

Agenda Item	CIA/24/24
Report No	9

The Highland Council

Committee: City of Inverness Area

Date: 19 August 2024

Report Title: Petition for speed limit change on A833

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of a petition submitted by Robrae Ltd, represented by Kenny Spink of Spink Architectural Design Ltd requesting that the Highland Council re-classify the section of the A833 road stretching south from Belladrum to the Convinth junction from national speed limit to 40mph.
- 1.2 The petition has been considered by the local community and has a total number of signatories of 164. The petition has been accepted by Highland Council and will be presented to the City of Inverness Area Committee for review and permission for further analysis. The submitted petition is attached within **Appendix 1**.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to **note** the contents of the petition and this report and consider granting approval for officials to carry out a review and analysis of the relevant section of road with a view to considering implementation of an appropriate speed limit over an appropriate length of the A833. All in accordance with relevant criteria for setting local speed limits with any proposed implementation of speed limits following relevant procedure in terms of consultation advertising etc.

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – Budget implications in regard to research, analysis, consultation advertising. The cost of associated signage over what amounts to a significant length of the A833 (5.5km – 7km) together with the requirement for signage on adjoining road and associated repeater signage will be considerable. The estimated cost, at current rates, is approximately £20,000. Unless an alternative road safety source for funding is forthcoming these costs will require to be met from the road area maintenance revenue budget.
- 3.2 **Legal** – Highland Council will adhere to relevant legal requirements for the use of Road Traffic Regulation Orders, including the preparation of Permanent Road Traffic Regulation Orders. There will be a cost associated with promoting and implementing any Road Traffic Regulation Order.

- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** – There are no direct equality, poverty, rural or island implications arising from this report.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – Reduced traffic speed limit can have a positive effect on the environment which in turn can lead to a reduction in emissions.
- 3.5 **Risk** – A lower speed limit if appropriate has the potential to reduce the risk of collisions.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – Mitigation of risk on correct implementation of appropriate speed limits
- 3.7 **Gaelic** – This report has no impact on Gaelic considerations

4 General Information

- 4.1 The petition requests a reduced speed limit of 40mph between Belladrum North junction and the Convinth Junction an overall distance of approximately 5.5km.
- 4.2 In terms of reported injury collisions, the 5-year collision data plot indicates one accident at the Foxhole junction which in terms of severity has been designated slight.
- 4.3 The A833 is an upper tier key strategic link route and an implemented 40mph limit over a very significant length such as this could be potentially significantly restrictive in terms of effective usage and journey times.
- 4.4 Initial speed analysis info would appear to indicate current average speeds more in accordance with an implemented 50mph limit rather than 40mph. This could also potentially be the case in terms of overall alignment and junction spacing. It should also be noted that altering a limit to a figure significantly below average speeds will result in poor compliance which is further exacerbated if the overall limit is over a considerable distance as would be the case here. Inappropriate low speed limits can increase the risk of collisions due to driver frustration and poor compliance. If, as a result of further analysis, a 50mph limit was deemed appropriate, then there may be merit in extending this northwards to the main A862 junction at Brochies Corner and would include the junctions in the vicinity of the Beaufort Castle access (where visibility is poor and approach speed are often high). The overall length if this were the case would be to extend the length of the speed restriction from 5.5km to 7km. A plan indicating the extent of the A833, which may be the subject of review and analysis, subject to approval by the Members, is attached in **Appendix 2** of this report.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 31 July 2024

Author: Steven Grant and John Taylor, Roads Operations Managers
Inverness, Nairn and Badenoch & Strathspey

