

Agenda Item	10
Report No	CIA/7/19

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness

Date: 21 February 2019

Report Title: Smithton Primary Safer Routes to School

Report By: Director of Community Services

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report invites Members to approve the traffic calming measures proposed for Smithton Park, to which there is one outstanding objection. The proposed traffic calming feature is on the route to Smithton Primary School and is proposed as part of their Safer Routes to School Scheme.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the traffic calming feature on Smithton Park.

3 Background

- 3.1 As part of the ongoing Safer Routes to School programme the Council's Road Safety Team has been working with Smithton Primary School to update their School Travel Plan. The aim of this work is to increase the number of pupils using sustainable transport for their school journey. The new School Travel Plan has highlighted crossing Smithton Park as an area of concern for parents/carers and thus it is a barrier to the use of sustainable transport for this school journey.
- 3.2 Funding has been allocated for the implementation of the scheme during the current financial year from the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets grant.

4 Proposed Traffic Calming

- 4.1 The proposed traffic calming feature, a build out, on Smithton Park was designed primarily to reduce the crossing width to one lane and improve pedestrian visibility. This feature has the added benefit of helping to reduce vehicle speed due to the fact it is a build out resulting in a priority give way feature. The feature is in a 20 mph speed limit. **Appendix 1** Plan showing the proposed traffic calming and crossing location.
Appendix 2 Statement of Reasons
- 4.2 Plans for the proposed traffic calming feature (build out) were sent to Ward Members. Members were supportive of the proposals. The Emergency Services, Community Council, Freight Transport Association, Highland Cycle Campaign and Bus Companies were also consulted. There were no objections from any of these bodies. The proposal was then advertised in the local press and letters were sent to premises on the affected streets (or part streets). The deadline for representations and objection was 28 November 2018.

5 Objections

- 5.1 One objection was received during the consultation period. In view of the desire to progress with the proposed scheme this report is being brought to the City of Inverness Committee to seek approval for the installation of the traffic calming feature on Smithton park.
- 5.2 The objection is on the grounds that the proposed feature will reduce the amount of on street parking available on Smithton Park. A summary of communication is provided at **Appendix 3**. Copies of the objection and communications with the Council Officer are provided at **Appendix 4**.

6 Implications

- 6.1 Resource - There are no resource implications as the proposal is being funded through the Cycling Walking Safer Streets Grant.
- 6.2 Legal - There are no legal obligations.
- 6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Lower vehicle speeds and a reduced crossing width aims to reduce the risk to vulnerable road users.
- 6.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - Increasing the number of pupils using sustainable transport for the school journey will help to reduce carbon emissions.

