

UPDATE ON A83 REST AND BE THANKFUL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an extensive period of heavy rain there have been further landslips at the Rest and be Thankful. This latest event, on 28 October 2014, is the largest recorded landslip in the area with an estimated 2000 tonnes of material having come down the hillside. The previous largest recorded event having been in September 2009 when 1000 tonnes of material came down the slope.

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2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the recent landslip on the A83 and of a recent meeting that took place between Elected Members, the Chamber of Commerce and the constituency MSP.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members agree that Council requests that Transport Scotland and Scottish Government provide a permanent solution for the Rest and Be Thankful.

4.0 DETAILS

- 4.1 On 28th October a landslip occurred on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful (R&BT). This latest event is the largest recorded landslip in the area with an estimated 2000 tonnes of material having come down the slope. The previous largest recorded event having been in September 2009 when 1000 tonnes of material came down the slope. The debris fence held much of the material with the finer 'slurry' material passing through the nets onto the road.
- 4.2 Material was also washed onto the carriageway at Glen Kinglas and Ardgartan. Safety barrier and temporary traffic signals were installed at Glen Kinglas, west of the R&BT as a precautionary measure, given the saturated conditions on the hillside and the risk of further debris flows.
- 4.3 The Old Military Road (OMR) was used as a diversion route whilst the material was cleared at the R&BT. Once cleared the A83 was opened under traffic signal control. The OMR was then brought back into use on Thursday 6 November following the Met Office issuing a yellow weather warning for heavy rain in the area.
- 4.4 On Friday 7th November a meeting took place with representatives of the Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce, Cllrs D Philand, R G MacIntyre, Michael Russell MSP, Mike Story, Chair of the A83 Marketing Group, Donald Clark George Hotel and Jim Smith Head of Roads and Amenity, Argyll and Bute Council. The meeting acknowledged the need for all parties to work together towards a permanent

solution for the R&BT. It was agreed that representations be made to the Transport Minister regarding:

- OMR being 2 way for the majority of its length, possibly with traffic control at the hairpins.
- Provision of alternatives that do not rely on convoy working (allowing 2 way traffic and therefore reducing delays).
- A permanent solution being designed.

The above points to be further raised at the next meeting of the Task Force meeting to be held on 9th December and that the group that met on 7th November to reconvene on 12 December.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report provides an update on the latest landslip issues on the A83, summarises a meeting held with Elected Members, the Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce, the A83 Marketing Group and the constituency MSP.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	None
6.2	Financial	None
6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None
6.6	Risk	None
6.7	Customer Services	None

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

Policy Lead Councillor Ellen Morton

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