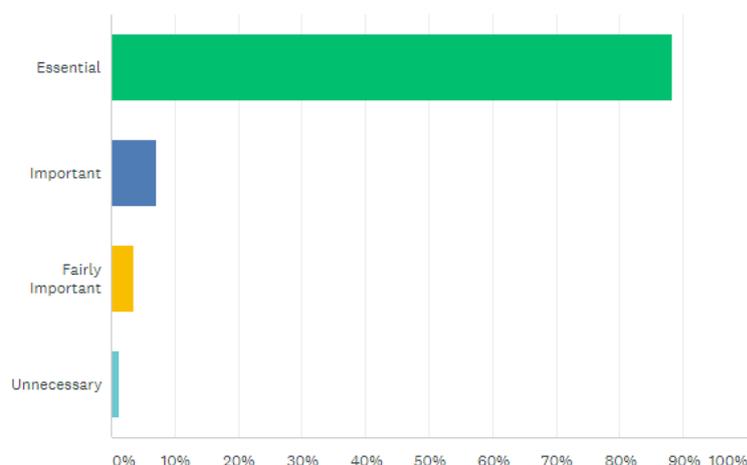


Emergency Access via the Forest Road for Strathard Communities (SCC Survey)

When the B829 is impassable, how important is it for all Strathard residents to be able to use their historical (unlocked) forest access route in and out of the glen?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Essential	88.24% 75
Important	7.06% 6
Fairly Important	3.53% 3
Unnecessary	1.18% 1
TOTAL	85

[Comments \(74\)](#)

The survey was sent to all residents of Strathard glen for whom email addresses were available to the Strathard Community Council, but which constituted a significant majority of all who appear on the electoral register. Around 80% of all who received the survey responded. All comments which were volunteered with the responses appear below.

ESSENTIAL

- Simply put, this community has been served by two routes for many decades: the main, tarmac'd road that follows the glen all the way to Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine; and the old military road that has acted as alternative. During times when the main road is blocked, especially due to flooding, but occasionally due to other situations (e.g. accident, road repair, etc.) the old military road to Aberfoyle is the only way to keep essential access for the community. The addition of a locked gate has also split the Loch Ard forest community - simple

visits between neighbours has necessitated a long round route, accompanied by spot checks/interrogation by forestry representatives. This can feel like borderline harassment - "Why are you here? Who are you visiting?". This feels like a transgression of privacy and a generally oppressive atmosphere, pressed upon a community who are often isolated and reliant on community support and friendship.

- This is essential because the three communities on the far side of the flood on the B829 have no other access. In reasonable conditions the folks at Stronachlachar might be able to use the water board road around Loch Katrine but that road has been closed for a considerable time now due to landslips, so it is not a safe option. The main concern must be emergency access. In normal times there are two busy hotels on the far side of the flooding. A fire or medical emergency in either of these requires immediate access. I do appreciate that the locked gates have been essential during Covid, and also know that forest roads in heavy rain are dangerous, but please can FLS work with the community and help find a safe solution before a major incident occurs? We had an incident last year which, whilst not an emergency to us, was vital to the bridegroom who was stranded in Aberfoyle whilst his bride waited at Forest Hills! He was rescued by a kind local with a very large vehicle. He was lucky. Many aren't.
- The B829 is a lifeline road and is prone to flooding, landslides and obstruction for emergencies it is critical that there is another route.
- On Friday 19th I had to be in Glasgow for work. I attempted to get home via forest but found that the gate locked. Called at nearest house hoping they would have a key. Then tried post office, but no luck there either. In the end had to travel back to Glasgow. That's the first time in 37 years that I have not been able to get home. I understand that the forest roads are misused but in flooding situations they should be accessible for local emergency access.
- I'm a Director of a manufacturing company of 100 people in Glasgow and need to be able to get in and out from Loch Dhu House to access work and reach the airport when I'm travelling for work. It is not an option to be prevented access to and from the house by flooding/B829 road closure. There must be the ability to travel through the forest as has been the case for 19 years up until the Duchray gate was erected and most often kept locked. Specifically, in the afternoon last Friday 19th February, my partner and I took a chance that the gate(s) was unlocked and drove the usual forest route to get home to Loch Dhu House. Luckily it was open...Had it not been, we might have had to head back to Glasgow for the night. We look forward to hearing back from the Community Council as to whether access will be granted and, if so, how will local residents get through the gate(s) (given a key or code etc)?
- I've only lived here a short while and I've known of several occasions when emergency services were called if the Loch or Aberfoyle rd floods then it is the only means other than helicopter. With global warming weather is predicted to get wetter. Wake up and smell the coffee!
- It is the only other route for those who need to go to work or care for other members of their family out with the immediate area. It is also the only way that carers for example would be able to reach local Strathard residents. Last weekend we were effectively cut off from around Friday lunchtime until Sunday lunchtime. Emergency services may also require to use the forest route.