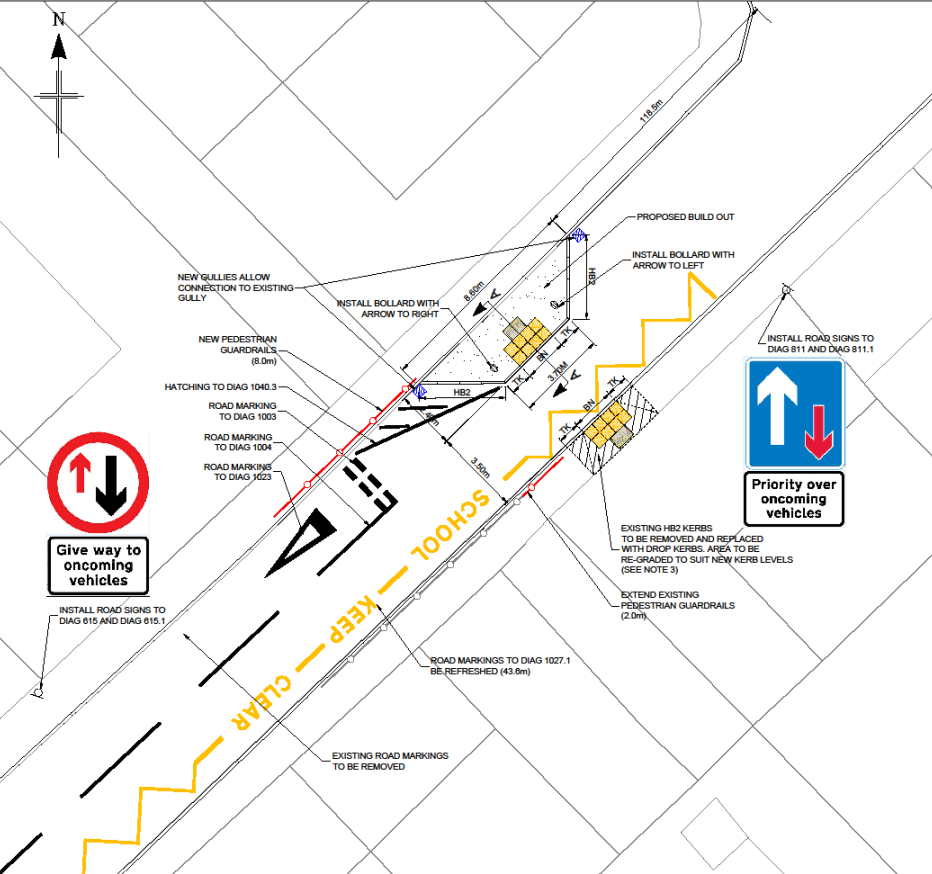
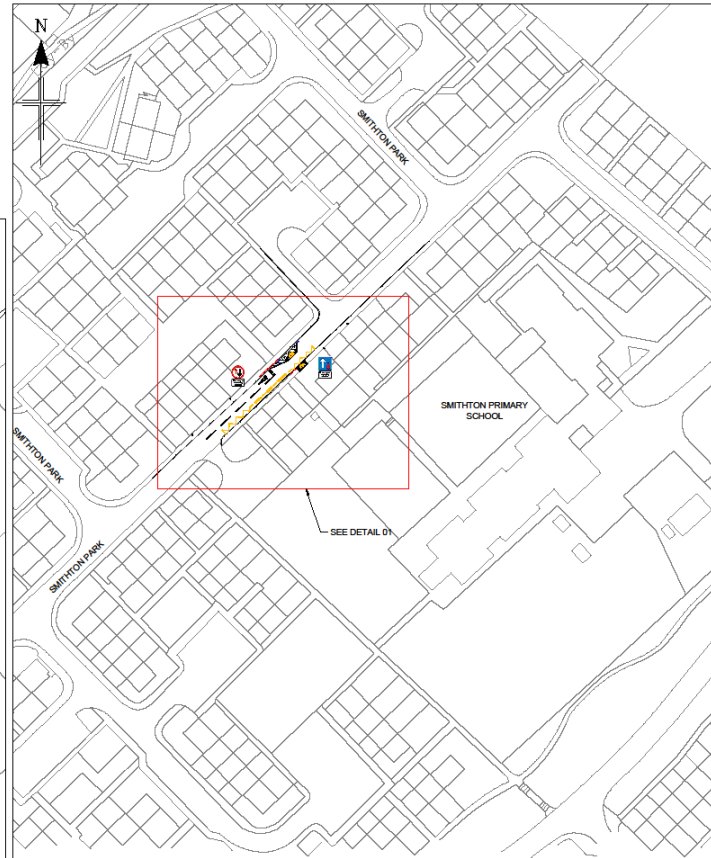
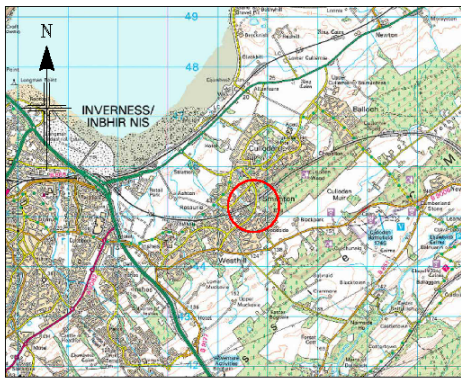
6.5 Risk - There are no risk implications arising from this report.

