

REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – Tuesday, 27th August 2019

PETITION FOR CONSIDERATION – REMOVAL AND REINSTATEMENT OF BUS ROAD MARKINGS IN LONGHAVEN

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 consider the petition received by the Director of Business Services as described in this report; and**
- 1.2 consider whether to instruct a report from the Head of Transportation on the subject matter of the petition**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 In terms of Standing Order 6.2.1 members of the public may submit a Petition for an item not on a Meeting Agenda to a Committee. The petition shall be received by the Director of Business Services no later than fourteen days prior to the relevant Committee Meeting.
- 2.2 The Director of Business Services has received a petition with 119 signatures and has agreed that the petition complies with the criteria under Standing Order 6.2.2. The action sought by the petition is the removal of yellow lines from the road outside a shop in Longhaven and the reinstatement of the original bus stop markings.
- 2.3 Given that the Council has an obligation to provide access to public transport, the Chair of this Committee has determined that the subject matter of the petition is competent and relevant in terms of its remit and it shall therefore be put before this meeting. The layby is, however, managed by BEAR Scotland.
- 2.4 In determining the competency of the subject matter, the following detail was provided to the Chairman by the Council's Transportation Unit –
 - 2.4.1 On 19th February a constituent contacted a local Member and requested that the Council renew the bus stop road markings at the Longhaven layby as vehicles were parking at the bus stop. This meant that some buses were unable to pull into the layby, due to cars and HGV's being parked, and were having to pull into the side of the main A90 road creating a safety hazard for other road users and passengers.
 - 2.4.2 BEAR Scotland, being responsible for trunk roads, renewed the markings as requested, however, this caused an issue in that the new markings – in line with current standards - encroached on the space directly outside the shop at Longhaven.

- 2.4.3 Whilst current bus stop road marking standards are 19m minimum and 2m increments for accommodating larger vehicles (for example 23-25m is required to accommodate the 15m Buchan Express) BEAR Scotland attempted to minimise the effect to the local shop by reducing the length from 19m to 15m and the width from 3m to 2.7m. In addition, although the original road markings were white, the Traffic Signs Manual now stipulates that markings in the UK must be yellow.
- 2.4.4 In June a petition was raised by a constituent to have the yellow markings removed and returned to the original white markings.
- 2.4.5 On 8th July a public consultation was issued with a view to moving the bus stop and markings 15m north of the current position (see attached plan). This would result in the stop being directly outside a residence (Aldu), meaning that passengers would be looking directly into the windows of the residence. A high percentage of the consultation responses were against the relocation of the stop. In addition, BEAR Scotland has stated that they do not wish to move the bus stop to the top of the layby for safety reasons.
- 2.4.6 Given the mixed reactions to this issue, a site meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 21st August, to discuss the feedback and potential solutions. Those invited include local Members, a Community Council representative, a BEAR Scotland representative, the shop owner, the Aldu resident, the constituent who made the original request and a Council Officer.
- 2.4.7 A verbal update from this meeting will be provided to Members at their Committee meeting on 27th August.
- 2.5 The Committee is therefore asked to consider the subject matter of the petition. On having received the verbal update, if the Committee determines that further action is required, it may instruct the relevant Head of Service to provide a report detailing the service response on the issue. Alternatively the Committee may determine that no further action is required.
- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item under Standing Order 6.2.3 as the subject matter of the petition is deemed to be competent and relevant in terms of the Committee's remit and under Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers as it relates to a matter which impacts the Committee's area.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required at this time because the Committee has yet to consider the matter.
- 4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications at this time.
- 4.3 The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level – ACORP007 Social risk (eg population changes, poverty & social inequality, demographic changes, crime, antisocial behaviour).

