

# Dornoch Area Community Council

Mr. M.H.Taylor  
Divisional Engineer, Department  
of Roads and Transport  
Divisional Engineer's Office  
Victoria Road  
Brora KW9 6QN

15<sup>th</sup> May, 1985

Dear Mr. Taylor,

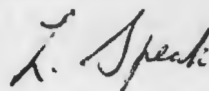
The Community Council at their recent Annual General Meeting discussed the proposed improvements to the War Memorial site, and more particularly the implications for the situation at the end of Poles road. I was asked to pass on to you the sense of the meeting.

There are several considerations. There is the proposed low wall round the War Memorial, the agreed footpath from the A949 to B 9168, the need for a footpath in front of Torranroy, and the need for a much safer junction of the B9168 with A949. This last, we realise, is a major matter for to make it safe the B9168 needs to enter A949 at an angle nearer to right-angle. This means some adaptation to the War Memorial site and possibly moving the War Memorial itself to allow for the new alignment.

Of course, the Council are aware that a complete consideration of the area may delay the wall around the War Memorial site. However, once a new wall is built, the opportunity for a completely satisfactory solution to all the problems around this area will be lost. The Community Council view, however, is that the whole site should be considered, and the opportunity taken of re-aligning the junction of B9168 with A949.

I apologise for not letting you have this conclusion

Yours sincerely,



(L.Speak, Secretary)

cc Regional Councillor Col. A.M.Gilmour  
District Councillor Mr. J.K.Bell  
District Councillor Mr. R.H.Mackay

Secretary: L. Speak, Rowan Crescent, Dornoch, IV25 3AL Tel.(0862) 810616

4. JUNCTION A949 and B9168: It was reported that the Divisional Engineer had sent draft plans for improving the junction at the Dornoch end of the Poles Road. These improved safety for drivers and pedestrians by moving the War Memorial some yards towards Dornoch onto a new area, providing footpaths and making a T-junction at the end of Poles Road. The draft was on the same principle as a suggestion from Dr Robertson and also with the Community Council's suggestions of some months ago.

It was agreed that the Secretary write giving the support of the Community Council for the draft plan and noting the necessary co-operation of the Highland Region (roads) and the District Council (War Memorial) for the expeditious handling of the improvements.

5. PUBLICITY BOOKLET: Mr Cameron reported on the progress made since the last meeting. Tenders have been received for printing and it was agreed that the lowest - £3,274 - be accepted. This, with the original cost of £800 + VAT would mean a total outlay of approximately £4,100. The expected advertising was expected to raise £2,250 and an application for grant had been made to HIDB and grant of £1,900 was hoped for. When the grant was approved a letter with the Chairman's signature will be sent out to potential advertisers along with rates and order form. When advertising has been taken up production - of 20,000 copies - will be put in hand. The Council approved the progress so far and the plans projected, and the Chairman thanked Mr Cameron for his work on the project.

6. SECONDARY EDUCATION IN EAST SUTHERLAND: The Council had been circulated with a digest, prepared by the Secretary, of the consultative paper written by the Divisional Education Officer. That paper presented four options based on forecasts of the number of pupils up to 1991.

It was reported that the issues had been discussed by other bodies in Dornoch, particularly parents of existing pupils. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Secretary write to the Divisional Education Office to express the support of the Community Council for the view of the Parent Teacher Association that Dornoch Academy should be upgraded to a 4-year secondary school.

7. PROPOSED REFUSE TIP - ACHINCHANTER : District Councillor R.H. Mackay reported that the Environmental Health Committee of Sutherland District Council had agreed to apply for planning permission to use the site at Achinchanter Quarry for the tipping of refuse, the owners - Sutherland Estates - being agreeable. He pointed out that the proposal was for the tipping of crude refuse, the resultant smell, rats and seagulls, as well as blown refuse, being extremely detrimental to the major amenity of Royal Dornoch Golf Course with the fifth tee alongside the proposed dump.

It was pointed out that planning permission had been refused in 1980. There was general dismay and disbelief at the proposal. The Secretary was empowered, on behalf of the Community Council, to object in the strongest terms at the appropriate time.

8. SHELTER AND EMPTY HOUSING: The Secretary had received a letter from Shelter's Rural Housing Initiative seeking the Community Council's aid in identifying the owners of empty houses which might be used to house families seeking accommodation until they could be housed permanently. There were benefits to all parties, including owners, for such short-term arrangements.

It was pointed out that the East Sutherland Council of Social Service were consulting with the representative of Shelter on the best method of proceeding on this matter. It was agreed to delay response until after these consultations.

