

During the month of October 2024, and following the completion of the Local Place Plan, Garve & District Community Council put out an appeal online, offline and via email to ask local residents to write to us directly and share their experiences of travelling in our area be it by vehicle or on foot.  The information would be used to help build up a picture of the true concerns of the community which we would then share with the road authorities.

Comments received …

*“The traffic in our area is horrific! During the tourist season - which is no extending from March right through until the end of October which means it makes life so frustrating trying to go anywhere! There is no bowser provision for the motor homes - no public toilet provision for tourists and the result is they are defecating and urinating anywhere and everywhere!! Tourists should stay in air b&b rentals hotels or caravan/motor home sites-not anywhere and everywhere! Our roads are not suitable for the amount of traffic-especially single track and not for cyclist and arranged cycling events!! They never allow passing in single track and it is affecting the lives of locals detrimentally! Something needs to change!!! Anne Stewart, Achnasheen.”*

*“I have encountered several near misses at the A835/A832 junction with traffic not stopping when entering the A835 from Gorstan (towards to Garve). If this junction was made a STOP, it may help reduce the number of incidents. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Mark Dale, Blackbridge.”*

*“Gorstan Junction is the biggest single hazard in our district and for the authorities to state it meets safety regulations is a load of baloney!  For a start they need to get their act together with the white lining and road markings. I see Contin now have red strips across the carriageway with a rougher surface as a traffic calming measure (they have painted 20 signs on the wider ones). Caroline Gamble, Little Garve.”*

*“Regarding the A835 in Garve, the road is currently set at 40mph, but I can wholeheartedly confirm that the majority of drivers heading east towards Contin are speeding, especially once past the hotel. The noise of the traffic due to the speeding is becoming unbearable. There is a pavement, however I would not recommend people to use it due to the speed and general carelessness of some drivers. I am confused and frustrated that Contin is now 20mph due to volume of residents living so close to the road and children. However, I would argue that we also live within a metre of traffic speeding past at greater than 40mph. As the road is part of the NC500, there are various types of transport including cyclists, pedestrians, foreign tourists, motorcyclists, HGVs all doing different speeds and the road is extremely narrow and no room for error. I commute to Inverness daily for work and pleasure and I routinely see near miss accidents due to impatience of drivers. We now have a new village hall adjacent to the road undertaking regular events which are aimed at both families and locals. Therefore, if a child was to accidentally run out the hall the wrong way on to the road, I would not want to contemplate the outcome. Also, as a village with a 40mph trunk road it is not going to attract young families to the area due to risk which reduces the diversity of occupants in the village. I asked Police Scotland and Bear Scotland for the speed limit to be reviewed before someone gets seriously injured or killed, as a matter of urgency. However, Police Scotland never replied and BEAR Scotland believe the speed limit meets current regulations.  Amy Sharp, Garve.”*

*“My feedback regarding travelling on the A835 would be to say that it is not a road that has folk walking along or any children playing beside so any reduction in speed permitted is simply frustrating for drivers and as we can see from Contin, extremely rarely adhered to. Thanks for asking for opinions from local residents. Laura McWhinney, Inchbae.”*

*“At the moment the average speed of vehicles going round the Mossford bends is over 50mph according to private speed cameras, not 40mph. There have already been a number of accidents in this stretch of road, at least four and probably more. If a vehicle drives west round the Mossford bends, while someone having posted a letter in the Mossford post box tries to cross the road to return to Garve, it is very difficult to avoid an accident as the bend is too severe to see whether a car or lorry is approaching from Garve at high speed. With increased number of houses and heavy speeding traffic there needs to be 40mph signs at Lochluichart village sign east of Mossford and west of left turn to Lochluichart railway station. Hamish Leslie Melville, Lochluichart.”*

