

Meeting Report: Public Parking Meeting – Comrie

Date: 31 March 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Location: White Church, Comrie

Attendees

Ward Councillors: Stewart Donaldson, Noah Khogali, Rhona Brock

PKC: Blair Watt (Parking Officer)

Community Council Members: Andrew Scobie (Chair), Tim Lucas, Amy Fenwick, Dee Thomas, Lynn Stewart, Ross Scobie, Lindsay Brown

Members of the Public: 9

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Community Council Chair Andrew Scobie welcomed attendees and outlined the meeting's purpose: to gather community feedback on current parking challenges and explore practical next steps.

The Chair introduced key speakers, including Ward Councillors and PKC Parking Officer Blair Watt.

The structure of the meeting was explained, with space for presentations, proposals, open discussion, and written feedback via sticky notes.

2. Presentation of Key Issues

Current Challenges: Ongoing complaints regarding limited parking, short time restrictions, enforcement levels, and impact on residents and businesses.

PKC Officer Presentation (Blair Watt):

Outlined the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Shared nil results from a recent business survey (noted that letters were issued to all businesses, with no replies to date).

Confirmed willingness to work collaboratively with Ward Councillors and the community to review the TRO.

Community & Business Feedback:

Resident representative raised concerns about "turbo enforcement" being detrimental to residents and the harmony of the street, proposing that all restrictions be lifted. Scottish Water works on Drummond Street are compounding parking issues. Residents noted that work has been stalled for several days, with no on-site progress.

Business representative agreed that Scottish Water issues are adding pressure but felt that lifting all restrictions would be unhelpful. Expressed concern that the current 1-hour limit is off-putting for visitors and affects local trade.

Impact of the Comrie Flood Protection Scheme (2025–2026)

Statement read from Gavin Bissett- Flood Engineer PKC:

In summary, Gavin confirmed the temporary loss of the Field of Refuge car park due to the flood scheme, though four spaces have been made available for now and are expected to remain until June/July. Overall, the works are not expected to significantly impact village parking, as site vehicles will be based at the main compound, and arrangements around St Serf's Church are designed to avoid disruption. They are open to feedback and have invited any concerns to be raised so they can mitigate any issues where possible.

3. Ward Councillors' Proposals & Recommendations

The following proposals were shared by Councillor Stewart Donaldson on behalf of all three Strathearn Ward Councillors, and were discussed. These proposals reflect the position agreed by the councillors with verbal agreement given at the meeting and formal sign-off pending.

Removal of Parking Restrictions at the locations below;

Eastern section of Drummond Street (from Comrie Hotel to 24 Drummond Street and Ancaster Arms / Lane): All parking restrictions to be removed year-round.

Although the restrictions have been in place for a long time, they were not implemented until 2023 following layout changes. This area has caused the most upset in the local community.

Dundas Street: All parking restrictions to be removed year-round.

Revised Time Limits

Western section of Drummond Street (from Ancaster Arms westwards)

All of Dunira Street & Bridge Street

Parking time limit to be set at two hours, all year round.

This replaces the previous seasonal one-hour/two-hour system.

Ward councillors will request that Parking Services be informed so that signage can be updated to remove references to one-hour limits. It was noted the 1st of April 1 hour restrictions will be in place until the internal sign off which may be several days.

4. Open Community Discussion & Feedback

Key Points Raised:

Laggan Park Car Park: Agreement that it is underutilised. Suggestions included:

- Improved signage to highlight its availability.
- Filling potholes and refreshing line markings.
- Creative signage for the path linking Laggan Park to Back o' Toon Lane.

- Potential relocation of recycling bins to free up parking spaces.
- Street lighting improvements, as the area is currently very dark at night.
- Inquiry about whether Balfour Beatty could support a community benefit project to help upgrade Laggan Park- Car park.

Temporary Lifting of Restrictions:

- Suggested by a resident representative as a trial during the flood protection works.
- Strong opposition from both a business representative and another resident, who felt this would cause chaos.
- Consensus emerged around the importance of enforcement of yellow line restrictions to ensure safety, particularly for pedestrian crossings and general traffic flow.

Additional Parking Options:

- Suggestion to explore alternative parking solutions across the village, particularly for the duration of the flood works.
- The field beside Comrie Primary School was proposed as a potential temporary parking area.
- Ward Councillors committed to investigating this option further with PKC and the Community Council.
- Recognition that the recent development of St Kessog's Square has resulted in a reduction in parking spaces, though the green space is welcomed for its positive impact on community activity.

5. Next Steps, Actions & Close- CC Chair

- **PKC Officer (Blair Watt):**
Will continue engagement with Ward Councillors and community council.
To liaise with PKC Network Team regarding: delays to Scottish Water works.
- **Ward Councillors:**
To formally request the changes to the parking restrictions as set out in the proposals discussed.
To explore the possibility of using the field near the Primary School for temporary parking.
To investigate potential for signage and improvement works at Laggan Park.
- **Community Council:**
To continue acting as the main liaison point for community feedback and future updates.

Chair Andrew Scobie thanked all attendees for their contributions and constructive discussion.

Approval: This report will be presented for formal approval at the next scheduled Comrie Community Council meeting.