

19 November 2020

Killearn Community Council

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cc:

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Dear Stirling Council as above

Re: Review of proposed path between development at Killearn Hospital site and village - Application 20/00098/FUL

I am writing on behalf of Killearn Community Council (KCC) and the wider community regarding the planning permission 20/00098/FUL granted to Cala Homes to develop 89 houses at the Old Hospital site and in particular *the proposed path that links the development to the village*.

Our community welcomes the development, however we ask Stirling Council (Council) to review the path/link to the village, to provide a safe, sustainable route, one that promotes active travel for the community and that is in line with Scottish Government proposals to encourage walking, cycling and recreation.

The current proposed path & link to the village is not safe or multi use

We are currently very concerned about the safety of the proposed path and its provision for active travel. The proposed path has a width of 1.5m and 1.2m in parts; 3.5 meters is required for multi use cycle/pedestrian and 2m on such a busy road for a simple safe footpath. The current plan follows the side of the very busy A81 which has a national speed limit of 60mph. It then crosses this road at an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and heads up the B834 (Station Rd) and across a bridge.

This part of the proposed path up Station Rd is not multi use, and we have major concerns about safety as the proposal for the main link for travel to and from the development to the school/village. We also understand that much of the pedestrian footpath on Station Road is under the Council's responsibility to upgrade. This section is currently sub-standard and work on this is long overdue. We have had complaints from members of the community, about injuries reported to the Council from those using this pavement which is in such a terrible state of repair.

Suggested actions :

1. Risk assessment and traffic calming measures

- **We urge the Council to work closely with Cala to conduct a risk assessment around the proposed route and to look at installing traffic calming measures on the A81 and up the B834 to reduce the speed substantially to 30 and 20mph accordingly - with appropriate safe crossing, lighting, planting and signs to ensure that drivers know this is a residential area and that there will be crossings of school children and a footpath to the village.**

2. Works to current 'pathway' from the foot of Station Rd to Lampson Rd

- **We ask that the Council include on their schedule, urgent work to upgrade the footpath on the B834 and traffic calming measures to reduce speed limits also on this busy road.**

3. Consideration of alternative routes to bring a multi use path to the village

- As mentioned, the proposed plans will not provide the village community/children going to and from school, with a safe, multi-use path required for active travel/bike use. We believe there is an opportunity now to review this link to provide one that complements the work on the multi use route from Killearn to Balfron with Sustrans and is in line with Scottish Government proposals to encourage walking, cycling and recreation.
- At recent discussions held by KCC, Cala expressed that they would like to work with us to explore options for a multi use path, including revisiting their original proposal of using the West Highland Way (WHW). However we know that they are also concerned about resistance from The Council on this and not being able to deliver on their own business objectives at site if there is a protracted discussion. Encouragingly, local landowner, James Henderson and owner of Oakwood Garden Centre agreed in principle to putting a multi use route through his land which runs in tandem with the WHW, A81 and B834. You will also find attached letters from Killearn Paths Group, and others in the wider community including residents/families with children concerned about the route to school, all very much in support of this approach and very concerned about the provisions and safety of the current proposed path.
- **We would ask that the Council work with Cala Homes and KCC to review this path and help us create a safe, multi use travel alternative, possibly utilising the WHW.**
- Please see attached a proposed route which crosses over the roundabout at the Cala development to Oakwood Garden Centre, onto the WHW, then runs adjacent to the B834. Cala explained their initial suggestion was to utilise the WHW, however feedback from the Council was that it would not be suitable.
- **We ask that this is looked at again to provide a safer option than the A81.**
- **We ask that Cala are given the go ahead by the Council to scope out this alternative route/others.**

- **We also ask that the Council help approaching the owners or management group of the WHW and the other parcel of land owned by the Gordon Trust to assess the feasibility of this option.**

4. Funding

KCC has written to Councillor Lambie asking that the Affordable Housing contributions or some of, be directed towards this multi use path. Again we ask that these monies are redirected to providing help with this multi use path, which would be of great benefit to the local community and the local school which has many issues with parking and would benefit from an active travel route from the development.

5. Acknowledgement

With more young families moving to the area, further development planned at the site, the current COVID climate and beautiful countryside on our doorstep, a safe multi use link will serve to enhance recreation in the area and provide a safe active travel route to and from the village.

We look forward to hearing from you about how we can take this forward.

Kindest regards

Caroline Carrick

For Killearn Community Council (on behalf of the wider Killearn community)