

HARBOUR ROAD GARDENSTOWN – Update 9th March 2018

Following intense rainfall and rapid snowmelt, a further landslide at Gardenstown developed significantly on 6 March 2018. This resulted in loose soil and rock debris mobilising, building up behind the temporary concrete blockwork wall and eventually causing the wall to partially collapse. Thankfully no one was injured in the event but the incident did understandably cause significant alarm to local residents, particularly to those directly affected.

The movement in the slope has resulted in many new cracks at the top of the landslip being exposed and the displacement of large rocks within the landslide. The potential for further movement of soil and rock is a serious risk to those working on or beneath the landslide.

Until works are carried out by our rope access team to lower or contain this loose material no works can be undertaken to clear the soil, rock and concrete blocks from the toe of the landslide. There is a significant risk of further movement within the landslide following removal of the soil, rock and the concrete blocks but this can be mitigated through the temporary installation of a containment system (netting on the slope and a bund at the toe of the slope). Work on the site will continue into this weekend including Sunday.

Regrettably it will not be possible to open the road this weekend as planned.

This is a complex issue and at this stage we cannot give a definitive date when the road will re-open, but we can assure residents we are trying to reinstate the controlled openings as soon as possible.

We are also aware of concerns with the collection of household waste. We are currently investigating various options to resolve this issue and will publicise these early next week.

We can also advise that a public “Drop-In” session has been organised in the “Dreel Hall” on Friday 16th March 2018 between 0900 and 2000hrs, where representatives from the Banff & Buchan Area Managers team, the Roads Service and from the Council’s consulting engineers, Atkins, will be available to provide updates on the ongoing recovery operation, the geotechnical investigations, traffic management arrangements, possible design options, etc.

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