

(owners of bounding land) have no more authority, rights or obligations than any other member of the public, who is entitled to use the road for passage. However, in the public interest, frontagers can be legally required to pay for road works if the Roads Authority ie Angus Council serves a s13 notice on them under The Roads (Sc) Act 1984. See s13 to s18 of the 1984 Act for full information including financial arrangements and obligations about future adoption. A Judicial Review has been known to rule that the level of public use is such that all road works costs should come from the public purse, so use of this part of the statute is uncommon.

So, that is the roads conundrum in certain corners of Letham. Rights, authority and obligations are not well

balanced. I feel it is unfair that frontagers are forced to maintain a road surface that is heavily used by the public. As a householder served by an adopted road I would gladly contribute to such costs throughout the village, if civic leaders would organise a collective means to gather funds. Council tax? That option has been rejected for the 10 years I have taken an interest. In the current climate of community engagement and self-help, it is perhaps a silver lining that has brought neighbours together to look for a solution to this problem. A problem shared...

A while back, I had an anxious trip in a 999 ambulance when dark, icy roads diverted us away from the most direct route out of the village. Proof that a good, efficient roads network is a collective benefit.