Ann Botel submission of 7 February 2019

This submission relates to the need to upgrade the A75 with a view to improving safety through the village of Crocketford.

Our concern is regarding Transerv Scotland's plan for the A75 through Crocketford, which followed on from Dumfries and Galloway Transport Summit on 19 September 2016. One of the action points was that “Transport Scotland will prepare "Springholm and Crocketford village traffic management study (the A75 passes through both of these villages)".

Subsequently there was a “closed” meeting held in Crocketford and attended by the then Transport Minister, Hamza Yusuf. Attendees at this meeting included representatives from our neighbouring village, Springhohn, but no-one from Crocketford was invited to attend, nor did we have sight of any minutes from the meeting. Having managed to obtain a copy of the proposal, Crocketford Community Initiative (CCI) communicated with Transerv, explaining that the residents of Crocketford were unhappy about part of the plan which is to install two uncontrolled pedestrian crossings on the A75 passing through Crocketford. Residents felt that one light controlled pedestrian crossing would be a much safer option for the village. Transerv’s response was that following a survey, which lasted for one week in the village, they decided that a controlled pedestrian crossing was not a necessary option. The residents of Crocketford feel that 2 uncontrolled crossings would be more hazardous than the status quo, given the speed and volume of the traffic passing through the village on the A75. In our village 14 children need to cross the A75 in the morning to catch the school bus. We also have an ageing population with 2 wheelchair users, 4 disabled residents and several people with mobility issues. With uncontrolled crossings people would be relying on the traffic to decide to stop to allow people to cross. The residents think this would just be an accident waiting to happen.

As stated above, our village was not represented at any of the meetings and any communication we have received from Transerv implies that our voice is irrelevant, and decisions have already been taken on our behalf, without any consultation. At a general meeting on 12 November 2018 it was decided that we should formally seek the opinions of residents. 95% of the community (160 people) signed a petition underlining the fact that they felt one controlled pedestrian crossing was a necessary and safer option for school children and older/disabled residents to cross such a busy road.

We feel that we are not being listened to which is the reason for this submission. No-one seems to be interested in the petition which we have put together.