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Petition
Appendix 2 – Plan



Office Use: Petition Number

PETITION SUBMISSION FORM

<p>Title of the Petition:</p> <p>Petition for Change of Speed Limit on the A833 between Belladrum and Glenview Chalet Park</p>
<p>Name of the Principal Petitioner: Please enter the name of the person who is organising the petition, and the name of any organisation you represent (if applicable).</p> <p>Roebrae Limited, represented by Kenny Spink of Spink Architectural Design Ltd, and on behalf of the community of Kiltarlity and it's surroundings</p>
<p>Contact Address to which all communication should be sent – please include a telephone number and email address if available so that we can contact you with any queries.</p> <p>Please send all correspondence to:</p> <p>Kenny Spink SP+NK The Cottage Househill Nairn, IV12 5RY</p> <p>e: kenny@spink.design, t: 07488 939009</p>
<p>Petition Statement – Please state (in no more than 250 words) what action the Petitioner wishes the Council to take. If you prefer, you can attach this as a typed sheet to this form.</p> <p>Please refer to document 42149 A833 Kiltarlity, appended hereto</p>

Action taken prior to the Petition – Before a Petition is submitted, petitioners are expected to have taken reasonable steps in attempting to resolve the issues.

Please enter below details of any individuals or organisations approached. Copies of correspondence should also be appended.

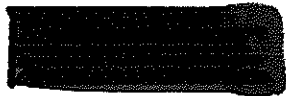
This information will be made available to the Council or Committee in consideration of the Petition.

Please refer to document 42149 A833 Kiltarlity, appended hereto

Signature - When you are satisfied that the Petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance to Submission of Petitions, the Principal Petitioner should sign and date the form.

Any additional sheets of signatures should be appended to the form.

Signature:

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.

Date: 16th December 2023

Name in block capitals: KENNETH SPINK

FORM A**Petition Submitted by Citizens**

A petition must be supported by at least 50 signatories living in the Highland Council area.

	Name	Address	Signature
1.	Please refer to 42149	Wet Signature Petition, and 42149	Online Petition
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

(through to 50 – additional sheets if required)

Submission – Please submit this form and attachments to:

Chief Executive
Highland Council (Headquarters)
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

FORM B**Petition Submitted by Local Business(s)**

A petition must be supported by at least 10 other businesses, voluntary organisations or social enterprise companies with an address in the Highland Council area.

	Name/ Position held	Address of Business	Signature
1.	Please refer to 42149	Wet Signature Petition,	and 42149 Online Petition
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Submission – Please submit this form and attachments to:

Chief Executive
Highland Council (Headquarters)
Glenurquhart Road
INVERNESS
IV3 5NX

42149 A833 Kiltarlity

Petition for Change of Speed Limit on the A833 between Belladrum and Glenview Chalet Park

Revision	Date	Author	Approved
0	16 th December 2023	KS	-

(Most recent revisions are highlight in italics)

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SPINK

Petition for Change of Speed Limit on the A833 between Belladrum and Glenview Chalet Park

Kiltarlity
Beauly
IV4 7HR

Conduction and Preparation of Petition

This Petition has been conducted and prepared in accordance with Highland Council documents:

1. Procedure for Submission of Petitions; and
2. Petition Submission Form

Petition Details

This Petition for Change of Speed Limit on the A833 between Belladrum and Glenview Chalet Park (the 'Petition') around Kiltarlity has been commissioned by Roebrae Limited, operating as Solid Luxury, at the Kiltarlity Lodges and undertaken by Spink Design Limited, represented by Kenny Spink.

The Petition was:

- issued for Public Consultation following initial contact with Ward Councillors and the Kiltarlity Community Council on 26th August 2023, of which a subsequent notice of intended petitioning for community opinion was made on 9th November 2023;
- based on the documents supplied to the Ward Councillors and to the Kiltarlity Community Council, copies of which are appended hereto:
 - o 42149 Road Safety Proposal
 - o 42149 26.08.23 Road Safety Letter; and
- released for public consultation on 13th November and closed for public consultation on 10th December 2023, a period of 28 days. The petition was made available to the public to register their opinions at various locations, including:
 - o by door-to-door presentation around the homes and business directly adjoining the stretch of road;
 - o the Reception at Kiltarlity Lodges;
 - o Kiltarlity Post Office;
 - o Facebook, under a sponsored campaign to reach a targeted Kiltarlity +15km radius operated by SP+NK with a modest £20 budget over 7 days ending on 10th December 2023; and
 - o online at spink.design

w: spink.design
t: 07488 939009

The Cottage
Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

Registered in Scotland SC638497

We consider that the petition was widely publicised, open and accessible to people of all mobilities and ability to present their opinions. The petition was targeted on the specific area, to include those who may use the road daily as a commuter route (within a +15km radius of Kiltarlity).

