

A personal opinion from Phyllis Jolly, 8 The Den, Letham. Distribution by, "In The PICTURE", to support a public conversation, is much appreciated.

LETHAM'S ROADS, A HISTORIC CONUNDRUM.

Who owns a road? Who has a right to use it? Who has authority over the road and who has an obligation to keep the road in good repair? An unusual topic of conversation but not in corners of Letham.

In very simple terms, there are three road categories in Letham: a private access, public roads that have been adopted by, "The Roads Authority" and public roads that have NOT been adopted. Key words are, "Owner", "Authority", "Rights" and "Obligations". When the village was constructed by the landowner, George Dempster, he put in place a means of income to pay for road upkeep and a contract with those who purchased plots (feus) in his village. This was the origin of Letham

Feuars' Committee and that Committee fulfilled the role of Roads Authority. However, in 2007 records show a change to the terms of the original contract, to remove the roads maintenance clause.

Some of the roads are now only grassy foot/bike paths (public rights of way) but others form vital links in the network serving the village. Ownership to this day remains with the Successors in Title to Mr Dempster but in today's legal system, a landowner is not **obliged** to maintain a public right of way. Angus Council has **statutory rights and some authority** over these roads, relating to public benefit and safety mainly but it has no **obligation** to deal with repairs to reflect these rights. FRONTAGERS