6.6 Gaelic - There are no Gaelic or Rural implications.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 31 January 2019

Author: Ross Bartlett, Technician



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- NOTES
- LEGEND:
 - PROPOSED GULLY
 - PROPOSED BUILD-OUT
 - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN GUARDRAILS
 - EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE RE-GRADED TO SUIT NEW KERB LEVELS
 - TACTILE PAVEMENT 450x450mm
 - HB2 - HALF BATTERED FULL HEIGHT KERB
 - BN - BULLNOSED KERB (1.8m)
 - TK - TRANSITION KERB
 - STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN MARKING (300 x 600mm)
 - TIE IN TO EXISTING ROAD FOR NEW DROP KERBS FOR FOOTPATH RE-GRADED SHALL BE AS PER - DRAWING 102-DETAIL 02

DRAFT ISSUE

REV	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
01	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX

The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
 DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
 PROJECT DESIGN UNIT
 COUNCIL BUILDINGS
 HIGH STREET
 DINGWALL IV15 9GN
 PHONE: 01349 888800
 E-MAIL: PDU.DT2@highland.gov.uk

PROJECT
 SMITHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
 CYCLING, WALKING AND
 SAFER STREETS
 (SRTS)

TITLE CONSTRUCTION OF BUILD-OUT	
SCALE AS SHOWN	ORIGINAL SIZE A1 (894 x 841)
DRAWN ALG	DATE 12/10/2018
CHECKED IM	DATE 18/12/2018
PROJECT No. YCHVS3018	
DRAWING No. 101	REVISION 1

T:\001_Design Team 2009_Small_Schemes_Projects\H453017_Safer Routes To School\2018 - 2019 Schemes\YCHVS3018_Smitton Primary School\Drawings\SMITHTON_PRIMARY_LAYOUT_01_181218.dwg 30/01/2019 User:1506

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROPOSE TO CONSTRUCT A BUILD-OUT
UNCONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON U1846 SMITHTON PARK AT
SMITHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL - INVERNESS**

Statement of Reasons

In order to improve road safety for children walking and cycling to and from Smithton Primary School.

Appendix 3

Person	Date Received	Summary	Officer Comment
Objector	15/11/18	The objection is on the grounds that the proposed traffic calming feature will reduce the amount of available on street parking outside of the properties on Smithton Park.	Summary of telephone call on 16/11/18, Council officer explained the proposed feature is being built within a current parking restriction which is being removed which will create additional on street parking instead of reducing it. Objector then raised concerns about vehicles being unable to get passed the proposed restriction.
	18/11/18	Objection unresolved on the grounds of perceived depleted parking.	<p>Email 21/11/18, further explanation given regarding how the removal of the School Keep Clear parking restriction will create additional on street parking. Council officer as the objector to explain how they feel parking will be reduced. An offer was also made to meet onsite to discuss the objection.</p> <p>Due to no response a follow up letter was sent 04/12/18 explaining the scheme consultation was being advertised in the local press.</p>
	27/12/18	Objection remains unresolved on the ground of perceived reduced on street car parking and the objector feels speed bumps would be a better solution. The email also highlights the objectors concerns regarding the small carpark on Smithton Park being unsafe.	Email sent to objector 28/12/18 from Council officer, explains that the aim of the proposed feature is to provide a safer crossing point for the pupils of Smithton Primary School and the Community by reducing road width so speed bumps would not achieve this aim.

			<p>Highlighted current options for on street parking which were:-</p> <p>1 to replace the current School Keep Clear marking with a double yellow line which would mean no change to the current available parking.</p> <p>2 to leave the scheme as designed which will increase on street parking and provide a safer crossing point.</p> <p>An offer was also made to investigate lining the existing car park on Smithton Park to improve parking. This is dependent on the surface condition of the carpark and scheme approval.</p> <p>A further offer of a site visit to meet the objector discuss their objection was made.</p>
			<p>Letter 31/01/18, informing the objector that the objection is unresolved and will be presented to the Inverness City Committee on 21/02/18</p>

Appendix 4

Ross Bartlett

From: Ross Bartlett
Sent: 28 December 2018 12:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Smithton Primary - Safer routes to school scheme

Dear [REDACTED]

The process for public consultation is set out and if there are unresolved objections they are taken to the Elected Members at committee for them to decide if we can get the approval to construct the scheme. My role is to get a full understanding of the grounds for objections so I can either resolve them where possible or present them to committee for the Members consideration.

