

Details of Pre-Inquiry Meeting and Road Sense Workshop, Thursday 1st May, 8pm, Corbie Hall (next to the Mill Inn Maryculter).

As many of you will no doubt have heard the Scottish Government has announced that Mr David Gordon and Mr Scott Ferrie have been appointed to hold a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into objections against the proposed AWPR. If you submitted an objection then you should have received a letter from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals.

Here is an outline of Road Sense's intended role in the pre-inquiry meeting and the scope for you, as an individual, to represent your own interests if you so wish.

First of all, the **pre-inquiry meeting** has been scheduled for **1.00pm Tuesday 13th May** at the Gordon Suite of the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre at the Bridge of Don.

The letter from the Directorate includes a schedule for that meeting. The purpose of the pre-inquiry meeting is, in essence, to set out the arrangements for the conduct of the PLI. At this stage we do not know precisely when the PLI is to be held or how long it will last but the Ministerial press release indicated that is provisionally scheduled to start in August. We would estimate that it is likely to last for at least 6 weeks but perhaps much longer.

At the pre-inquiry meeting the Reporters will want to:

- identify the likely participants in the inquiry
- identify the main issues for the inquiry
- agree the scope and sequence of evidence
- estimate the likely duration of the inquiry
- investigate the scope for parties to co-ordinate their involvement
- identify the scope for dealing with matters through written submissions or informal hearing sessions rather than by formal inquiry
- agree the start date of the inquiry
- confirm the venue details
- confirm document arrangements
- agree dates for submissions of statements of case, inquiry documents (Productions) and witness statements (Precognitions)

We would encourage as many of you as possible to attend the pre-inquiry meeting. We really want to convey the clear message that many, many people have objected to this road and that you all want to show your disapproval by your very presence. So please try and get along if you can.

We believe that RoadSense will be the principal objector to the scheme - whilst there will be other objectors such as Friends of the Earth, Transform Scotland, Woodland Trust, Aberdeen Greenbelt Alliance, none will be presenting evidence on as many grounds as ourselves.

If you did not object to either the first (December 2006- February 2007) or the second set (September - October 2008) of draft special road orders (and / or the accompanying environmental assessment or draft CPOs) then you will not be allowed to present evidence at the Public Local Inquiry. However, if you would like particular arguments aired on your behalf then please get in touch with us.

For those of you that did object then, as private individuals, you will have the right to appear separate from Road Sense and present your own evidence. However, please be warned that the Reporters will want to avoid the unnecessary duplication of evidence and will seek to encourage such individuals at the pre-inquiry meeting to have their case presented by RS (the umbrella group). However, if you want to present your own case - perhaps because of the particular way in which the proposal would affect your property - then we believe strongly that you should insist on your rights to do so. Indeed, it would probably help our cause if some individuals do this.

Road Sense will be holding a public meeting to discuss the pre-inquiry meeting at 8pm on **Thursday 1st May in Corbie Hall** (next to the playing fields on the south side of the Maryculter Bridge). This will be a **"workshop" style meeting more specifically aimed at those of you who would like to learn a bit more about the pre-inquiry meeting on 13 May and who may wish to give evidence at the public inquiry.** We hope to answer questions on some of the more formal aspects of the pre-inquiry meeting as well as the actual inquiry and give advice as required. We shall also give a short update on the campaign.

We plan to have a major public meeting after the pre-inquiry meeting - probably in late May or June - when we will be better placed to know about the scope, timing and possible duration of the PLI. We shall update you on the latest developments in our campaign and we would also hope to have presentations by some of our witnesses. Details of the timing and venue of this meeting will be distributed in the next few weeks, but we hope that as many of you as possible will get along to hear more, ask questions and give your continued support to Road Sense.