- If the B829 is blocked , the forest access route provides the only emergency access. Some medical emergencies cannot wait until the water subsides. During the heavy rains debris is washed down off the hills. This can create blockages or issues for those with their own water supply. Forest road access could be invaluable in this situation.
- I am a doctor working shift pattern, thus it is essential I can get to work. In the recent flood I had to stay in a hotel in Glasgow where I work.
- in case of medical need (long awaited medical appointment missed and now no indication of when it can be rescheduled) - in case needing to return home in the event the road has been closed in between times - job interview had to be cancelled - in event weather also causes issues with power or water supply
- I work for Trossachs Area Services in Aberfoyle and could not get home after my shift ended around 4.15pm last Friday. My husband drove up the forest road until reaching the locked gate. We then drove back to the village to telephone a friend with a high vehicle to drive us through the floods(unfortunately he was out!) We were anxious as we have animals at home. We decided to drive to the gate again in the hope that it was now unlocked. We found the gate open this time, but blocked by a Forestry vehicle and a woman standing in front of it. We tried to explain why we needed access but she refused to let us pass for around 10-15 mins. She said she had been called out to let a specific person through only. She said the gate is now locked due to unsocial behaviour. She did finally relent and let us pass very grudgingly.
- Until North Shore Road Loch Katrine is re opened then this is essential. However it's been noticed that deer poachers have been along Loch Ard forest routes leaving entire skinned deer carcasses and evidence of in human killing methods and we would hate for this to happen because of unlocked gates
- It is essential from the point of view of providing a safe alternative route.
- Access and egress is vital for collection of prescriptions or medical attention,possibly emergency and potentially children being able to get home from school When weather warnings are announced the gate should be left open. However the communities have to appreciate that locking the route also helps reduce/prevent the area being misused and abused. Forestry need to work with and communicate with communities in Strathard.
- Being cut off from access to essential services, including medical services, is an unnecessary health and safety risk.
- It is crucial to allow alternative access through the forest in case of emergency travel
- We have livestock in Gartmore, and need to be able to feed and water them twice a day. Last weekend finding the gate locked we had no option but to risk going through the flood water. On Sunday evening my son had a minor accident If this had been more serious we would not have been able to take him to hospital without again risking getting stuck.

- If emergency services are needed, we must have some form of access and egress to the local communities affected.
- in case of emergencies or when we are unable to get to shops for basic supplies
- To be able to get home!
- My comment applies to residents and their visitors/guests of the houses cut off by the main road closure. It is essential for access in case of medical, work, schooling, important travel commitments, emergencies, security and needs. Not everybody can afford to run vehicles suited to cross flooded sections. The Forestry Scotland and Scottish Water sections of the road may not meet public road standards but users in justified conditions should be formally notified of conditions of use with adequate warnings on maximum speeds, ice and un-consolidated road conditions to reduce the public bodies liability. In the 30 years that we have lived on the road in question, we have not heard or known of anybody having an accident on the track when opened for use during B829 flooding.
- Crucially in the case of a medical emergency, but also why should residents just trying to return home be cut off when it is completely unnecessary. I get that normally we don't want unauthorised vehicles roaming the forest, but during severe floods it's ridiculous that this life line is blocked to residents.
- To get to work when required
- I often return from Glasgow late at night after travelling for work. If the roads are flooded, and the gate is locked, there is absolutely no way for me to get home, and it's too late to arrange to stay in a hotel. There is also no hotel accommodation accessible near Aberfoyle, and I also don't believe resident's should have to pay for a hotel in the event that the road floods. This is also completely unfeasible and ridiculous in a pandemic when we are bound to our own homes. Second to this, getting home to animals who are waiting to be fed, or let out to the toilet is absolutely essential. In the case of having to get out of the village, my work requires me leaving the village. In the weekend just past, had Monday not been clear in terms of the weather and flooding, I would not have been able to carry out essential works for an important government client with a tight deadline, and I would've lost thousands of pounds. I also have a problem tooth at the moment which is being carefully monitored by my dentist; I was particularly concerned over the weekend that should I need emergency treatment this would be impossible, and it gave me great anxiety knowing there was absolutely no way out of the village should I need to address this. It's absolutely disgraceful we are in this position.
- It is essential for myself and my husband to be able to take the forest access route when the B829 is flooded as otherwise we are unable to access essential facilities like shops, medical services, pharmacy.
- For life threatening issues it would seem essential to have access as a route in or out.
- Entirely necessary to reach essential services and health care for older and disabled residents

