

MAB/SR

21 February 2019

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**An Independent Councillor**



Dear Murray

### **School Crossing Patrollers and the Current PKC Budgetary Situation**

I refer to my letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant and your reply of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant regarding the above. Following yesterday's budget debate, at which the Independent Group proposal that the cuts to School Crossing Patrollers suggested by Officers and also following the decision by the Education Committee on a previous saving in this area, should all be rejected, as you know the decision on the budgets went to a casting vote from the Provost. The effect of this is that those earlier savings decided by the Education Committee for Crossing Patrollers in my Ward will not be reversed. I find it difficult to advise my constituents in these jobs that they are too lose them, purely as a result of the Provost's casting vote in the budget debate. I therefore think that it is imperative, as stated in my previous letter, that the Crossing Patrollers in Crook of Devon and Kinross should not lose their positions before an adequate safety audit of their crossing has been undertaken and I seek your assurance that this will be done.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cllr Michael Barnacle  
Independent Member for Kinross-shire

PS As regards yesterday's budget debate, which was the first time to my knowledge as a Councillor of nearly 20 years standing that 3 papers went to a casting vote of the Provost, as I indicated to you following that, I think it is time to review the budget setting process. In my view, it would be much better if political groups were able to present their proposals at a budget meeting, without an initial decision being made. This presentation could then be followed by a meeting 1 week later to decide the budget going forward, giving time for dialogue between groups, etc. and possible changes to be made to arrive at a better outcome for our constituents. I believe this happens in some other Local Authorities. The Independent Group asked the

previous administration to consider this approach, rejected by the previous Provost. Perhaps Dennis might think this idea as worthy of reconsideration?

Cc Councillor Xander McDade  
Councillor Caroline Shiers  
Councillor Callum Purves  
Councillor Richard Watters  
Councillor Willie Robertson  
Fossoway Community Council  
Kinross Community Council