

SPRING 2022

A77 Maybole Bypass

Project newsletter



Connor and Fiona, two apprentices keen to improve their knowledge and experience

Community welcomes bypass opening

Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth, meets members of the local community





John Stephens, Project Manager, Wills Bros

Welcome

In May 2019, Wills Bros began constructing the A77 Maybole Bypass. It has been a challenging few years with the COVID-19 pandemic, adverse weather conditions and supply chain issues all having an impact, but my site team and I were delighted to open the road to traffic.

We delivered 5.2km of single carriageway with additional opportunities for safe overtaking, associated junctions, three new roundabouts, an underpass and three new bridges as part of the project.

During construction we've ensured that our Community Benefits Programme and Skills and Employment Plan opportunities have been delivered to bring benefits and opportunities to the local community in Maybole.

We are grateful to the local community of Maybole, who we have been keen to meet and engage with, for their patience and support during the construction period. We look forward to seeing the benefits that the new A77 Maybole Bypass will bring for road users and the local community.

As Project Manager, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the project.

We ask for your continued co-operation as we complete the final phase of work.

John Stephens, Project Manager on behalf of Wills Bros



Members of the Maybole Bypass Committee, along with Elena Whitham MSP, look on as Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth officially opens the A77 Maybole Bypass.

New Bypass officially opens

On the 31 January 2022, the new A77 Maybole Bypass was officially opened by the Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth.

This was a proud moment for Wills Bros Civil Engineering, Transport Scotland and the local community.

We were joined by a small number of local community residents, many who campaigned for years to see the bypass come to fruition.

The local community who joined us were the first to drive on the new 5.2km carriageway. At the opening event, the Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth presented Mrs Senga Mason with two framed photos of her late husband, Peter, who had been the Chair of the Maybole Bypass Committee.

Peter was sadly not able to see this momentous day which he had long campaigned for.

Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth said:

"The local community can look forward to improved air quality and road safety, making the town centre a safer and more pleasant place to live and work."

This new section of the A77 will provide better journey times for motorists and businesses accessing the port at Cairnryan. I would like to pass on my gratitude to the contractor for their work in constructing the new road. As we've seen today, it will serve every member of the community with a road fit for the 21st century."



Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth, hears from Jonathan Wills, Wills Bros, about the construction of the Bypass.



Mrs Senga Mason was presented with two photographs from the official start of works in May 2019 by Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth.

Community Benefits Programme

Wills Bros provided site-based employment opportunities for a variety of roles and used the local supply chain for goods and services where possible. Through its Community Benefits Programme, employment was provided across the site with roles in administration, document control, reception, hospitality, community liaison and cleaning/hygiene

We are also proud to have provided:

- 5 graduate posts
- 2 graduate/apprenticeship posts in partnership with Strathclyde University
- 3 intern posts
- 6 Modern Apprenticeships.

We have worked in partnership with several agencies such as South Ayrshire Council, the Department for Work and Pensions, local employment and training agencies, and organisations such as the Carrick Centre.

Supporting the community

We enjoyed supporting as many of the local community requests for assistance and donations as we could.

These included:

- Stones and materials donated to local nursery garden
- Donation to Maybole Juniors Football Club
- A charity Christmas jumper event
- Materials donated to the Carrick Centre Garden.

Our Senior Earthworks Manager, Chris Dale, met with representatives from Girvan Mains Fishing Club and assisted with their request for some topsoil to be used to improve the riverbank for anglers with disabilities to manoeuvre in their wheelchairs with greater ease.

We helped the parish committee of Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Church turn an area of unused land opposite the church grounds into a community garden with a donation of 50 tons of soil.

The project was established by Carrick Community Food Garden (CCFG) to support food bank users and people affected by social, economic and health issues who help maintain the plot of land.



Unused land opposite Our Lady & St Cuthbert's Church before it was turned into a community garden.

Engagement with schools

We enjoyed working with the three local primary schools - Cairn, St Cuthbert's, Gardenrose primaries - over the past three years.

We also worked with the staff and pupils at Carrick Academy and St Margaret Academy where we gave pupils the opportunity to receive on-site training including shadowing placements across a range of work disciplines. Over the coming weeks we will conclude our work with Carrick Academy for pupil placements and the Academy's mentoring programme.

We actively engaged in the Ayrshire Science Technology, Environmental and Mathematics (STEM) Programme, welcoming fifteen students and their lecturer from the Rural College of Scotland to our site. We also hosted an online seminar which focused on construction related issues.



Students from the West of Scotland Rural College on a visit to the site.



Wills Bros sponsored Carrick Rugby Club, who have been based at Somerville Pavilion since they were established in 1978.



Culzean Castle and Country Park Estate's stonemasonry centre were given rock and topsoil to help with construction of a tree nursery, built for educational purposes.

Environmental

The team discovered two bird's nests on the site. We ensured that all chicks had fledged and that the remaining nests were inactive prior to their removal.

One of our last tasks will be to install two bee hotels and we are in discussion with several groups regarding the best placement for a barn owl box.



The team collected around five hundred empty crisp packets for recycling through the TerraCycle scheme.

TerraCycle disposes of the waste and in return awards points that can then be turned into vouchers or further funding. We are delighted to report that the 48th Dundonald Scout Group received the rewards from our crisp bag collection.



Moving forward



Revetments construction beneath the bridge completing the structure with the installation of kerbs, fencing and staircase.

Over the coming weeks, as full completion of the project approaches, the project site compound will begin downsizing to a reduced site presence.

Responsibility for the roads will change. Transport Scotland is responsible for the new A77 Maybole Bypass and their operating company, Amey will take responsibility for the routine maintenance of the new Bypass.

The former A77 route through the town of Maybole will be detrunked and become the responsibility of the local authority, South Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Roads Alliance. The former A77 route will be renumbered and maps and road signs updated.



Minister for Transport, Jenny Gilruth, Jonathan Wills, (Wills Bros) Mrs Senga Mason, Hok-Weng Chau (Transport Scotland) and Gavin Dyet (Transport Scotland).

FURTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

If you have any matters you wish to raise concerning the A77 Maybole Bypass project, please contact Bridie Casey, Community Liaison Officer, at: bridgetcasey@willsbros.com or on our freephone number: **0800 118 1661**

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A CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment & Award Scheme Manual) assessment, an evidence-based sustainability assessment that includes reducing waste and carbon emissions, was successfully carried out and is now completed at 87%, which means an excellent award.

One example of how we achieved an excellent award was our partnership with local primary and secondary schools, the Ayr Campus of the University of West of Scotland and the Rural College of Agriculture. They monitored the carbon footprint on site, dealing with waste management issues as well as protecting the local environment and habitat of local wildlife.

Considerate Constructors



The A77 Maybole Bypass site is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS). The CCS strives to promote and achieve best practice on site and in the surrounding local environment. We had our first CCS audit in November 2019 and achieved a certificate of excellence. Since then, the CCS highlighted that there was an exceptional level of community engagement, including lots of school and college visits and that all environmental issues are addressed to a high standard. You can find out more about the scheme here:

ccscheme.org.uk/ccs-ltd/code-of-considerate-practice-2

