

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE  
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2000  
21 MARCH 2000

CARSEVIEW ROAD, FORFAR

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

**ABSTRACT**

This report recommends a solution to the long-standing problems associated with pedestrian and vehicle usage of the southern (unadopted) section of Carseview Road, Forfar, by project works estimated to cost £75,000 to be met by access to the Forfar Common Good Fund.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the relevant Committees agree:-

- (i) that in the interests of pedestrian safety and improved community amenity the following measures be carried out:-
  - (a) the improvement of the existing footway on Carseview Road between Market Street and the former railway bridge;
  - (b) the provision of a new footway between the railway bridge and the adopted section of Carseview Road;
  - (c) the provision of street lighting over the full length of the unadopted section (see attached plan);
  - (d) repairs to and the extension of the existing retaining wall on the east side of the road;
  - (e) replacement of the existing gullies and the repair and cleaning out of the existing surface water drainage system to bring it back into working order;
  - (f) the reconstruction of the carriageways to replace existing setts with an asphalt surface;
  - (g) the removal of the old railway bridge over the road.
- (ii) that on completion of these improvements the Council proceed in accordance with Section 1 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to allow the road to be added to the List of Public Roads.

- (iii) that the costs of the works proposed in (i) above (estimated at £75,000) be funded from the Forfar Common Good Fund.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

Report number 890/98 Carseview Road, Forfar – Improvement was approved by the Roads Committee on 27 August 1998. Various improvement measures were proposed for the unadopted section of Carseview Road and it was agreed that ownership and possible sources of funding should be investigated with a view to the work being carried out on behalf of the person(s) responsible for the maintenance of the road. It was agreed that a further report be brought back to Committee.

## 3 DETAILS

In conjunction with the Director of Property the ownership of the land adjacent to the road has been investigated. Unfortunately the ownership arrangements have turned out to be complicated and such that the prospects of the owners/frontagers improving the road, or even maintaining it to a reasonable standard are virtually nil. Various parts were initially in the ownership of Angus Marts, Webster and Patullo, and British Rail Property Board (now Rail Property Ltd). Angus Marts have sold on their land to Hastefront Ltd and Crudens, and part has subsequently been sold to R Wilson. Webster and Patullo have sold on their land to a company called Hastedrive Ltd. Angus Council now owns land ex adverso the Mart Office. Hastefront Ltd and Hastedrive Ltd have no assets and it would therefore be pointless for the Council to serve notice on the frontagers (under Section 13 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984) requiring them to make the road up to an adoptable standard. In all the circumstances therefore it is proposed that the best way to move the matter forward for the good of the community as a whole and in particular for the inhabitants of Forfar, would be for Angus Council to proceed with the improvement of Carseview Road by drawing on the Forfar Common Good Fund.

This section of Carseview Road serves as the most direct access from the town centre to the Forfar Athletic football ground, the ice rink and Suttieside Industrial Estate. The football ground and the ice rink are not only major recreational facilities for the people of Forfar and the surrounding area but also attract visitors to the town on match days, competitions and other events at these centres. The current state of dilapidation and dereliction of the Carseview Road approach does little to enhance the image of Forfar or to allow the promotion of these facilities as visitor attractions. Pedestrian movements can be high in relation to the Saturday market, football matches, auction sales, events and activities at the ice rink, together with the normal traffic to and from the industrial premises. The alternative access to the area is via Suttieside Road but this involves passage over a narrow bridge across the disused railway line. The footways at this bridge are very narrow and at times inadequate for the pedestrian traffic to and from the ice rink.

The disused railway bridge over Carseview Road has a height restriction of 11' – 0" and obscures visibility and street lighting. It is not waterproof and rainwater percolates through to the carriageway below causing damage to the sett joints and exacerbating the drainage problems on the road. It is therefore proposed to remove

this bridge, opening up the road to high-sided vehicles and making the route more attractive to pedestrians.

Before the bridge could be removed it would obviously be necessary to have the owner's permission, and logical to seek a contribution towards the costs of demolition and removal from the owner. Unfortunately it has not been possible to date to identify the owner. Approaches to the apparently most likely parties (Rail Property Ltd and Webster and Patullo) have produced a negative response regarding ownership. This issue is therefore still being investigated by the Director of Property and it may be necessary to carry out title search to allow the ownership question to be resolved.

The improvement of Carseview Road and the provision of the proposed new footway link will therefore have real benefits for the people of Forfar and for visitors to the recreational facilities. It is therefore considered appropriate that these improvements be funded from the Forfar Common Good Fund. On completion of the proposed improvements the road could be taken on to the List of Public roads to ensure its future maintenance and to relieve the Forfar Common Good Fund of any ongoing commitments.

#### 4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No provision exists within the current financial year Capital Estimates to accommodate the proposed works at Carseview Road, Forfar at the estimated cost of £75,000.

In addition due to the restricted overall financial resources projected to be available in future years it has not been possible to provide resources to fund "Unadopted Road" schemes in the draft 1999/2003 Financial Plan. The limited available resources have of necessity been concentrated on public roads infrastructure projects.

However this proposed project will be for the benefit of the community as a whole and in particular the people of Forfar and accordingly could fall to be met from the Forfar Common Good Fund.

The projected Revenue Account balance on the Fund at 31/3/00 is some £575,000 and a net income surplus of some £66,000 is currently anticipated in 2000/01. The Fund is in a healthy position and could accommodate this one-off expenditure outlay of £75,000.

The ongoing maintenance costs following adoption of the road are estimated at £1500 per annum and these would require to be contained within future years' Roads Revenue Budgets.

#### 5 **CONSULTATION**

In order to test public opinion on the use of the Forfar Common Good Fund for this purpose, views were sought on the proposals in response to a feature article giving full details of the proposed scheme which was published in the Forfar Dispatch and Herald on 3 February 2000. Anyone who had a view on the proposal was urged to

write to the local member, Cllr Bill Middleton, to make their opinions known (whether for or against).

The vast majority of responses received were in favour of the proposed scheme, and, on the assumption that people would have been more inclined to respond if they were against the proposal than if they were for it, this was taken as being indicative of a very positive response.

The local members for Forfar have all been consulted on the proposed scheme and the use of the Forfar Common Good Fund for this purpose and are all in favour.

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Director of Property Services have also been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 6 CONCLUSION

In order to address the long-standing problems associated with the unadopted section of Carseview Road and to provide improved access to major recreational facilities in Forfar it is proposed that Angus Council carry out improvements to allow the road to be added to the List of Public Roads and that the capital costs be charged to the Forfar Common Good Fund.

Dr Bob McLellan  
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

### NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Report No 890/98 Carseview Road, Forfar – Improvement – Angus Council Roads Committee - 27August 1998.

RWM/PP  
11 January 2000  
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