

Irvine Area Committee  
6 July 2011

**IRVINE, 6 July 2011** - At a Special Meeting of the Irvine Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council

**Present**

Pat McPhee, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Ian Clarkson, Ruby Kirkwood, John Moffat and Joan Sturgeon.

**In Attendance**

A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design (Finance and Infrastructure) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Chair**

Councillor McPhee.

**Apologies for Absence**

David O'Neill.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16.

**2. A737: Proposed Traffic Restrictions**

The Head of Infrastructure and Design provided the Committee with background information in relation to proposed traffic restrictions on the A737 to allow for the construction of a roundabout at the Sainsbury's site at Ayr Road, Irvine.

As part of Scottish Water's Irvine Water Project, works are underway in the Irvine area to replace the network of water pipes. Traffic restrictions are currently in place on a section of A737 (Ayr Road) and it is estimated these works will be completed in March 2012. Dawn Construction had requested the installation of temporary traffic lights on Ayr Road for a period of 14 weeks in order that a roundabout at the Sainsbury's site could be constructed. The Road Works Commission does not routinely permit two sets of temporary traffic lights within 2kms of each other. The distance between the Scottish Water and Sainsbury's sites is less than 1km.

Construction of the roundabout at the Sainsbury's site would therefore require the temporary closure of a section of Ayr Road, between Lamont Drive and Portland Road, for a period of 3 weeks. It is anticipated that the closure would result in a 3 - 4 minute diversion for most drivers.

Following consultation with local Members a number of options to minimise the disruption to the local area have been considered and explored, which included:-

- Rescheduling of Scottish Water's works on Ayr Road to allow temporary traffic lights at the Sainsbury's site;
- Obtaining authority from the Road Works Commissioner to allow two sets of temporary traffic lights within 1km of each other, as an exceptional arrangement;
- The creation of a temporary bypass linking Lamont Place and Ayr Road; and
- Re-examination of the roundabout construction timescale.

On 4 July 2011, Council officers met with Dawn Construction, Scottish Water and their contractor, to gain further information on roadwork schedules and discuss options for traffic restrictions. During discussions the undernoted information was provided:-

- The water pipe work underway on Ayr Road does not allow for a rescheduling of works for a 14 week period. Rescheduling of works for 3 - 4 weeks could be investigated, however any extension to this period would cost in the region of £30,000 per week. The estimated completion of this phase remains as March 2012;
- Closure of the Foulertoun Arches will not be required as the water pipe works will be installed under the bridge;
- The Roadworks Commissioner has confirmed that two adjacent sets of temporary traffic signals are only permitted in emergency situations and would not therefore be permitted on Ayr Road at this time;
- The construction of a temporary bypass would not be possible as planning consent has not yet been granted for the construction of the new filling station, road and demolition of the Comet warehouse at Ayr Road/Lamont Place;
- A 3 week road closure would be the maximum period required to construct the roundabout, with early re-opening of the road if possible;
- Strathclyde Police consider the closure of the road to be the quickest and safest option for all users; and
- The identification of an alternative route for the 4th Port Parade for 13 August 2011 in the event Ayr Road is not open.

The Committee discussed the conflicting information that had been provided by Scottish Water representatives in relation to the work programme's flexibility and the length of time roadworks could be deferred in order to allow Dawn access to the road. Discussion also took place on a reduction in the road closure period from 3 weeks to 2.5 weeks to reduce the inconvenience to drivers, lessen the impact of the construction on the local community and enable completion prior to the Marymass Festival.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the temporary closure of a section of Ayr Road, between Lamont Drive and Portland Road; (b) that the Head of Infrastructure and Design (i) advise Dawn of the requirement for a reduced timescale for the construction of the roundabout to 2.5 weeks; and (ii) clarify with Scottish Water the information provided in respect of the length of time works are required on Ayr Road, Irvine.

The meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.