



# GATESIDE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY: SC038682

Mr Robert Stirling  
Development and Buildings  
Development Services  
Forth House  
Abbotshall Road  
Kirkcaldy  
KY1 1RU

The Smithy  
Old Town  
Gateside  
Fife  
KY14 7SY  
21<sup>st</sup> August 2012

Dear Mr Stirling

Ref No: 10/04647/FULL Touring Caravan Site Gateside

I am writing on behalf of Gateside and District Community Association in response to the letter from M & A Associates dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012. We would like to raise the following matters in relation to this letter:-

## Public Transport

Bus 36 only runs through Gateside on a Saturday with 2 buses in each direction.

## Traffic Generation

The letter assumes that caravans and motor homes will be arriving at regularly spaced intervals with a maximum trip rate of 6 per hour. It is not possible to make this assumption as it is equally possible that vehicles will arrive and leave in groups. This could cause considerable congestion and queuing on the busy A91, particularly given the length of the vehicles concerned. Caravans can be up to 7m in length and some motor homes considerably exceed 7m.

## Junction Spacing

As stated in the letter, the proposed junction would be closer than the Council's recommended junction spacing. In fact, to quote Fife Transportations document of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 Table 5.3 of the current Fife Council Transportation Development Guidelines states junction spacing should be a minimum of 100m whereas only 50m is achievable in this instance. Junction spacing is particularly important at this access as the majority of vehicles using it will be large slow moving motorhomes, or cars towing caravans, that will take longer than average to manoeuvre, thus increasing the potential for vehicle conflict.

Traffic surveys conducted by Fife Camera Partnership since 2007 indicate a volume of 5,000 vehicles per day through Gateside village. In the 2010 survey, the percentage speeding was 56%. Since monitoring of speeds started in 2007, 255 speeding offences have been detected and 16 of these drivers have been reported to the procurator fiscal for excess speeds. Speeds in excess of 75 mph have been detected during the day. This additional junction would only add further hazards to the traffic problems in the village. Given the above, there is no reason

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not to follow the guidelines on junction spacing and recommend refusal of the planning application on this basis alone.

### **Additional Concern**

The letter mentions that the pavement on the south side of the A91 has been widened to improve visibility. The community has campaigned long and hard to improve footpaths primarily to make it safer for pedestrians, especially the school children, to walk through the village. The school is located at the west end of the village and each week the 33 pupils walk to the village hall in two convoys of up to 19 pupils for PE. At various times of the year these visits are increased for drama and other activities. The hall is at the east end of the village and is on the other side of the A91. The reason the pavement was widened was to make it safer for the children to walk on the southern footpath as the northern footpath is very narrow and cars park on that side of the street. The proposed junction would be an additional hazard, as the children would have to cross over it going to and from the hall. In addition the widening of the footpath just after the Perth junction pushes the westbound traffic to the right which will make it difficult for large/ long vehicles to make an immediate left turn at the proposed junction.

### **Summary**

We find nothing in the letter from M&A to suggest that the guidelines on junction spacing should not be followed. The proposed junction would be half of the recommended distance of 100m from the existing junctions and would introduce additional hazards for both motorists and pedestrians using the A91 through Gateside. We would urge you to recommend refusal of this application.

Yours sincerely

Jane Macnaughton  
Chair, Gateside and District Community Association

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