*“I would like to see some effort put into making the road which we all have to drive onto and walk across safe to use. We are drivers, passengers, pedestrians, children and elderly and are regularly frightened by our experiences on the A832 and on the A835 from Garve to Dingwall. Enforced speed reduction (reasonable) would help with perhaps other standard refinements advised by Professional Transport Personnel. Double white lines, better signage warning of PEOPLE, animals and hidden hollows and bends without disfiguring the views from our roadside homes.  Pamela Morrison, Achanalt.”*

*“I think the only way to stop speeding/bad driving is that more police patrols in marked cars along with unmarked cars on our roads and for the police to enforce the speeding/bad driving and bad parking. It is ok to lower speed limits in the villages but if it is not enforced it does not work. John Armstrong, Achnasheen.”*

Here are the comments received as part of the [LPP engagement process](https://padlet.com/TGDDC/our-infrastructure-mioqjfhyhh971b3s) undertaken in the summer of 2024 along with actions already taken: -

* Rumble strip on A832 taking you to Gorstan Junction. *(Already requested along with a STOP sign, The Highland Council feel junction does not require either).*
* Foot paths to access train stations at Lochluichart and Achanalt. *(Figures show passenger numbers are above pre-Covid levels).*
* Welcome to Wester-Ross Biosphere sign for Garve saying drive carefully and enjoy the scenery. *(In hand with the local Development Company).*
* Slow signs on approach and exists - train stations.
* Garve - consider kids use the school, older children need to cross the road from High School, Garve Hall getting busier.
* A832 and A835 both roads have a lot of motorcycles - these are classed as "vulnerable" users - use this to our advantage.

We have to do something about the traffic that is so fast and it is not safe. On both A832 and A835. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time).*

* A832 Junction - constant accidents, road signs are bad. *(The Highland Council do not feel there are any issues with signs).*
* Traffic calming on A835.
* Lower speed limits through community areas.
* Traffic calming is becoming essential for any future plans. There are well known danger areas.
* The stupid official plan for requiring fatal accidents before action reflets on the IQ of local planners.
* Traffic calming measures to be encouraged i.e. flashing signs. *(Flashing speed signs were considered and are possible but no local organisation has come forward yet to take on responsibility and maintenance of such signs).*
* I would like traffic to flow steadily and at 40mph through Garve. *(Average speed is 37mph according to Transport Scotland).*
* Speeding and careless driving a problem throughout area.
* Can Lochluichart Estate put signs up saying they have a camera monitoring traffic? *(CCTV signs already in place).*
* More signage to alert motorists to cyclists on the road.
* The passing places on the Little Garve Road need to be cleared of grass, broom, bushes etc as this road is quite busy now due to the playpark. *(Already passed onto The Highland Council roads department, local team will deal with when time allows).*
* Road signs direct people to our road prior to the junction - we have appalling signage. The NC500 signs are not in the right place. (Little Garve, Strathgarve). *(Signage needs to be a certain distance back from junctions in order to give drivers time).*

There needs to be an acknowledgment that the roads are far busier nowadays with a variety of traffic and steps should be taken to make traffic flow easier. There is too much emphasis on speeding and not enough being done about the slow drivers who cause frustration. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time).*

* Vegetation should be cut right back at the roadside to allow better sightlines which would allow safe overtaking opportunities. Tarvie is a prime example - it used to be safe to overtake there but trees have blocked the sightlines. This would also help see deer at the roadside*. (Such issues need reported to The Highland Council or BEAR).*
* More places for slow moving vehicles to pull in between Garve and Contin especially. Gorstan junction needs all the vegetation cleared and better road markings/signage Get rid of the 20mph zones unless they are in residential areas / outside schools*. (Such issues need reported to The Highland Council or BEAR).*
* I would like a village sign saying Inchbae. *(Survey of residents in October 2024 showed one resident in favour, six residents against).*
* I would like to avoid any traffic slowing down measures as 99% of folk in the main road through Garve are driving straight through not walking beside the road for a stroll.
* Removal of redundant road signage throughout our entire community Bespoke, attractive village welcome signs. *(Raised with local Cllr at October 2024 Community Council meeting and local Development Company are looking into welcome signs).*
* Signage for our smaller places so tourists/locals identify heritage.
* Lowering speed limit to thirty. *(current regulations not supportive).*
* Shifting speed sign to the Contin side of Killin Farm. *(Transport Scotland have already confirmed that would not meet current regulations).*