# Dornoch Area Community Council

5th September, 1985

M.H. Taylor, C.Eng., M.I.C.E.  
Divisional Engineer  
Divisional Engineer's Office  
Victoria Road  
Brora KW9 6QN

Dear Mr. Taylor,

A949/B9168 Junction, Dornoch

Thank you for your letter of 22nd August, along with draft plan of the above junction, which you sent to our chairman, Mr. D. A. Goskirk, on August 22nd. The draft plans were discussed at the meeting of the community council on September 2nd.

Members of the community council have been concerned for some time at the dangers to vehicles, pedestrians and children at the junction as it exists at present. They welcome therefore your draft plan which provides footpath protection for pedestrians coming from town up the Poles Road, a similar protection along the front of Torranroy, and a much safer exit, with better vision, for motorists leaving the Poles Road. We welcome, therefore your draft plan and wish you every success.

The improvements involve the two roads, the footpaths and moving the War Memorial. We would stress the need for the relevant departments of Highland Region and Sutherland District to work closely together to process the work expeditiously and to conceive of the project as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

*L. Speak*

cc Col. A.M. Gilmour, Regional Councillor  
District Councillor Mr. J.K. Bell  
District Councillor Mr. R.H. Mackay

(L. Speak, Secretary)

*A.M. May*

*D.G. - B. Ash  
thought of Ashburnside*

Secretary · L. Speak Esq.  
Rowan Crescent,  
Dornoch, IV25 3AL  
Tel. Dornoch (0862) 810616

Surrey  
8/10/85

Donoch War Memorial.

Dear Roddy,

I was privileged to attend the unveiling ceremony in, I think, the Summer of 1922, by Mrs Reed. I can still vividly remember the lovely sunny day.

Regarding the re-siting there can only be one suitable solution. By placing it in the square between the old Post Office and the old Police Station.

You would solve Donoch's main traffic problems by creating a traffic island.

Perhaps you can remember the various schemes proposed for Donoch Square in the

1930's & 40's when sand-bags were laid out. On several occasions I advocated to "The Red Walkers" as I do now.

As to leaving the solution to the Community Council - aren't they all incomes to the Royal Burgh, and why should they make the decision?

Finally, the Free Church has as much right to it as the Cathedral.

Council in its objection to level crossings. Single letters of objection from individuals were more effective than petitions. British Rail's problem was one of finance and they were now trying to put a package together.

The Scottish Office intends to go out to tender, on a design and construct basis, for the road bridge in 1986, having now some resources. This will happen whether it is for a combined road/rail bridge or a road bridge only.

- (v) The route of the line has changed again and will now come up on the landward side of the Low Road, not in a loop by Clashmore.

After discussion the Community Council instructed the secretary to place an objection on behalf of the Council to the provision of level crossings around Dornoch at the appropriate stage in the procedure.

Mr. Sorley left the meeting and Mr. D.A. Goskirk joined the meeting during the following discussion. Mr. Ashplant remained in the Chair.

5. JUNCTION A949 & B9168: The Chairman gave an outline of the history of this junction and the War Memorial. The Community Council raised the question of a footpath for pedestrians from Castle Street to Poles Road in May, 1980 and a meeting on site with the Roads Department was held that summer. There was then no money available but the position was noted for further action. At the same time the condition of the War Memorial was discussed.

In 1984 the Community Council organised a collection for the repair and maintenance of the War Memorial. At present £490 is held in Deposit Account for this.

In September 1984 the Roads Department took up the question of the footpath. The Community Council asked if the Roads Department had any plans for the junction.

In August 1985 the Roads Department sent the Community Council a plan for the road junction which by moving the War Memorial a few yards to the East would provide a footpath from Castle Street to Poles Road, a footpath along the front of Torranroy, an improved junction of Poles Road and Evelix Road and a site for the War Memorial. At their meeting on September 2nd the Community Council supported this plan on grounds of safety.

In further amplification the Chairman pointed out that at the Public Meeting on the re-design of the Square there was general opposition to any move of the War Memorial to the Square. The question of a postal ballot, mentioned in the press, had yet to be discussed by the Council.

In discussion, first among Community Council members and later thrown open to all, the following points were raised:

- (a) The Roads Department have set aside a sum for the work to be done, £20,000 before the end of March 1986 and £25,000 in the next financial year.
- (b) Col. Gilmour referred to other memorials which had been moved. It would be properly done.
- (c) It was important for the War Memorial to be on a site where a Service of Remembrance could be held. The new site provided for this.

