

Killearn Paths Group

A Working Group of Killearn Community Futures

Killearn Village Hall, Balfroon Road
Killearn, G63 9NL



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COMMUNITY FUTURES COMPANY

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cc:
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Dear Stirling Council as above

Re: Proposed path between development at Killearn Hospital site and village Application 20/00098/FUL

While welcoming the development proposals at the old hospital site, we note that the proposed route for a pedestrian path to the village is a roadside pavement along the opposite side of the A81, across the junction and up the west side of Station Road. Given that this involves two uncontrolled crossings of busy roads and narrow pavement provision beside very fast traffic, particularly over the bridge spanning the West Highland Way, we have very grave concerns about the safety and utility of this route for its intended users, which will likely include young children walking or cycling to and from school.

Our severe reservations about the currently proposed roadside route are:

- Safety first & foremost.
- Proximity of pedestrians and cyclists to fast traffic on busy roads.
- Restriction of path width to 1.2m over significant stretches.
- Two uncontrolled crossings of main roads, close to junctions.
- Complete inadequacy of pavement provision on Station Road linking to the proposed path provided by Cala.
- Does nothing to promote active travel. In fact the route is unpleasant and will act as a disincentive.
- Effectively isolates the new development from the village.

As such we would urgently request that alternative, safer routes are considered. We do recognise that the provision of a full all-user, off-road route to the village is not immediately feasible within the timescale and resources the developer has available, but utilising the existing run of the West Highland Way would go some way to reducing the risks presented by the current proposal. It seems perverse to have a perfectly good off-road alternative and not use it! By linking the development to the

WHW at Oakwood, though the crossing of the A81 would still be problematic, the line runs parallel to the road and, with a little bit of landowner cooperation, could join the B834 Station Road on the village side of the bridge. There still remains the issue of a crossing (but at least it would be away from the junction and on a portion of road with good sightlines) and a commitment to deal with the parlous state of the Station Road "pavement".

The Path Group, along with many villagers, have long had ambitions to link to the West Highland Way by an all-user, off-road route to encourage the economic, health and physical benefits of an improved path network around the wider Killearn area. The new development at the hospital site has added new impetus to this and is receiving support from at least one of the affected land-owners. While a longer-term and bigger project, this would eventually complement any connection of the Cala development to the WHW through to the village facilities.

The future residents at the hospital development deserve the best possible provision for safe access to village amenities. We are not aware of any provision for public transport to the site (other than perhaps a school bus to Balfron), so a pleasant, safe non-motorised route becomes even more important. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with all parties involved to reach the best possible outcome for everybody.

Yours faithfully

Mike Gray
Killearn Paths Group