

GAVINTON, FOGO AND POLWARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting on 18 August 1985 at 2.30 pm with Lt Col W Swan

Present:-

Mr D McNiven (Chairman)
Mr R Baillie
Dr A Brown
Mrs B Darling
Mr R Markby
Mrs J Wheaden

The meeting commenced at the road junction at Nisbet Rhodes which Lt Col Swan agreed was a blind corner and he suggested that "Danger" signs might be erected. Even if the road was widened (which would be very costly) it would still be badly sighted. He suggested that the provision of traffic lights might be an alternative - using temporary ones for this year's harvest. The owner of the White House pointed out the damage to the corner of his property by traffic. It was noted that the traffic using the road was fairly heavy. Grain lorries which are 8' 6" wide and 50' long would have to swing into the right hand side of the road when turning.

The meeting moved, by car, to the Middlefield grain dryer where the narrowness of the road, 13' 6" was noted, the biggest problem being the narrow stone bridge on the bend by the dryer. Lt Col Swan suggested that "Warning" signs should be erected on both sides of the bridge. He said that Mr Russell of Philip Wilson had said that there would be no more parking of lorries on the side of the road. At the time of viewing the forecourt to the dryer was empty but when grain is stored there would be no turning point off the road for lorries. It was pointed out that premises had been re-painted and new fences erected after planning permission had been refused. Lt Col Swan said "This is not a good site."

The meeting then proceeded by car up the narrow twisting road to Gavinton and the narrowness of the village street, with houses opening straight on to the road with only a narrow pavement was noted. Lt Col Swan commented on the bad junction with the main Duns/Galashiels road.

The next stop was Langton Lodge (where lorries may have to go to use the weighbridge facilities) and it was demonstrated how vehicles would have to pull over to the right hand side of the road in order to line up for entry through the Lodge Gates.

If Planning permission is granted on Tuesday, 20 August 1985, drying of grain will begin immediately without any improvements being implemented.

Lt Col Swan said he had also listened to the views of local farmers and Philip Wilson and that it should be possible to compromise. He said he would get assurances from Philip Wilson :-

- 1 lorries would only use the road to the East of the dryer
- 2 dryer would only be used for duration of harvest
- 3 no lorries would run at night.

It was pointed out to him that such assurances could not be guaranteed and he agreed they could not be upheld in law

After much further discussion, during which it was pointed out that the Community Council had asked the Region to suggest alternative sites for a dryer, it was agreed that the only possible grounds for further