

Cllr Adam McVey, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Lesley MacInnes, Transport & Environment Convener
Cllr Alasdair Rankin, Finance & Resources Convener
The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
EDINBURGH
EH1 1YJ

25 January 2018

Dear Adam, Lesley and Alasdair,

BUILDING THE NEW BURNSHOT BRIDGE

As you will be aware, it is now 14 months since the Burnshot Bridge was closed.

We fully accept that the significant concerns which emerged regarding the structural integrity of the bridge required it to be closed off to vehicles and pedestrians. We also recognise the efforts made by officials to install appropriate signage and, more recently, create a new and improved path for pedestrians and cyclists to travel between the bridge and the A90 underpass.

Nevertheless, the closure of the bridge over such a sustained period has caused substantial problems for our constituents, particularly for those in Kirkliston. Burnshot Road and the bridge have provided a vital connection between the village and Edinburgh City Centre. The bridge closure created major disruption to those who need to get to Edinburgh, particularly given the extremely limited and very expensive public transport options which are available. The change to the flow of traffic has also exacerbated the other problems which have emerged following the opening of the Queensferry Crossing and which are now seriously impacting on the eastern side of Queensferry and Dalmeny.

It is also important to recognise that the Burnshot Bridge has been an important access point for Craigie's Farm, a fantastic business and an important family friendly tourist attraction in west Edinburgh.

We were pleased to see the old Burnshot Bridge demolished a few months ago. Just this week, we have seen initial designs for a new bridge and commend the efforts of Council officials to engage and consult widely on these designs.

Nevertheless, as things stand, there is no capital budget committed for the construction of the new bridge. Given the significant pressures on Council finances, we are seriously

concerned by suggestions that the necessary money may not be allocated in the 2018/19 budget for the new bridge.

This is why we are writing, even at this late stage of the budget planning process, for the Council administration to commit the necessary funding to allow the new bridge to be built and opened this year.

As you will be aware, there is some considerable frustration amongst residents of the more rural parts of west Edinburgh, who often feel their unique problems and issues can be overlooked by the city centre based Council. By committing to the building of the new Burnshot Bridge this year, we believe the Council would go a long way in showing it does listen to and care about the residents of smaller villages such as Kirkliston.

We hope you will be able to respond favourably to this request. As always, we are happy to discuss any aspect of this letter and look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,



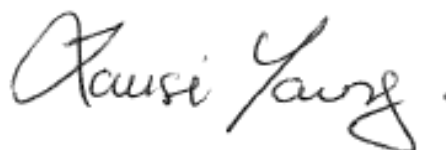
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh Western



Christine Jardine MP
Member of Parliament for
Edinburgh West



Cllr Kevin Lang
Councillor for Almond Ward



Cllr Louise Young
Councillor for Almond Ward

cc. Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive
Paul Lawrence, Director of Place