



WRITTEN QUESTION FOR SUBMISSION TO MORAY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2023

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KEITH

Given the fact that Duffus Road, Elgin:

- Is a Priority 1 route for gritting in adverse weather conditions
- Is a busy road for commuting from outlying towns
- Is a bus route
- Has seen a steady increase in usage with new housing at Hamilton Gardens
- Is experiencing traffic congestion linked the usage of the Moray Council run Beechbrae Education Centre which is getting worse

Means that Moray Council has an obligation to act to mitigate the evident problems.

In light of these facts can Council be advised as to what instructions have been issued to staff at the Beechbrae Education Centre by the Chief Executive advising them not to organise further training seminar events at the centre given the level of disruption to residents and danger to road users in general caused by the level of on street parking at this Moray Council facility.

RESPONSE

It is appreciated that there has been concerns about a high level of parking demand from users of the Beechbrae facility during school strike days as school support staff were invited to attend training at this location. The Chief Executive asked the teams to request attendees at the training event on the strike day (19 January) to car-share and find alternative locations to park where possible. The teams have also been asked to consider the best location for any future training events where a large number of attendees would be expected.

In terms of road safety concerns, the width of Duffus Road at this location is sufficient for current usage including on-street parking associated with the Beechbrae facility. There has been on-street parking on Duffus Road associated with the Beechbrae facility for a significant number of years. There have in the past been requests for parking restrictions to be placed on Duffus Road to prevent parking.

The introduction of parking restrictions would have two consequences:

- Vehicles would be displaced onto neighbouring side roads, leading to issues for the residents of those roads if vehicles parked too close to driveways, etc.
- The vehicles parked on Duffus Road act as traffic calming and assist in slowing down vehicle speeds. The removal of parking would mean that there would be no requirement for vehicles to slow down to pass the parked vehicles and would lead to increased vehicle speeds. The speed of traffic on Duffus Road has been raised as a concern previously by local road users. However, surveys undertaken at this location have found no evidence of excessive speeds. The latest survey, carried out in March 2022, shows that the average speed of traffic travelling towards Beechbrae is 27.9mph and towards Morriston Road is 28.7mph.