

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Mike Masters
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Michael Russell MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

11th January 2016

A83 FURNACE-ALLT NA CEARDAICH SPEED LIMIT

Dear Michael,

We were appalled at the intransigence of Transport Scotland when they, yet again, refused to take heed of local opinion and continue their plan to introduce a 50 mph limit on this section of road.

Our reasons, which have already been clearly detailed to Transport Scotland, are not based on general guidelines or a theory of traffic management, but on recent accident data and the actual experiences of local people who use the road on a daily basis and those who need to use the footpath but are too frightened to do so.

As our discussions with Transport Scotland have progressed, the community has become more engaged with this issue and attention has turned to the speed limit within the village itself and to whole stretch of road between Furnace and Minard.

With this in mind, the Community Council decided to go beyond a simple petition and seek the opinion of local people on a range of options for this accident-prone section of road.

We sent volunteers out to every household in Furnace village and all the houses on the A83 between Furnace and Minard. I have enclosed original copies of the actual data recorded by the volunteers and the conclusions are very clear. Of the 122 respondents: -

91% want the speed limit on the A83 through Furnace Village reduced to 30 mph.

95% want the speed limit between Furnace and Allt na Ceardaich reduced to 40 mph.

97% want the speed limit between Allt na Ceardaich and Minard reduced to 50 mph or less, with opinion divided on whether it should be 40 mph or 50 mph.

Only 5% agree with Transport Scotland's proposal for a 50 mph limit between Furnace and Allt na Ceardaich.

Continued...

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The results could not be more compelling. I ask you now to deliver this survey, personally to the Transport Minister, Derek Mackay MSP, on behalf of the people of Furnace and ask him to instruct Transport Scotland to pay less heed to their general guidelines and listen to the overwhelming majority of local people who know this specific location better than anyone.

We are not asking for a tunnel under the Rest and be Thankful or a new bridge over the Forth. All we want is a small reduction in the speed limit on a dangerous stretch of road to help ensure the safety of local people and their children.

I am personally astounded at the time that this simple issue has taken up and the number of people involved. My own time and that of many members of our community, as well as a Scottish Minister, an MSP, a Police Scotland constable, and a whole string of Transport Scotland personnel. Just look at the long list of names copied into the dozens of emails now raised on this issue. The time taken multiplied by the salaries of those involved would be a frightening sum. A little flexibility and expediency taken by a single Transport Scotland manager should have sorted this issue long ago.

The feelings of the people of Furnace could not be more clear. Will the Scottish Government now act swiftly to reduce the speed limit on this section of road before someone gets killed?

Yours sincerely,

Mike Masters
Chair: Furnace Community Council