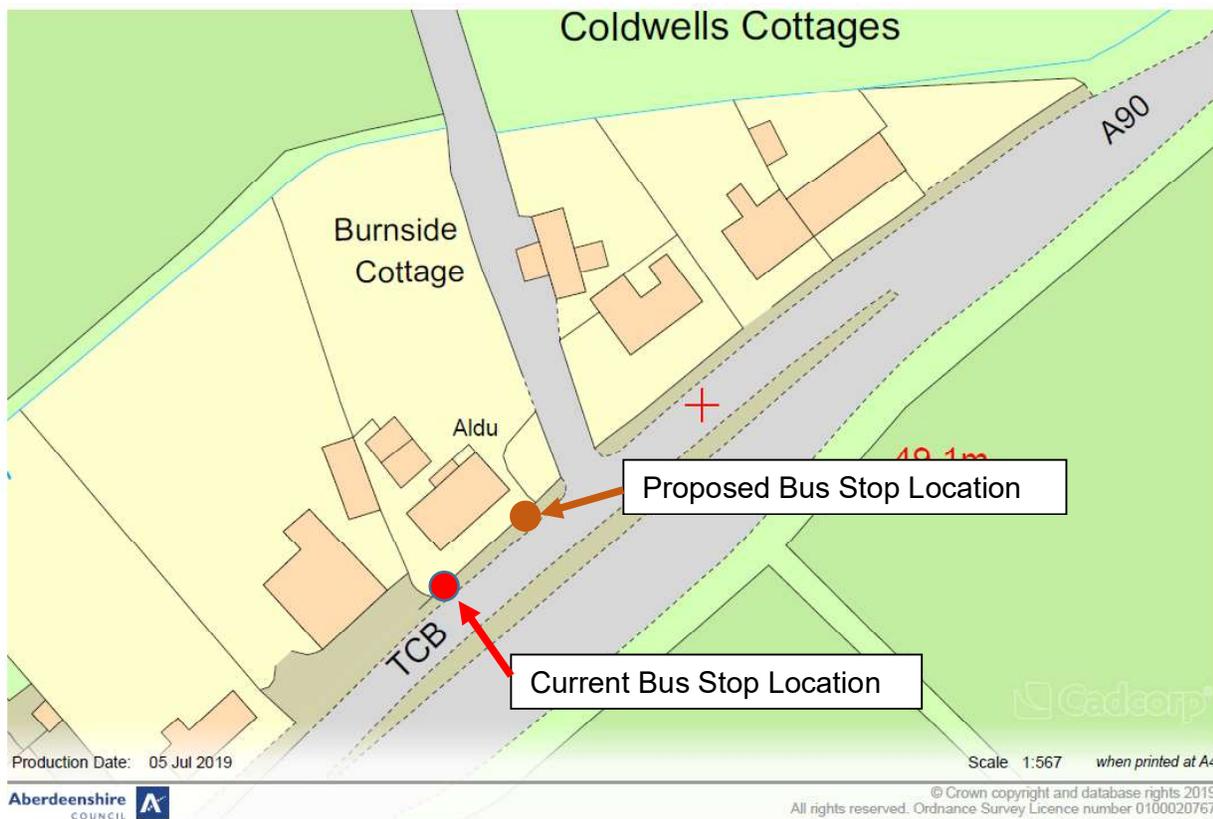
The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level – ISSR001 Active Travel - The Council priority is to further embed the ability to travel actively within Aberdeenshire.

Ritchie Johnson, Director of Business Services

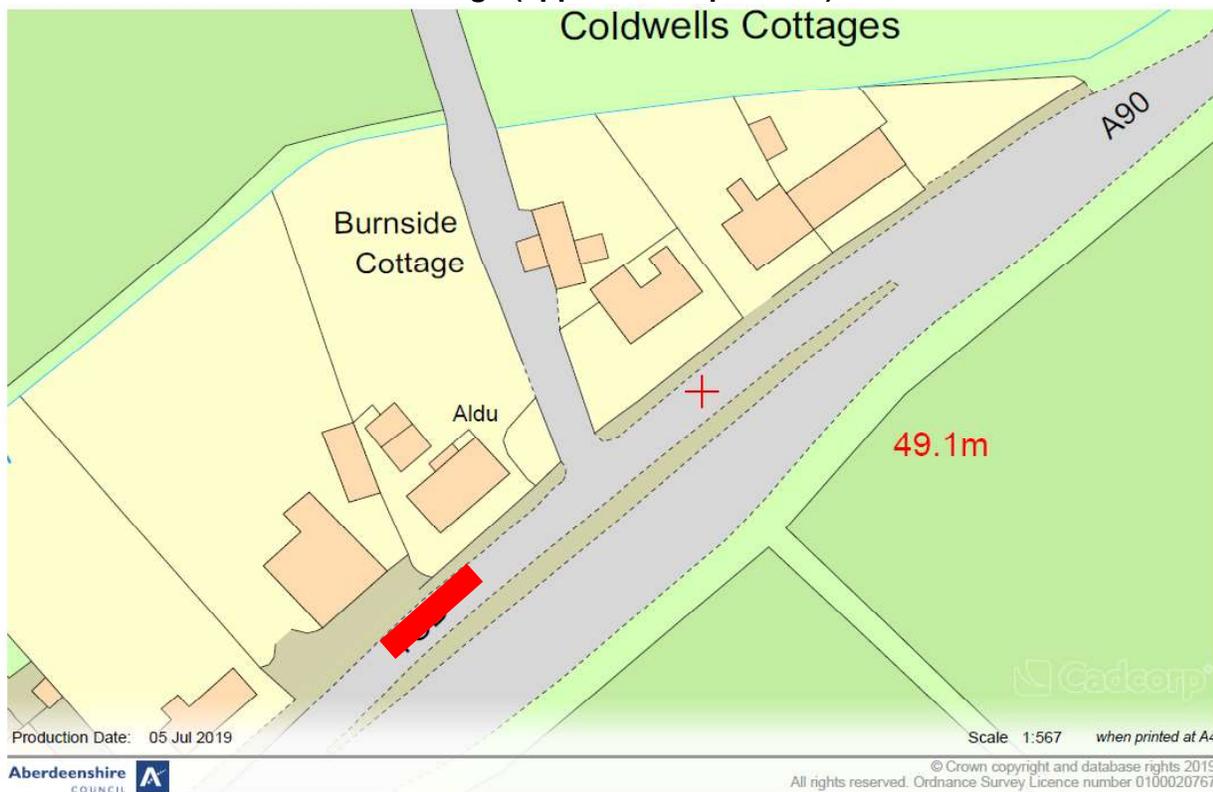
Report prepared by Theresa Wood, Area Committee Officer
16th August 2019



Bus Stop Location (approximate position)



Current Location of Road Markings (approximate position)





Proposed Location of Road Markings (approximate position) 

