



Bypass campaign stepped up

ACTION has stepped up a gear in the campaign for a by-pass for Maybole in recent months as locals take to the streets and raise awareness for their cause.

We asked Maybole By-Pass Action Committee chair Peter Mason for an update on the campaign.

"WE have heard it all before and you all know the story about how long we have waited - 55 years plus.

"We have all talked about the reasons for a bypass, the safety of the residents and visitors to Maybole, the 40-ton lorries thundering along the High Street that was made to accommodate horses and carts. We have talked about the historical buildings that are crumbling."

And now to today

"THE By-pass Action Committee made the decision to start taking action to protest the fact that we were told at the time that the survey into the traffic problems would be published last autumn 2005.

"We continually phoned to be told that the study was complete but would have to go in front of the Transport Minister before it could be published. To this date we are still waiting! Why is this report taking so long to publish?"

What we have done and what we are going to do

"IN January of this year we held our first protest at the lack of this report being published. The protest was well attended with 60 residents and visitors taking part. Our second day of action took place in April of this year and again was well attended, even taking into account the fact that the lights were out at the pedestrian crossing (yet again).

"We are planning further days of action until this report is published and the Transport Minister announces that Maybole is getting the by-pass that it has waited so long to get. We are not going to go away, and the Minister should start listening to the electorate of North Carrick.

"We have looked to the future and thought very carefully before taking action, and you can see no other way forward. If we sit back and do nothing, we feel that we would be letting the majority of people in Maybole down.

Taking action

"TO do nothing would be the easy option; to sit in the pub, café and say "look at the state of this High Street - someone is going to get killed on this road" is easy.

To do nothing is to sit back and watch places like the three towns Saltcoats, Ardrossan, and Stevenston getting a by-pass, when in our opinion there is nowhere else in the whole of Great Britain that needs and deserves a by-pass as much as Maybole.

"To take action for a by-pass is not easy, we know that we are going to upset some people that are passing through on a day out, we also know that we are going to upset some residents of Maybole, and for this we are sorry but we know of no other way to bring this to the attention of the politicians."

Listening to the community

"IF anybody has any other ideas that we could use other than the course of action we are taking we will only be too glad to hear what other people are have to say and take a different line.

We will gladly listen to other arguments as to action, but if anybody expects us to sit and do nothing, as the lives of our children, and elderly residents are put at further risk, they are sadly mistaken.

"Why should we sit back and watch the historical buildings in Maybole crumble slowly; especially when a report has been sitting on the Transport Minister's desk for months."

Join the campaign

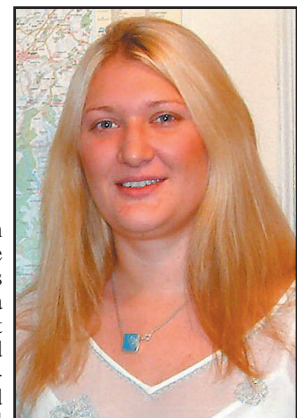
"FOLLOW the reports in the local press come and join us in our days of action - which will be many. Don't sit in the house, pub, and say the traffic is bad.

"If you as an individual feel that a by-pass is required, come and join us; don't leave it to other people to fight on your behalf.

"It's time to do something for this town that is being shaken to pieces by the weight and volume of traffic passing through our town.

"If Tony Blair lived in Maybole, this action would not be needed as we would have had a by-pass years ago."

Update from Rural Community Worker Gillian Anderson



"IT'S a busy time around the villages with preparations getting underway for various gala days and summer events. There is always space for some extra bodies to help, so if you feel you could get involved, or your organisation would like to take a stall at any of these events, please get in touch with me and I will put you in touch with the organisers.

"As well as that, a lot of groups are putting in applications to improve what they are offering to you. Daily Scouts are applying to Awards for All so that they can take a group of young people to the Jamborette at Blair Atholl, and the Bowling Club are attempting to get funding for a new lawnmower and equipment for their coaching sessions for the local primary children. The Young Anglers have applications in so that they can expand their course in Game Angling and Conservation.

"Community Councils are very busy with a lot of them involved in the wind farm developments in the area. If you want to find out about any of their business you will find minutes posted on your Community Notice Boards, or you can find their contact details on www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

"In other areas, Dunure Hall and Park Committee have the go ahead to make disabled access improvements to the Kennedy Hall, funded by the Fair Share Trust, and Kirkoswald Indoor Bowling Club have recently secured a rebate from Scottish Water, which should save them about £3000 over the next four years.

"The Rural Community Conference which

took place on 6th May gave all the groups in the area a chance to get together and exchange resources and ideas, as well as having the chance to find out about the issues that affect them, and speak directly to some of the main funders in the area. If you weren't able to attend, contact me and I can give you a summary of the day and any information which would be relevant to your group.

"Groups also had the chance to ask for resources - either equipment or people, and work will be going on in the next few months to try and match the groups with others who can exchange resources and skills. Again, it's not too late to get your needs to us - you can give me a ring or drop into Maybole Resource Centre to give us your details.

"One last thing - if you haven't returned the questionnaire I sent out a couple of months ago, asking for details of your group, please try to get it back to me! It will help me to put together information about what is going on, and might get you some new members for your group."

● RURAL Community Worker Gillian Anderson can be contacted at Maybole Resource Centre, 48/50 High Street, Maybole, Tel 01655 884022 or gillian.anderson@may-tag.com

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