

PE1236/O

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in my capacity both as an Angus councillor for the multi- member ward of Montrose and also someone who uses the Laurencekirk junction on a regular occasion. I am also convener of Infrastructure Services and at my recent committee there was a report on the Aberdeenshire local Plan and I raised my concerns about the effect of their plans on the Laurencekirk junction.

Aberdeenshire has planned 885 new homes in Laurencekirk with 485 of these to be built before 2016 with a further 300 homes are planned in the former US Navy Base at Edzell Woods which is situated just a few miles south of Laurencekirk In addition a 11.0 ha site for employment is planned at Laurencekirk with a further 16 ha as a strategic reserve.

Various members of my committee commented on the Aberdeenshire plan and its effect on the junction and there was all party support for a flyover at the junction. There was no doubt at the committee that even presently the junction is very dangerous at any time of the day, but this is especially the case at rush hour, and the impact of the Aberdeenshire plan will only make the junction even more dangerous .

Furthermore, as I am aware from developments in the Montrose area which I have noted below, these will only add to the traffic using the junction and give further ammunition to the case for a flyover.

- Housing developments in two large estates with plans for hundreds of new houses
- New grain store and 2 new deep water berths planned at Montrose Harbour.
- Potential development in the north area of the Harbour area including expression of real interest in wind farm.
- Forties Industrial Estate expansion.

I attended the May meeting of the Petitions Committee and I am very disappointed in the response from Transport Scotland to the questions that were raised by your committee .

Firstly I find it very hard to believe that they are unable to provide an outline cost of a flyover at Laurencekirk and this is especially the case as the Transport Minister himself had suggested a cost of £20 million.

Secondly their answer to the accident figures beggars belief as they have used figures for 28 mile stretches for the Keir Roundabout and Broxden and compared this with a 400 + metre stretch at Laurencekirk . They have made no attempt to compare like with like.

Finally I very much hope the Committee will not close the petition as it is clear from residents of the Mearns and North Angus area, especially in Laurencekirk and Montrose, that they want the Transport Minister to review the evidence and see the need for the grade separation of the south junction at Laurencekirk.

Yours faithfully,

David May