On Thursday 7 June 2018, Kenny Maclean spent around three hours with Iain Moncrieff from the Highland Council’s Roads Department looking at various issues in the Garve & District Community Council area. Iain’s vehicle had a dash cam so the whole trip was recorded.

Iain noted that the white lines on the A890 south of Achnasheen had faded. These are on the list for works in the summer. White lining work on various sections of the A832 is also due this summer.

It was also noted that offlets on the climb to the Luib summit (again A890) have now been cleared out. Water still appears 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 on the black mile, west of Luib and east of Glencarron Lodge all on the A890. The plainer is due to remove the bad sections with the tarring squad following. The road can be closed for up to half an hour for works. A longer period requires legal notices, permissions etc …

Ditches on the black mile require to be cleared out. Iain hopes to have a squad of workers clearing ditches across a wide area over the month of September. These ditches will be included in the works program.

School Road in Achnasheen has had its potholes filled in but appears to be subsiding in places. This will be looked into, especially as the school extension is due for demolition (building Warrant 18/00597/NDOM6).

Faulty streetlight in Achnasheen (FS73972741 reported 26 April 2018). Lamp 7NP is missing and has been for some time. Iain will chase this up.

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. Offlets also require cleared out. Iain will add this to the ditch works in September. Chicken wire fencing to the east of the Village centre may be acting as a dam when clogged with leaves.

Grit bins in Achnasheen were not refilled after the winter despite calls to The Highland Council Call Centre. Iain confirmed that grit bins will be attended too in the Autumn ready for the next winter spell. A review of winter maintenance will take place after the overspend of around £2.6million last winter.

Verge reinstatements works between Grudie and Kinlochewe appear to have been completed but in some areas, the finish is not to Iain’s liking. Both SSE (Keith Boa) and The Highland Council (Malcolm Ross) are looking into this matter.

Drains/ditches/offlets near Rosebank, Achanalt (A832) have been cleared however, the road has become uneven, perhaps winter freeze/thaw in the foundations of the road. Enquiries will be made. A dead deer beside the road here will be reported by Iain.

Damage to crash barrier next to boathouse on Loch Chullin (FS69994399 reported 10 March 2018 and FS73366383 re-reported on 19 April 2018 with a picture attached). There are four tenders going out for barrier repair work, our barriers are on the list of works to be done.

Drains on the bridge outside Grudie Power Station appear blocked. Enquiries will be made.

Damage to crash barrier opposite Grudie Cottage (FS69994339 reported 10 March 2018 and FS73367819 re-reported on 19 April 2018 with a picture attached). Again, our barriers are on the list of works to be done.

“sharp bend ahead” sign could be put beside the road near Grudie Cottage? There are rules for such signs to be put up. It may be more of a case of roadside marker poles are required but Iain is happy to see what can be done as it is a bad corner that comes in on itself.

Road edge near Grudie Cottage (A832) and Church layby now all repaired.

Damage to crash barrier to the west of Lochluichart Church (FS69992497 reported 10 March 2018 and FS73369865 re-reported on 19 April 2018 with a picture attached). Again, our barriers are on the list of works to be done.

U3132 Lochluichart Station Road - top of the road down to Lochluichart Station still needs attention. This will be attended too when the plainer and tarring squad are working on the main road, work that includes the potholes on the “S” bends and the bad section of road above Lochluichart Lodge.

Crash barrier below “Burnside” will be attended too.

Corriemoillie to Gorstan run offs and drains have been cleared.

There is a drain at the top of Gorstan which when it overflows, runs down the road to the Gorstan Junction like a river. Iain will see this is fixed before the winter. Iain also felt there was a lack of offlets in this area.

Offlets in Gorstan itself will be cleared.

Ditches in Little Garve will be added to the program of works this autumn.

Little Garve-Silverbridge back road has been repaired. Some minor works maybe required later in the year.

Side road at Gorstan is full of potholes (FS11911374 reported 17 January 2017, FS60318870 reported October 2017, FS68966075 reported 26 February 2018 noting the water flow across the road) – this and the “big hole” in the layby near Gorstan Junction still await repairs. Following flash flooding last Saturday, works on drains, offlets, ditches and safety fencing will be attended too. Also, where exactly did all the water come from up the hill? Flood team are already on the case.

Rain water from the Gorstan layby washes across the trunk road. This will be attended too when the above works take place.

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.

Drain covers outside Garve Village Hall and kerbstones may need replaced (FS66213050 reported 19 January 2018 and a picture attached). Iain noted the issues. Iain also noted the white “20” on the roads in Stirling Drive need repainted. Kenny requested the car park white lines be done at the same time.

Concrete across road in Stirling Drive – is this a new standard? Iain confirmed that The Highland Council would not have done this work.

Potholes in Matheson Road (FS68964132 reported 26 February 2018). Noted and added to the list of works.

The road surface is breaking up at the start of The Avenue, especially at the bridge where the steel edge is exposed (FS68964983 reported 26 February 2018). Noted, perhaps a job for the jet packer next time it is in the area.

Bad pothole developed in the last few weeks at the far end of The Avenue where the road splits. Iain will report along with the dumped tar at the roadside.

The lack of runoff’s and drains was noted between Strathgarve and Wades Bridge. This can be attended too in September.

Iain found the whole trip very helpful and worthwhile. There are several places where there were no offlets where Iain thought there should be. Iain still hopes to attend a Community Council meeting and looks forward to going back out with Kenny in around five months’ time.

Kenny thought the morning was worthwhile and informative and thanked Iain for his time. Kenny also thanked Iain for the work that does get done, especially the serious flooding that occurred in Gorstan last weekend.