The aim of this project is to provide the pupils of the school a safer crossing over Smithton Park at the location proposed which is why the proposal is to narrow the road to one lane so there is a shorter crossing. This narrowing has the added benefit of reducing vehicle speeds on the road but this was not the primary reason for the road narrowing which is why speed bumps were not considered.

With regards to the scheme interfering with the current on street parking I have now offered two options:

Option one was to add a double yellow line to the current proposal to replace the current school keep clear marking which was being removed. This would mean there was no change to the current legal parking arrangements on Smithton Park.

Option two was to leave to proposal as it is, removing the school keep clear parking restriction from one side of the street creating additional space for on street parking.

With regards to the carpark I will carry out a site visit in the new year to see if the surface condition is suitable for painting. If it is I can investigate having parking bays marked out in the current space available at the same time as the lining is done for this scheme.

Currently you have rejected both option but if either of the options mentioned with the addition of lining the carpark resolve you objection please let me know. I will be keeping your objection as unresolved unless I hear from you to say otherwise. If these do not resolve your objection and you would like to meet on site to discuss the issue further then please let me know dates and times you are available and we can arrange a meeting. This is often the easiest way to clear things up and come to an agreement. With

regards to dates it would need to wait until the week of the 14th of January, I could not grantee anything sooner as I will have paternity leave at some point in early January.

If you do not wish to discuss on site and your objection is unresolved after the closing date for consultation I will inform you how we are proceeding. My preference is to try and resolve objections so I am hoping we can work together to do this.

Kind Regards,

Ross Bartlett.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 December 2018 20:40
To: Ross Bartlett
Subject: Re: Smithton Primary - Safer routes to school scheme

Hi [REDACTED]
I am working on the principle of. Your council so no matter what is said your going to do it any way. In thirty years no child had been knocked down on the road and please believe me I am happy with that. However the car park itself as far as I am aware has had four superstar incidents where parents have reversed and knocked into children in the car park.
I am still in dispute over the chicane which you are proposing and feel the money would be better spent by installing speed bumps in the same area. This would not interfere with the on street parking, or add congestion to the residential parking.
I again am notifying you that I object to the proposal and feel that an alternative option of speed bumps at regular intervals along the length of the street would not only be a more cost affective option and remain in keeping to the final objective without the interference to the current parking on the street.
Many thanks again