Petition Results

The Petition was well considered by the local community, and was signed in support as:

Paper (wet) signatories:	137
Electronic signatories:	27
Total signatories:	164

Further Comments

Further comments were provided and should be considered within this Petition:

Comments submitted with the online petition at spink.design:

1. Not only is this road unsuitable for the national speed with all the roads joining it now you have the cycle track finishing at the top end where are these cyclists supposed to go? They will have to join the road in question. Very dangerous
2. I agree the road is too fast and have had several dangerous near misses trying to enter and exit my property on the roadside
3. This is a must for road safety for locals
4. [REDACTED] There's no pavement for them to walk along the road in safety and cars speed by at 60 mph.
5. I believe this road needs a speed limit of 30/40 mph.
6. I am a resident with young family and pets living directly off A833. Children regularly cross this road and the school bus collects children from the roadside. Most cars travelling are in excess of 60mph. A 40 speed limit would improve safety hugely.

Comments submitted with the Facebook campaign, names and personal details redacted (NOTE: comments addressing location of road or non-opinionated statements are excluded from this list for simplicity. All comments can be viewed online on the Spink+ Facebook page):

- a) It appears to be a racetrack from Kiltarlity road end (Brockies Lodge) until you reach the so called main road towards Beauty!
- b) it's the stretch from Belladrum up towards the Culnakirk. Maybe 4 miles. It's a busy road right enough but it's always been quite a busy road for commercial traffic from the north heading West.
- c) Nothing wrong with the road. Drive to the conditions.
- d) Wouldn't it be wonderful to have huge natural resources, worth hundreds of billions, in order to upgrade our infrastructure?

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- e) Take away speed limits and let natural selection run its course (we are over populated anyway)
- f) Signed but with comments to extend the proposed stretch of road mentioned in the petition
- g) I'm not sure a change in speed limit will do anything given a lot of traffic already exceed the 60mph and it wouldn't be any easy stretch to monitor with mobile speed cameras.
- h) true but can say that about most places. It's like a race track some days especially in summer
- i) Far worse situation on the Foxhole south junction with the A833 with vehicles having to reverse out onto the main road to let others out. This is a school bus and public transport route, not to mention farm traffic, someone's going to get killed here sooner or later. I've been trying to get the Council to address the problem for the last five years but they're not interested, too busy spending £600000 on that 700mtrs of cycle track to nowhere !
- j) Nothing wrong with the road, just the idiot drivers
- k) To be honest I would say from the foxhole junction to the Belladrum entrance 40 would make sense due to the junction at Brockies and the road opposite foxhole being used to enter a school zone, I would prefer to see a pavement along this stretch of road due to the poor visibility on some of the bends and not enough verge for people to walk safely
- l) Leave it alone not many drivers do sixty
- m) They do & more passing Glaickbea. Come & see
- n) when I drive it mostly 40 to 45mph

Summary

With a population of less than 1,000¹, the Petition has been supported by 164 signatories, which is in excess of 16.4% of the local population, and may be reasonably assumed to be in the region of, if not greater than, 20% of the population of Kiltarlity.

Where commentary has been provided, the feelings of those who have left those comments are clearly focused around road safety, and mixed user groups, including motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. These concerns around road safety are fully aligned with those of Roebrae Limited, who have commissioned this study with the aim of reducing the speed limit on the Glaickbea straight where their business brings unfamiliar drivers of mixed nationalities, who may be more used to driving in well lit areas, or on the right.