Speed detection cameras. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time).*

* Double white lines for no overtaking approaching village from Contin side. *(Already raised for Garve and Achanalt but Transport Scotland and The Highland Council say this is not suitable).*
* Traffic calming should be a priority.
* Traffic calming.
* Slow down the traffic.

Slow down traffic & put up speed cameras. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time).*

* Slow down traffic in & around Garve & District.
* Streamline, de-duplicate and modernise all public and private signage in Achnasheen. *(Raised at the October 2024 Community Council meeting with local Cllr).*
* Road pothole repairs. *(Potholes should be reported directly to BEAR or The Highland Council but main roads like the A832 and A835 will be attended to before side roads with little or no traffic).*
* Traffic calming - I understand from the surveys on speeding that have been done, that speeding in our communities is not an issue. Therefore this subject should now be dropped. There will always be speeders on open roads between settlements and we cannot do any more about this. There is a danger that this issue deflects focus and effort from other developments, arguably much more important.
* Reduce speed in Garve Village and surround areas of community.

We live close to an unofficial racetrack. Someone is going to die if this is not addressed between Grudie Bridge, Power Station and Achanalt. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time).*

Based on past "happenings" - I think it very important that the wishes and opinions of people living in all the above individual places, however few people there are, should be given prime consideration when such items as road signs, rights of way, safer path and verges, boundary recognition, NOISE are considered. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time including noise issues).*

* Road signs - appropriate to place, people, pedestrians, footpath. None of these to be intrusive to dwelling.

Where speed and roads are under discussion please include noise. Windfarms are doing it officially where there are new enterprises proposed so why is the topic ignored in our hamlets and villages? *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time including noise issues).*

* My understanding is that the previous speed survey was for Mossford, and was after the slow sign. What I am asking is that the slow sign be moved to before the turning to the railway station as the vehicles are doing more than 42mph at this point, and begin slowing down when they reach the current slow sign. *(Requested, but The Highland Council Roads dept* *note “Lochluichart, Please Drive Carefully” sign is already in place before turning).*



An earlier Action Plan for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport undertaken in the summer of 2021 raised the following action points along with actions already taken: -

1. Active Travel Provide quality cycling and walking routes around Garve and District. (*Work is on-going with Connecting Garve & District Project and The GDCORe).*

2. Active Travel Wayfinding signage provision. *(as above).*

3. Parking: Improve parking for use of residents. *(improvements in and around Garve Public Hall re parking).*

4. Parking - Designate specific locations for motorhome parking. (*Silverbridge is a Highland Council designated motorhome parking place).*

5. Parking Improved parking for visitor attractions. *(Improvements already in Garve at the Hall. Wyvis Natural Playpark was granting planning permission based on existing parking at Little Garve and Silverbridge).*

6. Public Transport Explore route and bus-stop provision for district buses, increase frequency of public transport. *(no mention of issues with bus stops in LPP.)*

7. Public Transport Establish a community bus, and/or a car-share scheme. *(work on-going).*

8. Road Safety Traffic calming measures into and out of Garve and other villages in the district. *(regularly discussed at every Community Council meeting).*

9. Safety (General) Explore impact of noise levels from NC500 tourism. *(Police already do regular patrols in the area but we encourage local residents to call 101 or* [*www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/*](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/) *and report incidents at the time including noise issues).*

Garve & District Community Council hope this report will help road authorities both of council roads and trunk roads to understand the issues concerning local residents.

Kenny Maclean,

Chairman, G&DCC

1 November 2024