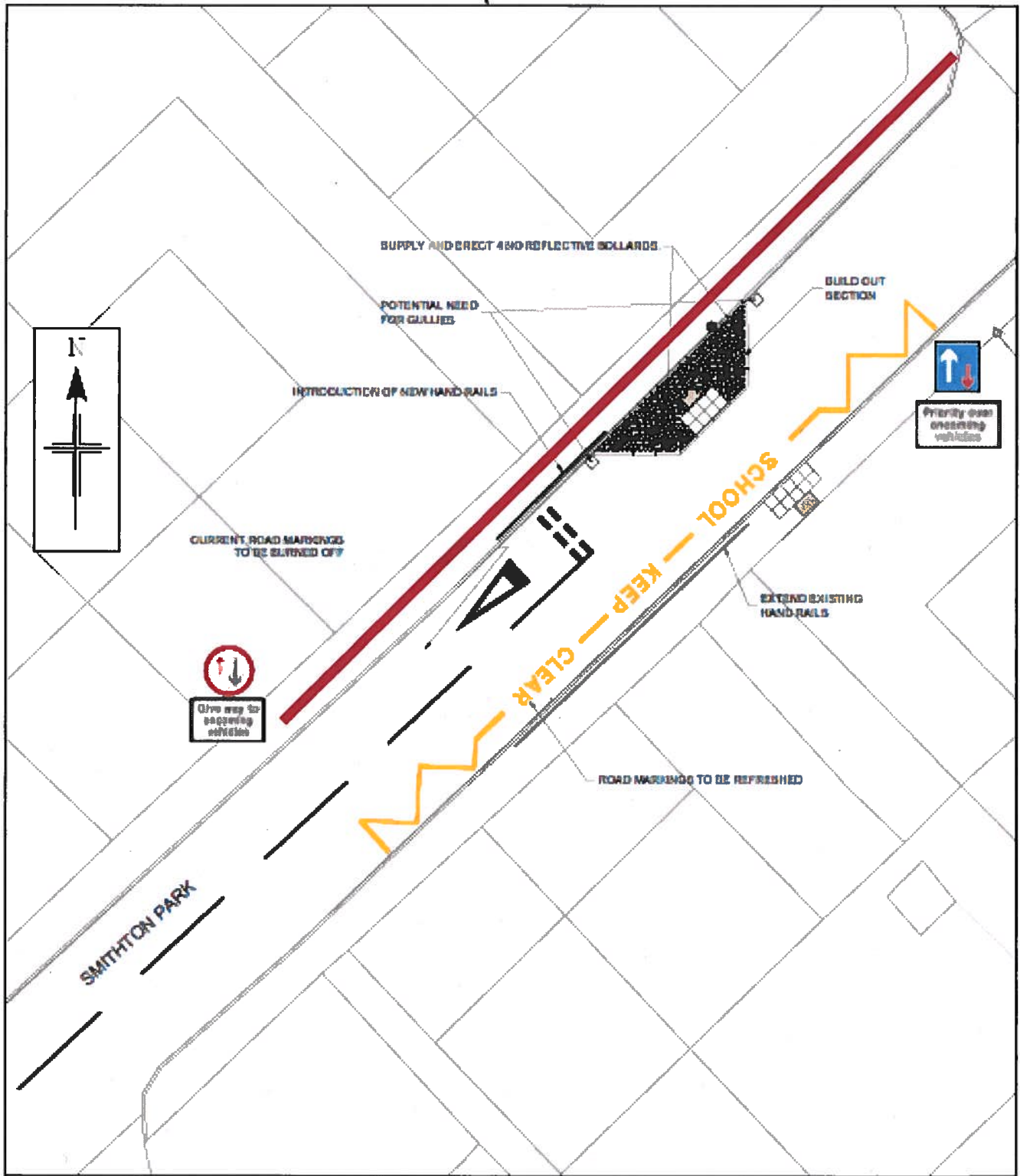
On Nov 21, 2018, at 10:54, Ross Bartlett [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED]

I would be grateful if you could explain how you believe parking will be depleted in the area as a result of the measures? See the plan below, I have marked your property and the current limit of the school keep clear markings. The length of the current parking restriction has been marked with a red line on the pavement. As a result of removing this parking restriction we are creating more space for on street parking. There are no plans to change the School Keep Clear markings on your side of the road other than repaint them. There would be little benefit in putting a daytime only parking restriction in place.

If you would find it easier to discuss this in person I would be happy to meet you on site to try and resolve this issue.

<image002.png><image004.png><image008.jpg>



GENERAL ARRANGEMENT AREA 1
SCALE 1:125

Regards,
Ross Bartlett
Technician
Highland Council – Community Services
Road Safety Team
Glenurquhart Road,
Inverness, IV3 5NX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 November 2018 19:16
To: Ross Bartlett
Subject: Re: Smithton Primary - Safer routes to school scheme

Evening Ross

To confirm that I think the planned priority access will result in residential parking being depleted at the give way area. Double yellow lines may be a way forward but only if the restriction is during day time hours. And allowing evening parking outside there property. There is not enough parking spaces in the car park for all the residents that the will be affected.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2018, at 15:04, Ross Bartlett [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

To summarise our telephone conversation your objection to the scheme on Smithton Park is that you feel the removal of the current parking restriction (School Keep Clear) marking will increase the on street parking and make stacking for the give way at the build out difficult. As a result of the increased parking you feel people will accelerate to clear the parked cars and build out instead of giving way.

