

The Missing Link – gap in the Deeside Way at Milltimber Overbridge

Background

The new AWPR road cut through the location of the Deeside way just to the east of Milltimber Brae. The new design diverts the path over the new “lower” bridge serving the houses on Milltimber brae. There was much criticism of Transport Scotland back in 2007 during the Public Inquiry for not providing a dedicated bridge but this is the end situation.

The bridge has a nice segregated dual use [pedestrian and cyclist] footpath on the South side, a ramp off this at the East [Aberdeen] end and there is now - after a local campaign in 2016 - footpath path from the east end so you don't have to walk on Station Road to rejoin the Deeside way.

What's the problem?

See diagrams pp2 and pp3. At the west [Peterculter] end of the bridge the dual use path is offset from the Deeside way by approximately 30 meters, the current entrance to the dual use path is in the path of oncoming traffic. Pedestrians and particularly cyclists have to go into the path of oncoming traffic on the bridge to access the path.

The Construction Joint venture “CJV” Aberdeen Roads Ltd “ARL” Have confirmed that building the missing path is not in their contract. Aberdeen City Council “ACC” have also confirmed they do not intend to build the path.

Who's responsible for such a walking and cycling disaster?

Good question – normally the council would be responsible for such things, however the actual change has been made by Transport Scotland “TS”, who are ultimately responsible for the AWPR, and it would appear neither have given it much thought.

What's happening?

A few in Culter have corresponded with both Cllr Marie Boulton (over ACC's performance) and Maureen Watt MSP (over TS's performance) highlighting our concerns and asking for a solution.

Our latest understanding from Cllr Boulton is that TS have asked the AWPR managing agent (the company who manage the construction) to make the work happen, but the CJV and ACC are not willing to do it, so they are looking for another contractor. Maureen Watt has written to the chief exec of TS asking for an explanation, but as yet no reply.

Whilst there is now hope the missing path will be replaced there is no timescale it will be done in – tendering a small piece of work such as the footpath is unlikely to get many bidders when everyone is working on the AWPR. Fixing it after the AWPR opens is a real possibility.

Meanwhile many people cross the busy Milltimber brae each day using the rather dangerous method shown on pp3.

HOW CAN I HELP

Even if they think the issue is in hand councilors and MSP's take more notice of issues when more people contact them. It's very easy to help – **just email your elected representatives with your concerns**

Who are they?

If you live in Lower Deeside (Culter, Miltimber, Bielside, Cults) you have three councilors:

- Marie Boulton (Independent) **mboulton@aberdeencity.gov.uk**
- Tauqeer Malik (Lab) **mmalik@aberdeencity.gov.uk**
- Philip Bell (Con) **phbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

You can contact any one of them, don't write to all three at the same time. If you live elsewhere in Aberdeen City there's a list of councilors on the ACC website [HERE](#)

If you live in Culter, Miltimber, Bielside, Cults your MSP is Maureen Watt **Maureen.Watt.msp@parliament.scot** if you live elsewhere in the city you can find out who it is by entering your postcode here [HERE](#)

Any Tips

- Ideally go and see the problem yourself , take a photo, before writing.
- If emailing include your postal address – this is important so they know you are their constituent and not someone else's
- Explain your concerns in your own words, don't just forward this note on or cut and paste sections. What does the absence of the path mean to **YOU?**
- Don't write to more than one person at once or cc lots of other people an impression it's a chain letter will not help.
- Be polite, criticism -even if warranted - (and particularly abuse) will not help.
- If you get a reply it's all going to be OK – ask for a date when the work will be done by.