

## Councillor Barnacle

### Stagecoach Services

*Copy of a letter to Andrew Warrington, PKC  
Public Transport Unit, 16/8/16*

Dear Andrew

I refer to your email of 6th instant detailing the changes to Stagecoach bus service timetables affecting our Kinross-shire Ward from 15th instant following the so-called public consultation earlier this year.

I write to express my concern at the reduction in services on Route 23 between Stirling and St Andrews, Routes 35/36 between Perth and Glenrothes, Route 56 between Perth and Kinross and Route 201 between Glenrothes and Kinross.

I welcome the public transport option included for Gairneybank and Gairneybridge under Routes 56 and X55/X56.

The reduction in service 201 results in Portmoak Community Council requesting an extension to the West Kinross-shire DRT scheme and I welcome the extension of this scheme to Maryburgh and Blairforge.

I'm aware you are at the mercy of commercial operators since bus de-regulation and do your best but thought the changes worthy of my comment as Ward member.

Kind regards

Councillor Mike Barnacle

Independent Member for Kinross-shire

*See also article on bus service changes, p. 3.*

### Improving Kinross High Street and providing a Visitor Centre at Loch Leven

When I made submission to PKC's Main Issues Report of our Local Development Plan 2 in March 2016 (Local members to get briefing on progress with same in September), I reiterated the long overdue need for a community masterplan approach for Kinross/Milnathort. Recent issues re-emphasise this is an urgent requirement.

Although I supported the concept of regeneration of the High Street, I could not understand why it was necessary to remove the light controlled pedestrian crossing and have requested, along with my Ward colleagues, its reinstatement; a request reinforced by the Community Council letter to the Chief Executive of 2nd instant. Local members have toured the High Street twice since the project took place and suggested improvements we still await. It is also clearly advisable that the use of the Link Road along the Western Edge and Springfield Road is adequately signed and engineered for through traffic at the Muirs and south of the High Street to avoid the town centre unless visiting for local retail services etc. I understand the former Town Hall and Library buildings have recently been sold and it will be important that any development proposed complements this regeneration project.

I note the planning application for a 'temporary' welfare facility at Pier Road for Historic Environment Scotland [see page 28] and Councillor Robertson's letter to them regarding the lack of toilet facilities. Given the success of Loch Leven and the Heritage Trail in attracting visitors, surely it is time for community organisations, SNH, Ward Councillors and Historic Scotland to work together to help provide a first class Visitor Centre at Loch Leven with improved access, retail and visitor facilities to make the most of what has been achieved to date.



We hear a lot about grandiose schemes for Perth City, how about some joined up thinking about our county town from PKC's planners?

### A deposit return system for Scotland

As a former convener and current member of the Environment Committee at PKC, I have briefed senior Officers regarding the campaign led by Rural Scotland since September 2015 'Have You Got The Bottle?' The campaign is urging Scottish Ministers to introduce a deposit return system for plastic, glass and metal drinks containers to reduce litter, support a circular economy in Scotland, boost the recycling sector and create jobs, reduce public sector costs and improve the environment for residents and visitors alike. In summary, there are 10 facts about deposit return (see attached information sheets).\*

As a Council member of the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland I was asked to influence PKC Officers to bring a report to Committee and eventually full Council to garner support for the scheme. Already, Aberdeenshire and Midlothian Councils have unanimously supported the establishment of a deposit return system and written to the Scottish Government urging Ministers to back a scheme to complement local authorities' existing services so I hope PKC will do the same in due course.

**Councillor Mike Barnacle**

**Independent Councillor for Kinross-shire**

*\* For an abbreviated version of the ten facts from a leaflet by the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, see below.*

#### Have You Got the Bottle? 10 facts about deposit return

- How a Deposit Return System Works.** You pay a small deposit when you buy drinks cans and bottles, which you get back when you return them.
- Deposits are widely used around the world.** 37 countries or regions in the world have introduced effective deposit return systems.
- Deposit return on drinks is the next step towards a cleaner Scotland.** About 40% of all drinks are bought away from home, so a deposit makes it more likely they'll be recycled by being brought back to a shop. Drinks containers use up huge amounts of energy in manufacturing. The more we recycle, the better for our environment and economy.
- Deposit return won't cost you a penny.** Unlike tax, with a deposit you get it back in full when you return your empties.
- Returning your drink containers is quick and easy.** With deposit return, you can just take your empties back to the shop when you go or give them to the delivery driver if you order your groceries online.
- Deposit return reduces litter very effectively.** Drinks packaging makes up 50% or so of litter by volume, and deposit return achieves recycling rates of over 90%+ in places that have it.
- Deposit return systems greatly improve recycling rates.** In Germany 98.5% of plastic bottles are recycled.
- Deposit return works alongside existing kerbside recycling.** Kerbside collection is an important part of the mix, but as much as 50% is lost during collection, sorting and processing. Kerbside collection doesn't help with drinks consumed away from home.
- The Scottish public strongly support deposit return.** A poll in 2015 showed that nearly 79% of people in Scotland are in favour.
- The people behind the Have You Got the Bottle? campaign.** There are currently 25 supporter organisations representing around 300,000 people in Scotland.

For more information, visit: [www.haveyougotthebottle.org.uk](http://www.haveyougotthebottle.org.uk)