

Mr Ashley Broadbent
Head TEC Services
Highland Council

Dear Mr Broadbent,

SAFETY REVIEW OF CULLODEN ROAD BALLOCH

We understand from Councillor Robert Wynd that in January 2007, TEC services are due to undertake a review of the safety of Culloden Road with particular reference to pedestrian and cycle use. This is an issue of great concern to Balloch residents who wish to keep this a rural road. Balloch Community Council therefore welcomes this initiative by The Highland Council. In this letter we point up our main concerns regarding Culloden Road.

1. Constriction and blind spot.

1.1 Along the southern part of Culloden Road, near the junction of the road to Hollybush, the road narrows to such an extent that there is only just enough space for two cars to pass side by side. Therefore any horse rider, pedestrian, or cyclist following the National Cycle Route, at this point in the road is potentially in grave danger.

1.2 At the same point there is a dip in the road, which means that traffic travelling north cannot see oncoming vehicles, cyclists, horses or pedestrians.

2. Speeding.

2.1 The 30 mph speed limit within the village is regularly exceeded in both directions.

2.2 In particular drivers accelerate once under the bridge and heading up towards Culloden Moor.

2.3 Coming in to the village drivers slow down at the bridge rather than at the 30 mph sign above the village.

2.4 Due to the number of access points, the curbing down Culloden Road is sporadic, increasing the risk of vehicles mounting the pavement.

2.5 Balloch Community Council looks forward to the installation of two 30mph flashing beacons in Balloch paid for by Councillor Wynd and the Community Council.

2.6 Balloch Community Council is in favour of:

- i. Warning of the 30mph limit upon entering and leaving the village.
- ii. Lowering the speed limit along the rural section of Culloden Road from 60mph to 40 mph in keeping with DfT 2006 guidance for local authorities.
- iii. Investigating the feasibility of lowering the speed limit within Balloch from 30mph to 20mph.
- iv. Speed cameras and increased enforcement in Balloch to crack down on speeding at all hours.

3. Unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians.

3.1 There is no safe pedestrian or cycle route to Balloch for Feabuie Road residents; the traffic is too fast to safely cross the road.

3.2 There is no safe cycle route to Balloch Primary or Culloden Academy for residents at Sunnyside.

3.3 There is no safe cycle and pedestrian access between Balloch and the Keppoch Inn and Culloden Battlefield.

3.4 Blocked drains at Viewhill mean the road is liable to ice over putting pedestrians on the pavement from Viewhill to the bridge at risk.

3.5 Balloch Community Council is in favour of a dedicated cycle route along the length of Culloden Road. This should be a dedicated cycle path off the road. There is some concern that a cycle lane painted on the road is too dangerous. We support Croy Community Council in trying to get pavement from Sunnyside along to the start of Culloden Road.

We trust you will take these comments into consideration at you meeting in January.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Williams
Chairman Balloch Community Council