We strongly believe that this Petition comprehensively demonstrates to Highland Council that the community of Kiltarlity want their road safety improved, and that such improvement should be made without delay, and that such road safety improvement should be:

¹ Wikipedia, 16th December 2023

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t: 07488 939009

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Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

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The Petitioners therefore respectfully request the Highland Council do immediately and without undue delay re-classify the section of the A833 road, stretching from Belladrum to the Convin junction on the A833, from National Speed Limit to 40mph.

Appendix

This document relies upon the following documents:

1. 42149 Road Safety Proposal
2. 42149 26.08.23 Road Safety Letter
3. 42149 Online Petition
4. 42149 Wet Signed Petition
5. Highland Council Petition Submission Form

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Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

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42149 Kiltarlity Lodges

Road Safety Assessment for Kiltarlity Lodges

Revision	Date	Author	Approved
0	26 th August 2023	KS	-

(Most recent revisions are highlight in italics)

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t: 07488 939009

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Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

Registered in Scotland SC638497

Safety Assessment

Kiltarlity Lodges
Kiltarlity
Beauly
IV4 7HR

Client Details

Roebrae Limited
Parbroath Office
Luthrie
KY15 4NS

(the 'Applicant')

Project Details

Kiltarlity Lodges, operated under the trade name Solid Luxury by the Applicant, operates 20 holiday lodges and 2 rental homes within the park located adjacent to the A833 in the village of Kiltarlity.

It is incumbent on Roebrae Limited to comply with the planning approvals of 21/05314/FUL, including the improvements to the access off the A833. Those improvements include addressing the visibility splay, as well as general improvements to the bell mouth to increase the run-off from the A833.

The A833 is a national speed limit stretch of road, stretching from its junction with the A862 to the North and the A831 to the South.

Within 1.3 miles of the Kiltarlity Lodges entrance, lies Belladrum village, and the exit route from the Belladrum Tartan Heart festival for all day traffic, including the regular double decker public service bus, and the main exit for all campervan, motorhome, and caravan traffic. Between the main entrance to Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival and Kiltarlity Lodges, within a 1.7 mile stretch, lies Allarburn Drive, the main road into Kiltarlity, Brockies Bar and Tomnacross. To the South, and within 1 mile of Kiltarlity Lodges, generally bound by the Convin Junction, the stretch embraces Glenview Chalet Park, only 0.5 miles from Kiltarlity Lodges.

This document identifies the opportunity for road safety improvements in and around Kiltarlity, Tomnacross, Belladrum, and the surrounding businesses who may benefit from an increased standard of road safety, as well as increased pedestrian activity. This road safety improvement may be achieved by a 40mph speed restriction for this key section of the A833.

Overview

Kiltarlity Lodges

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Kiltarlity Lodges, operated under the trade name Solid Luxury by the Applicant, operates 20 holiday lodges and 2 rental homes within the park located adjacent to the A833 in the village of Kiltarlity. Kiltarlity Lodges directly employs some 9 FTE staff on the site, ranging from Facilities Management to Turn Around and Cleaning Staff.

The lodges achieve an occupancy throughout the year in excess of 80%. The average stay is >3 nights.

Whilst the lodges offer self catering capability, the majority of the customers will use the self catering facilities for approximately 1 of their 3 evening meals. Much of their lunch meals will be procured on day trips to local attractions. 2 of their evening meals will be eaten out. Locally, we have Brockies Bar, and further afield there is the Old North Inn at Inchmore, before extending to Inverness and Beaulieu. This might equate to some £559,104 (see *Figure 1. Local Eatery revenue*) of revenue into local eateries.

Figure 1. Local Eatery Revenue

Average Occupancy:	3.2
Lodges:	20
Annual Occupancy:	80%
Nights Eating Out/ Stay:	2
Nights/ Stay:	3
Average Spend/ Head/ Meal:	£45

Total Revenue Generated: £559,104

This may equate to more than 8 FTE direct jobs in the local area, plus those indirect in supply chain, farming and production.