- (d) Mr. P. Grant quoted from the account of the handing over of the War Memorial into the custody of Provost Mackintosh "to be held in honour and reverence for all time."
- (e) Mr. Andrew MacLeod considered that those whose names were inscribed on the Memorial would have been the first to be concerned about the problems of road safety.
- (f) District Councillor Mr. Bell gave details of the sculptor and referred to other examples of his distinguished work.
- (g) It was desirable for it to be possible to walk round the Memorial. The new site provided for this.

There was some discussion on the possibility of a postal ballot and the difficulties and problems of such a ballot were considered. It was decided that the Community Council would not hold such a ballot on this occasion.

After the discussion the position was thus summarised:

"The Community Council made a decision at its meeting on September 2nd, 1985, in the interests of road safety, to support the plan put forward by the Roads Department for changes to the War Memorial site. The Community Council re-affirm their support at this present meeting."

It was pointed out that proposed changes did not always keep to the submitted plan. It was therefore agreed that the support of the Community Council was dependent upon the work being carried out according to the plan submitted by the Roads Department.

It was further pointed out that the plan was in outline only and there were many details which needed to be decided, such as areas for paving and areas for grass, the angle of the War Memorial, all of which will need to be carefully considered. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to discuss these points and liaise with the Roads Department. It was agreed that the British Legion and the Seaforth Highlanders should be represented on this sub-committee. Mr. A. MacLeod agreed to serve.

#### 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) Mrs. Oman pointed out that the rose bushes in front of the Masonic Building need renewing. District Councillor Mr. Mackay agreed to liaise with Mr. Morrison on this matter with authority to spend up to £50 from Community Council funds.
- (ii) It transpired that the rubbish outside the old Post Office was for the building contractor to move. Mr. Goskirk agreed to have a word with the contractor.
- (iii) The Treasurer reported that the credit balance of the Community Council stood at £395.

#### 7. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was arranged for Monday, December 9th.

The Chairman thanked all who had attended, members of the Council and members of the public, and closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

During discussion the following points were made:

- (a) Power failure would be relevant to the safety factor. It might be possible to obtain from the Hydro-Electric Board a list of power failures over the past few years.
- (b) Children attending Dornoch Academy from Camore were at risk, and also adults walking to Dornoch on this route.
- (c) The Community Council were supported in their stand against level crossings by the Police, the Tourist Officer and the Parent-Teacher Association at the Academy. The support of the Schools Council would also be sought.
- (d) The Chairman would seek a meeting with the Member of Parliament to ask for his help in continuance of his support already given.

It was agreed that the petition should be based on the grounds of safety, especially of children, and the loss of amenity in the circling of Dornoch by level crossings.

It was agreed that the Community Council should seek the help of Sutherland District Council, asking the District Council if it would take financial responsibility for the provision of legal advice and legal representation.

The Community Council re-affirmed its decision to oppose the level crossings by petition.

#### WAR MEMORIAL and A949/B9168 Junction

Col. Gilmour outlined the position regarding the War Memorial which was different from that hitherto assumed. The procedure is not under planning permission but under the Roads Act, and the department responsible is the Roads Department. As the question is controversial the Roads Department will advertise its proposals and will provide a more detailed plan. It will then be open for members of the public and for organisations to put their point of view to the Roads Department for or against the plan. The Roads Department will seek to reach agreement on the basis of submissions made. If it does not achieve agreement, the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State for his decision.

The following points were made in discussion:

- (a) The Rev. J. A. Simpson pointed out the danger of negotiating the junction and the greater danger for traffic from Cnoc-an-Lobht.
- (b) Mr. J. Grant opposed any move of the War Memorial and quoted support which he had received for this view as put forward in his letter to the Northern Times.
- (c) The Chairman reported that he had not yet approached the British Legion or the Seaforth Highlanders regarding representation on the sub-committee proposed at the last meeting. This had awaited clarification of the procedure.

- (d) There had been some misunderstanding about the possibility of a postal ballot. The Council had not taken a decision to hold such a ballot. The officers had obtained details of cost and procedure should the Council so decide. In the event the Council decided not to hold a ballot.

In summing up the Chairman pointed out that the procedure was now much clearer. The Roads Department would be publishing their plans and by advertisement inviting all who wished to put their point of view. He welcomed this opportunity for everyone and at the same time thanked all who had expressed a view to the Community Council.

5. POLICE MATTERS: Chief Inspector Black reported:

(i) The Police would be distributing to charities in Sutherland the sum of £1,200 raised by the Police Gala at Embo and other events. The WRVS who provided the 'Meals on Wheels' Service would receive a substantial amount and donations would also be made to Cambusavie Hospital, Migdale Hospital, Oversteps, the Scouts and other organisations.

