On Thursday 7 December 2017, Kenny Maclean spent around four hours with Iain Moncrieff from the Highland Council’s roads department looking at various issues in the Garve & District Community Council area. Iain also took the opportunity to look at some issues in the Lochcarron Community Council area. Iain’s vehicle had a dash cam so the whole trip was recorded. The dash cam also notes the longitude and Latitude.

Iain noted that the white lines on the A890 south of Achnasheen had faded. These will be added to the list for works in the summer.

It was also noted that offlets on the climb to the Luib summit (again A890) required to be cleaned out. Water also appeared to be coming out from an access road. Further investigations will take place to establish where this water is actually coming from.

Damaged road surface to the east of Glencarron Lodge on A890 (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60268728). This road surface is due to be attended to in the next financial year.

There is a section of road beside Loch Dughaill near Achnashellach (A890). This road has been patched several times but continues to break up. Iain advised that the road is due to be resurfaced early in the next financial year but will be patched in the meantime. Kenny pointed out the 100 yards or so of tar that was put up a forestry road, why was it not used on the main road? Iain confirmed that if he had known the contractor had spare tar, he would have instructed it be put on the main road. Iain explained that the Highland Council only pays for tar put on the road, if the contractor has over ordered tar, that is their expense.

School Road in Achnasheen is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60324080). Iain noted the concern and would see what could be done.

Flooding in Achnasheen Village centre – the centre of the village always appears to have water laying around on the grass, in car parks etc. Iain thought a drain may be blocked or extra drainage may be required. He would make enquiries.

Information Shelter – Iain is not involved with this project.

Electric vehicle charging points – A report was presented to Highland Councillors in November 2016. The report suggested an electric vehicle charging point may be installed in Achnasheen to help expand and strengthen the Highland network of charging points. Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn has been informed by officials at the Highland Council that the charging point will be installed in Achnasheen by Sunday 18 February 2018 probably on Highland Council owned land. Would the Filling Station site be an option? Iain thought the suggestion made sense but the owners of the site would have to be consulted. The site owners will look into this via Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn.

Verge reinstatements works between Grudie and Kinlochewe appear to have stopped again this time west of Achanalt (A832). Both SSE (Keith Boa) and the Highland Council (Malcolm Ross) noticed that works had stopped. Iain felt the work should have been completed by now so will also make enquires.

Drains/ditches near Rosebank, Achanalt (A832) appear blocked with silt. Iain can organise a mini digger and will also get other drains in the area checked/cleaned out at the same time.

Top soil at Grudie (A832) – concerns noted.

Road edge near Grudie Cottage (A832) – Iain felt that if the verge was reinstated, it would be damaged again, best to fill the holes with tar.

Crash barrier at Grudie and near the Church will be fixed shortly. There is also a damaged barrier near the Boathouse at Loch Chullin, Iain noted this.

Lochluichart Church layby – again, tar rather than reinstating the verges might be best.

U3132 Lochluichart Station Road requires further works (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60318099). Further works are planned, hopefully by the end of March 2018. It will either be recycled material or resurfaced.

Potholes on the “S” bends at Lochluichart on the A832 were repaired recently. If these potholes reopen, Iain confirmed that a machine will fill a patch next time rather than men filling a hole as has been the case before.

Inappropriate speeding in the Lochluichart area – Iain will speak to Cllr Kate Stephen.

Corriemoillie to Gorstan run offs and drains need clearing and this has been noted.

Little Garve-Silverbridge back road is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60322137). Iain will see what patching can be done for now, resurfacing may be able to be budgeted for in 2020/2021.

Yellow lines at Gorstan Junction slip road – Ian didn’t feel this would help as there is no police here to police the yellow lines. Perhaps the Police should be made aware of the problem (Police Scotland are already aware of the issues around this Junction).

Side road at Gorstan is full of potholes (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60318870) – noted along with the broken wooden fencing.

Drainage problems – this related to the “big hole” in the layby near Gorstan Junction. Iain was aware of a problem via Cllr Dr Ian Cockburn but wasn’t sure where the hole was … he does now!

Trunk road flooding outside Garve Village. Iain confirmed that he liaises with BEAR and will pass issues on. It was noted that an extra drain was dug by Network Rail some time ago.

Speed limit sign light out at Junction of Stirling Drive and Station Road, Garve (Reported November 2017 - FS62027724). Iain will chase this up with the Street Light Department.

Garve playpark fence requires fixing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60319466). John Mackay, Highland Council Community Services is sorry for not getting back to us about this sooner. The person dealing with the fence is off at the moment but John hopes to have a full update by the end of this week. Move big fencing? Iain advised that John is best to comment on this particular issue but was aware of it.

Missing 30mph sign near Strathgarve Primary School (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS58387155). Iain will chase this up with the Street Light Department.

The Avenue requires resurfacing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60323206) – noted.

Strathgarve Farm road requires resurfacing (Reported October 2017 Ref - FS60322733). Iain felt this section was worse than the Avenue and will see what patching can be done for now. As explained earlier, new resurfacing sections would need to be in future budgets.

Is the road from Strathgarve to Wades Bridge adopted? Iain thought it would be but will check. The lack of runoff’s and drains was noted. Iain and Kenny also saw the first signs of the Treehouse at the Wyvis Natural playpark getting built … somewhere for future Community Council meetings???

Two dead Deer were seen today lying next to the roads. One south of Achnasheen, one near Dos Mucheran, Achanalt. Iain will report these to the relevant department.

Iain found the whole trip very interesting and worthwhile. With all the water lying on the roads, Iain felt offlets and drains were the place to start and then take it from there once the road surfaces had been given a chance to dry. There are several places where there were no offlets where Iain thought there should be. Iain hopes to attend a Community Council meeting and would like to go back out with Kenny in around six months’ time to see what has or has not been done. Iain will put a plan of works together to then go before the Ward Manager and the four local Ward Councillors.

Kenny thought the whole morning was worthwhile and informative and thanked Iain for his time. Kenny also thanked Iain for the work that does get done, especially when flooding occurred on the A832 at Corriemoillie & Lochluichart on Friday 25 August 2017. Iain confirmed he was there on site that night and the following day.