Nearby Businesses

Within 1 mile of Kiltarlity Lodges is the settlement of Belladrum, home of the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival. In 2023, there were 25,000 tickets sold. In 2023, pressure on the local roads was significant and extensive. The exit from the festival for all day travellers, including the regular public service double decker bus servicing the event, exits through Belladrum, as does all of the motorhome, campervan, and caravan traffic.

Brockies Lodge offers a deal on breakfasts for festival goers, bringing increased pedestrian footfall onto the A833.

During the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival, there is a temporary reduced speed limit of 30mph.

To the South, the Glenview Chalet Park also sits on the A833 0.5m to the South.

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t: 07488 939009

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Nairn, IV12 5RY

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Safe Roads

A833

On the 28th March 2022, Police Scotland release IM-FOI-2022-0529 in response to a Freedom of Information request all in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The A833 road suffered 1 serious road traffic collision between 1st September 2019 and 30th September 2020. This data is correct at 03/03/2022 and excludes non-injury collisions. Road traffic incidents on the A833 for the same period included 14 road traffic collisions ('RTI') and 12 road traffic matters ('RTM').

Since June 2023, Highland Council has been embarking on a 20mph Programme (the '20mph Programme') throughout towns, to introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout the region to foster improved pedestrian safety, whilst reducing traffic emissions in town centres. More information can be found [here](#).

The stretch of road, running from approx. 0.5miles South of the Kiltarlity Lodges entrance, to Tomnacross in the North is a very straight section of road. The road drops in height by almost 100m in 1.6 miles. This stretch is conducive to increased speed by accident as vehicles run away from any effort to maintain a constant speed, whilst the long straight encourages faster driving. There are approximately 21 accesses, serving more than 60 homes and at least 5 small business, onto the A833 in this stretch. These access types include field access, individual homes, clusters and Kiltarlity itself. All served by a 60mph speed limit.

Road Traffic Statistics, www.roadtrafficstats.uk, identifies that in their last data set up to 2016, the A833 supported 1,184 daily movements. In our post-pandemic stay-cation boom, continued development throughout the Highlands, and maturing population, it is fair to assume that this number has increased significantly.

Between the Glenview Chalet Park, operating at least 4 chalets, Kiltarlity Lodges, operating 20 chalets, and all of the domestic residents, a reduced speed limit could foster a significant reduction in car dependency, growing pedestrian and cycling use of the A833 and surrounding routes. They could also support the growth of Brockies Lodge, and the village of Kiltarlity, like the Post Office and Coffee Shop, whilst bringing downward pressure on the RTC and RTM incidents.

Proposed Speed Limit

With due consideration to the road type, cluster of rural homes, hamlets, and villages, and the strong prevalence of home and small businesses, we respectfully propose that the road speed limit is reduced from the National Speed Limit to 40mph for the 2.7 mile long stretch of road highlighted in Figure 2. This speed reduction would undoubtedly reduce the traffic noise to all residents, increase road safety on this very straight, naturally fast section, and support the economic development of Kiltarlity and its rural surroundings.

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Figure 2. Section of Road for Speed Reduction



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References and Acknowledgements

This document includes data provided by:

1. For all distances, Google Maps.
2. For all map extracts, Google Maps.
3. For all heights used to calculate the drop in height over the identified stretch of road, topgraphic-map.com.
4. For all RTI and RTM, Police Scotland FOI document IM-FOI-2022-0529 published to the public domain on 28th March 2022.
5. Highland Council website for the 20mph Programme.
6. For all road traffic statistics, Road Traffic Statistics UK.

w: spink.design
t: 07488 939009

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Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

