ward Member**”) may make representation in support of or against the Petition. Any such Ward Member present will be invited to do so, with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- h) Where a Ward Member makes representation in terms of g) above and is also a Member of the Committee, he or she will not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. Similarly, any Member of the Committee who has prior to the consideration of the Petition at the meeting made it clear that he or she is either for or against the Petition will also not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. This is essential to ensure that the Petition is given a fair and proper hearing and will avoid any impression of bias in relation to the Committee’s decision-making processes.
- i) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to reply to the representations of the Petitioner or any Ward Member (introducing no new material), restricted to a time limit of 5 minutes.
- j) The Convener will allow the Petitioner the final word (introducing no new material), if he/she wishes it, by way of summary and in relation to any comments by a Ward Member, or the Council Officer(s), restricted again to a time limit of 5 minutes. The Convener will discourage repetitive or superfluous comments. At no time will cross examination be permitted. The Convener will indicate when he or she considers that sufficient clarification of the Petition has been achieved, and the discussion will then move on in terms of these rules, the oral representations element being at an end.
- k) The Committee will then proceed with consideration of the Petition as an item of business in terms of the Standing Orders.

Appendix 2 –Position of Council Officers

For a number of years Inverclyde Council have been asked for a signalised crossing on Lochwinnoch Road, Kilmacolm. As a result, following an assessment of the number of pedestrians and vehicles using the road it was found this was not justified, however, to aid crossing for everyone and in particular the elderly, mobility impaired and people with prams, crossing improvements were constructed. These improvements were made approximately 8 years ago and was in the form of build outs on both sides of the road to reduce the crossing width from 10.5m to 6.6m. They also removed parked cars to provide a direct route across the road.

In July/August 2022 a petition was received stating “We are petitioning the local council to consider the construction of a new Pelican Crossing on the Lochwinnoch Road in Kilmacolm in the vicinity of the local shops. Over a period, the volume of road traffic through our village has increased significantly. At times, crossing the road is a major challenge and more worryingly a safety risk especially to younger and older members of our community.” At this time a Roads Officer spoke to the petition organiser and explained the history of the crossing point detailed above. The Roads Officer agreed to undertake a new survey and assessment to determine if there was sufficient justification for a signalised crossing point. Pedestrian and vehicle surveys were undertaken in September 2022.

Since the last assessment approximately 8 years ago the Local Transport Note which addressed crossing point assessments has been superseded with “Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 6 Traffic Control” (TSM) in December 2019. This details the points to be considered when assessing the requirement for a crossing point including pedestrian and vehicle surveys, crossing difficulties, crossing times and speed and finally accidents. It does not give a quantitative assessment.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) published guidelines entitled “School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines” and revised in 2012 for the assessment of school crossing points. This provides a quantitative means for assessing crossings. It takes account of similar factors as those outlined in the TSM. This was used to undertake an assessment of Lochwinnoch Road.

Signalised crossings are generally recommended where the PV^2 number is 1×10^8 or greater. Even with adjusted factors for pedestrian make up, visibility of pedestrians and proximity to junctions the PV^2 number for Lochwinnoch Road was 0.559×10^8 , which is well below the intervention value. Therefore no signalised crossing is proposed at this location.

If a signalised crossing was to be introduced its likely that it would not be called very often and vehicles would become used to seeing a green light. When a pedestrian did call for the crossing to come into use its possible that vehicles would drive through the red light as a result. The installation of signalised crossing would also remove 5-6 parking spaces in front of the shops.

Regarding the speed of traffic on Lochwinnoch Road, the 85%tile speed at this location is 20.4mph. Officers are also progressing mandatory 20mph speed limits in village and town centres, and this includes Kilmacolm.