The possible solution you feel would be to maintain the current parking restriction with the installation of a double yellow line from the build out in a south westerly direction to where the current school keep clear marking ends.

If you could confirm you feel this is an accurate account it would be much appreciated.

Regards,
Ross Bartlett
Technician
Highland Council – Community Services
Road Safety Team
Glenurquhart Road,
Inverness, IV3 5NX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2018 16:40
To: Ross Bartlett
Subject: Smithton Primary - Safer routes to school scheme

On return from work today I received a letter of notification from your department informing us of the planned scheme of safer Routes for pupils of Smithton Primary school to cross to school. I would like to draw to your attention that I as resident at [REDACTED] acknowledge this change to the road [REDACTED] I see that the planned priority changes to the road way will cause congestion and parking problems to the residents in immediate proximity to the proposed change.



is congested how it is. [redacted] the row of houses park outside their back gates which will make the already congested parking area more congested, as will the occupants further down the street. Unless the highland council have plans to ensure there is plenty of parking made available within the carpark (painting parking bays) and the grassed area converted to allow for additional car parking spaces.

We have two vehicles at our property, there are other residents with 2 & 3 vehicles to their properties and my [redacted] has had [redacted] car damaged due to the lack of space to park as have we. The planned area also has a resident with a disabled parking bay. At present there are approximately 13 properties which are going to find that they are unable to park their cars within close proximity to their property.

I feel sure that you are making the changes for the safety of the children but need to address the parking problems which this is going to cause. I have tried to make contact through the telephone number of the letter from your department but the number is not available so can only imagine that the contact details is their just for the "feel good factor" and not for the residents to actually make contact. I would appreciate firstly an acknowledgment from yourself on receipt of this email and secondly a response as to how you plan to make the change to allow for the community affected.. Designated parking bays with a parking permit is one answer, allowing for residents to choose whether they want to walk from the main road or alternative carpark. The grassed area presently around the carpark could be changed to allow for more parking bays and painted parking bays will help residents to park their vehicles respecting other residents.

I look forward to hearing from you further with regards to this proposed changes and the alleviation of loss of residential parking.

yours sincerely



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Delivering
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**Listening * Open * Valuing * Improving * Supporting * Partnering * Delivering
Èisteachd * Fosgailte * Luach * Leasachadh * Taic * Com-pàirteachas * Libhrigeadh**



Please ask for: Ross Bartlett
Email: [Redacted]
Our Ref: Smithton Park build-out
Date: 4th December 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Smithton Primary School Safer Routes to School Scheme

I am writing to you in response to your email dated 18th November 2018 objecting to the proposed build-out and uncontrolled crossing point on Smithton Park. The closing date for the first phase of consultation has now passed and I am therefore proceeding to the next consultation for this scheme. This letter is to inform you that a notice for the scheme will be advertised in the Inverness Courier on the 11th of December with a closing date for any objections of 3rd of January 2019.

To ensure you have received my response dated 21st of November 2018 to your email I have enclosed a copy with this letter. As you can see from the enclosed email I would be grateful if you could explain how you feel the parking in the area will be depleted as a result of the proposed build-out? Within the enclosed email there is a sketch showing the extents of the current parking restriction in red which are being removed as part of the proposed works. Removing this parking restriction will by default increase the available on street parking.

If you do not respond to this letter or my earlier email by the 1st of January 2019 I will consider your objection resolved.

Yours sincerely

Ross Bartlett
Technician

Enclosed: Email Response 21st November 2018



Please ask for: Ross Bartlett

Email:



Our Ref:

Smithton Park build-out

Date:

31st January 2019

Dear



Smithton Primary School Safer Routes to School Scheme

Further to my email of 28th December 2018, I am writing to you with regards to your previous objection to the proposed traffic calming on Smithton Park.

With any scheme we are asked to implement we have to work to strict Council processes. I therefore would like to confirm your objection will be heard by the Elected Members at the Inverness City Committee on the 21st February 2019 and the Members will decide if the objection to the scheme stands.

As per my previous correspondence I am more than happy to discuss this with you before the Committee if you wish withdraw.

Yours sincerely

Ross Bartlett
Technician