Registered in Scotland SC638497

**Petition for Change of Speed Limit on the A833
between Belladrum and Glenview Chalet Park**

To the Highland Council,

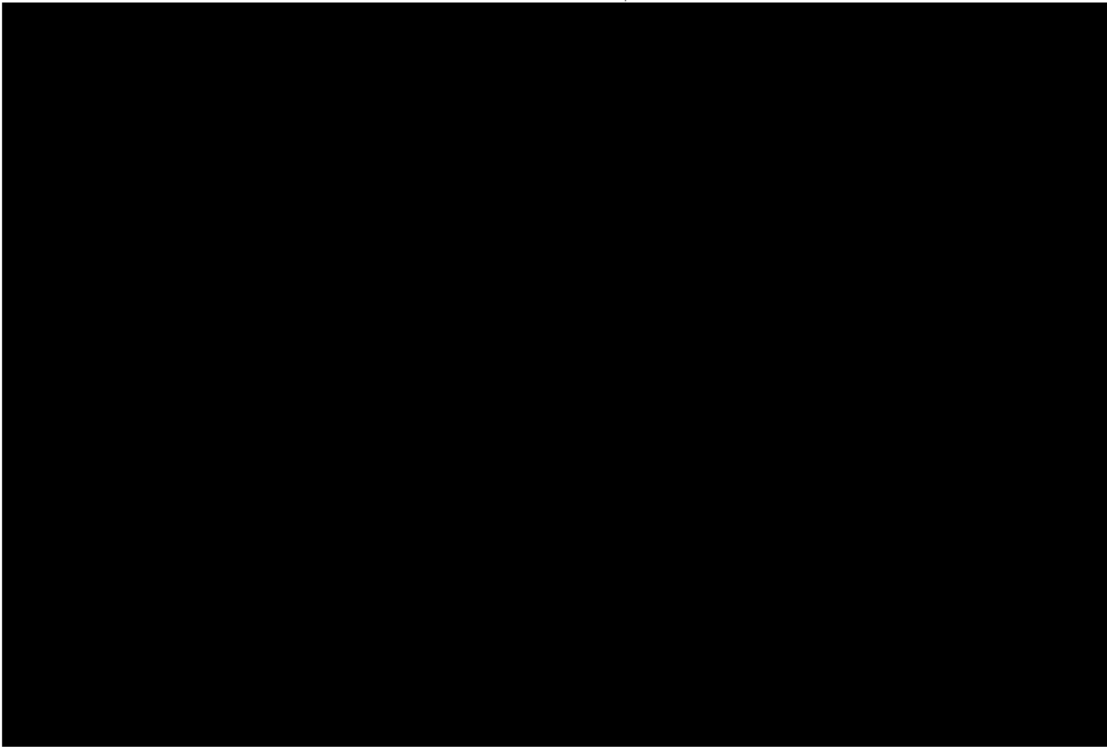
The petition of the undersigned residents of Belladrum, Kiltarlity, Tomnacross, and Ardendrain (the 'Petitioners') declares that the section of the A833 road, stretching south from Belladrum to the Convin junction on the A833, being a National Speed Limit (60mph) stretch of road, constitutes a peril to the some 21 accesses, serving more than 60 homes and at least 5 business, on accessing and egressing this 2.7 mile or thereby long stretch of road (the 'Road'). The background to this assessment of accesses, users, and the wider road traffic metrics are described in SP+NK document, 42149 *Kiltarlity Lodges, Road Safety Assessment for Kiltarlity Lodges*, first published on 26th August 2023 and submitted to Ward Councillors and the Kiltarlity Community Council on 26th August 202 and appended hereto.

The Petitioners therefore respectfully request the Highland Council do immediately and without undue delay re-classify the section of the A833 road, stretching south from Belladrum to the Convin junction on the A833, from National Speed Limit to 40mph. For context, the Petitioners draw Highland Council's and its' Ward and Community Councillors' attention to Highland Council's 20mph Programme, launched in June 2023.

The Petitioners remain committed to this request and can be contacted at:

SP+NK
The Cottage
Househill
Nairn, IV12 5RY

or by email to kenny@spink.design



Plan (Indicative) in relation to the Petition for Speed Limit Change on A833 and showing the section of road (highlighted in orange) subject to potential speed limit review

