

**MILTON OF CAMPSIE  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**TRAFFIC LIGHTS CONTROLLED  
JUNCTION**

**BIRDSTON ROAD / ANTERMONY  
ROAD / CAMPSIE ROAD**

**PROPOSAL DOCUMENT**

## INTRODUCTION

During the early part of 2021, Milton of Campsie Community Council instigated a 'Community Survey' with the sole purpose of identifying the priority concerns of local Community residents. The overwhelming result of this survey identified **road safety** as the main subject of anxiety. The speed and volume of vehicles travelling through the junction of Birdston Road / Campsie Road / Antermony Road (locally known as "the Cross") was one of the specific points raised.

It is worthy of note, that over the preceding 30 years there has been a remarkable increase in the volume of residential properties located within the village. This has had a consequential increase in the traffic flow through the village, which has primarily impacted upon the traffic congestion at "the Cross".

The Community Council has conducted a detailed review of this problem area and consider it prudent from a **Safety Perspective** to highlight this area to East Dunbartonshire Council with a view to progressing this PROPOSAL DOCUMENT as a matter of urgency before a '*Serious Incident*' occurs at this location.

## FACTORS IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL

The following points are provided in support of either a "two-way" or "three-way" traffic light controlled junction at "the Cross", in Milton of Campsie.

- (i) At present there is only one traffic light controlled 'crossing point' within the village. This is located on Campsie Road approximately 18 metres before the junction with Birdston Road. During school term this crossing point is also resourced by a School Crossing Patrol Person;
- (ii) There is ONE public car park within the village, which is heavily utilised by residents attending one of the nine business premises; the local school; the local nursery; local village activities within the village hall and for the purpose of exercise in the surrounding countryside and local park/s. The car park is located on the east side of Birdston Road, approximately 15 metres south of "the Cross". There is no crossing point to support the ONLY village car park;
- (iii) Craighead Primary School presently has a school roll of circa 246 pupils. In the absence of a crossing point on Birdston Road, it is fair to say that, on occasions, the children take their life's in their hands as they attempt to cross the main road at various points south of "the Cross".
- (iv) The village provides both a private and state 'pre-school' nursery service. These are located adjacent to and within the confines of Craighead Primary School, Craighead Road (approximately 75 metres north of "the Cross"). As you are aware, the NHS recommends that toddlers and pre-school aged children should engage in at least three hours of physical activity per day. The Nursery School leaders take these children (numbering groups of approximately 10 – 12 children) outside for recreational activity on a regular basis throughout the day. With the exception of the identified traffic light controlled crossing point there are no other 'safe' crossing points. Essentially, on a daily basis, the staff are required to "take a risk" as they

attempt to cross Birdston Road in order to gain access to the Beechtree Park and village walkway. Not only is this extremely dangerous but from an educational perspective it does not teach the children how to cross a road safely. This can be witnessed on a daily basis and some locals can be seen stopping their cars on the main Birdston Road and applying their hazard lights in order to allow the children the opportunity to cross the road;

- (v) It should be noted that there are a number of residents who are either elderly, frail or have reduced mobility within Milton of Campsie. The only disabled parking is located within the village car park and the Co-op car park. It is unreasonable and indeed bordering upon disrespectful to expect this section of our society to struggle without appropriate crossing points. Many of our elderly make use of the local village Post Office but there is no crossing point to facilitate a safe access route;
- (vi) There are nine business premises within Milton of Campsie and eight of them are positioned within 60 metres of “the Cross”. They are located on all aspects of this setting and consequently require crossing points on all 3 roads servicing “the Cross”;
- (vii) Over recent years the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV’s) travelling through “the Cross” have increased significantly. The turning point at this junction is not suitable for vehicles of this size and invariably drivers of these vehicles have become reliant upon the good-will of other motorists to sit back from the junction in order to afford them an appropriate turning circle. Only recently, an HGV driver captured video footage from his vehicle of a child (approximately 10 years old) running across Campsie Road immediately in front of his vehicle. It is worth noting that a disproportionately high number of large farm vehicles also travel through “the Cross” at key times throughout the farming season;
- (viii) In addition to HGV’s and large farm vehicles, “the Cross” also provides a route for Public Service Vehicles (PSV’s) “buses” and school buses. The larger PSV’s also rely heavily upon the good-will of other drivers in order to allow them an appropriate turning circle. **Note:** The fact that HGV’s and PSV’s require significantly more room to negotiate the turn at “the Cross” in itself suggests that this is an extremely difficult place to cross the road without some form of controlled mechanism;
- (ix) Speed has been a key factor when considering this proposal and given the speed at which some vehicles travel through “the Cross”, the erection of a traffic light controlled junction would likely eradicate this safety concern and ‘in time’ educate regular users of “the Cross” to drive within the speed limit.

## **COMPARATIVE STUDY WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA**

The Community Council has conducted a comparative study looking at traffic flow through “the Cross” in Milton of Campsie against the traffic light controlled junction in Torrance. Both locations have a similar issue in regard to turning circles though Milton of Campsie is serviced by 3 main roads as opposed to 2 in Torrance. It should also be noted that the junction in Torrance does not suffer from a high volume of HGV’s and is not immediately surrounded by the same number of business premises.

In conducting this study, the Community Council chose to avoid school term in an attempt to identify just how busy “the Cross” was at what might be considered the quietest periods of the daytime hours. The study was conducted on weekdays during the following hours, with the number of vehicles attributed to each hourly period in brackets.

1000 – 1100 hours: (1,076 vehicles)

1100 – 1200 hours: (1,473 vehicles)

1500 – 1600 hours: (1,398 vehicles)

Essentially this equates to approximately 3-4 vehicles every 10 seconds or around 18-24 vehicles every minute. In comparison, the Community Council looked at the period between 1100 – 1200 hours in Torrance, on the same weekday, and there were **703** vehicles (less than half the number recorded in Milton of Campsie). The fact that the traffic lights in Torrance are set back from the junction meant that there were no identified traffic issues in relation to turning.

**Comment:** It is reasonable to assume that between the hours of 0700 – 0900 hours and 1600 – 1800 hours during school term that the ‘hourly’ traffic flow is well in excess of 2,500 vehicles per hour

## PROPOSAL

Maintaining the *status quo* is encouraging pedestrians and motorists to take risks! Therefore, given the information provided and the highlighted inherent ‘**safety concerns**’ to pedestrians and motorists at the junction of Birdston Road / Campsie Road / Antermoney Road, Milton of Campsie, we as a Community Council offer the following as a solution to preventing a serious if not fatal accident. In doing so, we have consulted with a selection of the local businesses and residents who have unanimously supported this proposal.

**It is proposed**, that the existing traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing be retained *in situ* and utilised to control traffic entering “the Cross” from the Lennoxtown direction on Campsie Road. A new set of traffic lights with a crossing point facility should be located on Antermoney Road approximately 20 metres east of the junction with Birdston Road, controlling traffic from the Kilsyth direction. Finally, a new set of traffic lights with a crossing point facility should be located on Birdston Road approximately 14 metres south of the junction with Campsie Road / Antermoney Road, controlling traffic from the Kirkintilloch direction. These lights should be positioned in such a location that visibility is afforded to vehicles emerging from the car park at “the Cross” (as previously defined).

It is respectfully suggested that an early site visit would be advantageous, however the Community Council is keen to progress this issue as a matter of extreme urgency as failing to do so may, **as highlighted**, result in tragic consequences.

*Milton of Campsie, Community Council*

*(Date submitted: 28 July 2021)*