(ii) The Police would be taking their part in the national campaign this Christmas to prevent drinking and driving.

(iii) Chief Inspector Black thanked the Community Council for their courtesy and cooperation over the past twelve months. In accepting these thanks the Chairman in turn thanked the Chief Inspector for his help and advice at all times.

6. ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL: The Community Council needs to complete elections for the next three-year period by the end of March. The Secretary gave some details of the procedure on the last such occasion. The first requirement will be the appointment of a Returning Officer. The officers were authorised to approach suitable persons and the Treasurer was authorised to make modest payment for the work involved.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) The secretary reported on a request from the Tourist Office for suggestions for walks around Dornoch. These to be possibly included in a booklet on Walks in Sutherland. It was pointed out that two such walks with descriptions were already provided. The Heritage Society were also in contact.
- (b) The Secretary had received an invitation for the Council to make a donation to the Highland Scanner Appeal. This had been sent to the previous chairman. It was decided that the Council is not in a position to make donations to charities, but it was also noted that the people of Dornoch have subscribed generously to this and other charities.
- (c) Before the meeting Col. Gilmour had given notice that the Roads Committee will shortly be considering their programme for 1986-7. He invited the comments of the Community Council. It was agreed to take this item at the next meeting.

(d) /



# Roinn na Gaidhealtachd



# Highland

Department of Planning  
D. Polson M.A., M.Sc., M.R.T.P.I.  
Divisional Planning Officer  
Sutherland Division

Highland Regional Council  
Divisional Planning Office  
District Council Offices  
The Meadows  
Dornoch

Telephone 0862 810495  
Facsimile 0862 810495

Please ask for: Mr Polson

Ext no:

Our ref: SU/1985/245/DP/EB

Your ref:

Date: 24 June 1991

Mr H Steele  
Straven  
Roseberry Avenue  
DORNOCH

Dear Sir

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
DORNOCH WAR MEMORIAL

You are aware of the scheme to improve the junction of Poles Road with Castle Street/Evelix Road which involves moving the War Memorial to accommodate the junction arrangement.

Following lengthy discussion during 1985/86, the matter was referred to the Secretary of State for Scotland who chose not to require an application to be submitted for his determination.

Planning permission was deemed to be granted, therefore, and the principle of the scheme is not at question here.

However, the precise siting of the Memorial and the details of the treatment to the surroundings were left to be agreed by the Director of Planning prior to the scheme commencing.

I have been discussing the detail of the scheme on behalf of the Director of Planning, and the Roads Department has now produced a layout which, I feel, represents the best possible solution and I enclose a copy for your information.

I believe that in so far as it is possible to do so, the scheme as drawn up will best accommodate the needs and wishes of the wider Dornoch community, and this is important.

You will note that the Memorial is sited parallel to the rear retaining wall and because of the levels, set down below the footpath and separated from it by a low masonry wall. Ornamental bollards and chain are required along the top, in the interests of safety, but access to the Memorial itself is provided at the Poles Road end, and by a set of steps from the Castle Street end.

The vicinity of the Memorial is to be set out in paving slabs similar to those now used in Castle Street. The footpath will also be finished in this material.

During the Service of Remembrance, the extensive paved and grassed area to the front of the Memorial itself will easily accommodate those participating in the ceremony, and yet soften the appearance throughout the rest of the year when the shrubbery, rose beds and seats will provide an appropriate, and at the same time, attractive, environment. In effect, this will create a small garden of remembrance, complementing the Memorial in a way which both befits and fulfils its purpose.

In these terms, I am confident that the proposal will ensure that the Memorial can remain a focus of the community and that the Legion will be able to lend its support to the detail of the scheme before it is finally approved by the Director of Planning.

I would be happy to clarify the proposals to you and to meet with you to discuss it in more depth, if you feel that it would be useful, but an early response would be welcome since the scheme is to be implemented shortly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Divisional Planning Officer

cc Cllr Col A M Gilmour  
J Bell, Dornoch Heritage Society  
A Ewan, Dornoch Community Council  
Divisional Roads Engineer  
Director of Planning  
Director of Technical and Housing Services

House "Poyntzfield"



POLES ROAD



Groachen

Gilldonald

St. Gilbert.

Golf View.

PP

MH

FM

Letter Box

PP

FH

602' Sign

602' Sign

House "Torranroy"

Trees

Shelter for school patrol

'602' Sign

SV

SV

'602' Sign

LP

War Memorial (to be resited)

MH

MH

G

BT

G

LP

MH

CNOC

BT