- This is important for any number of reasons - health, security, family, wellbeing (caused by not knowing whether we or our families can get home)
- A few years ago we were flooded in and my Aunt who lived (since deceased) in Aberfoyle and in her late nineties needed me so I had to use the forest roads; I understood following a previous trip round the forest with the then forestry commission that I would not be insured... not sure how they could be so certain that the insurance industry would not cover cars that were not on national roads but actually when driving under 10 mph I do not expect any insurance issues.
- First important to establish that the FLS (nor the LTNP) have any right to control access to these routes. From time immemorial users have ridden, driven and taken carriages along roads through the woods. My own father used wood routes in the 1970's, 80's and 90's when the A84 Aberfoyle - route was blocked anywhere between Aberfoyle and Kinlochard (he died 2001). Prior to the second world war, and after it, there was the old road, a serviceable and well used road through the woods from Kirkton of Aberfoyle to Duchray to Kinlochard. For example see Bartholomew's series 44 revised half inch to the mile Firth of Clyde, the Ordnance Survey One-inch-map of Scotland 1945, Loch Lomond sheet 66, which classed this as a 'c' road. Previous and subsequent maps showed this as the principal route to Blairvaich, etc. Finally, it's important to recognise, explicitly that these routes are all funded by the community taxpayers, ie they are publicly funded by us. It is important for the community to have access along the routes through the forest as a right first of all, but also because in emergencies and in crisis situations this is as it has been historically the only way in and or out for medical treatment or emergencies, supplies, and for many other normal reasons. In recent years there has been an attempt to conflate the forestry use of the area, the national park status, and the periodic preparation of roads to cope with logging, with other usage and access. This is unacceptable in any circumstances.
- Some, not all, residents need to be able to get out (and back home) for work purposes - especially those that are key workers. All residents should be able to get out (and back in) for emergencies i.e medical appointments, going to A&E, discharge from hospital etc. I am a key worker working for the NHS. I also live 1 mile to the west of the locked gate at Duchray Cottage in Loch Ard Forest. The Forestry have not given us a key for the gate. I was running a Covid vaccination clinic on Saturday morning at Balfron High School where 400+ at risk patients were receiving their vaccination. I was the only person with access to the vaccines, needles, syringes, patient lists etc so it was essential for me to be there. I had to leave the forest at 7am and the road between Kinlochard and Aberfoyle was closed by the police. I had parked my car at Duchray Cottage on Friday afternoon as the gate was locked and knew I would not get home via Kinlochard or back out again. I walked the mile home in the torrential rain and walked back out in the morning to my car. If I had not done this I would not have got to the clinic. I have since asked for a key to the gate because of my job - I work at a GP practice every week day and run vaccination clinics most weekends for the foreseeable future and I have not received a response to this. Apparently I should have asked before the clinic for a key but on previous requests for safety reasons (for example being trapped by a forest fire) we have been refused a key so it never even crossed my mind that the Forestry would say yes so didn't ask. On my return from the clinic on Saturday afternoon the police had removed the road closed signs in Aberfoyle so I presumed the road was passable - my husband had walked up to the gate and confirmed it was locked. I headed home via Kinlochard. Big mistake! The police should not have removed the road closed signs as Loch side was the worst flooding I have ever seen. I passed through the first

couple of flooded sections reasonably well but found myself in a couple of stretches that were at least 30 cm deep. Engine warning lights came on, I was concerned that the engine would stop if I stopped and turned round. I pressed on but I shouldn't have had to drive through this and risk expensive damage to my car because the Forestry refuse to let me get home after providing the community with an essential service.

- If you have a hospital appointment, doctors or dentist it is important too have an alternative route. Shift workers coming home from work need access to their homes. Indeed hospital workers going to work need to get there.
- The area has a higher proportion of elderly and vulnerable residents. This emergency route is a lifeline. I completely understand FLS's concerns about insurance, liability and 'the thin end of the wedge' but a responsible and good neighbour would find ways to allow access to happen.
- When heavy rain is forecast gates should be opened to allow residents to access homes, schools, work and medical care. There is a potential for something tragic to happen if a more cooperative system is not implemented by the community and Forestry.
- Stated in its simplest terms, an alternate route for ingress to and egress from the strath is patently essential if the normal and only other means of access is not available
- As I do not need to use this road I presume, during flooding, those that need to are trapped and unable to 'get out' when the road is locked. This is unacceptable specially as this road has been used for this purpose as long as I can remember. Why does it need to be locked anyway?
- With only one public road access it is critical there is an alternative option for when this road is blocked for whatever reason. Personally I can rarely work from home and when I do, this needs advance notice, so I require to be able to get out of the glen and more importantly back home from work. I have a number of animals at home so can't just stay elsewhere for the night-pretty much impossible to do at this time anyway (i am classed as a key worker). While fls may say access is not a problem for the emergency services, people do require to be able to get in and out the forest for any number of important reasons, where calling the emergency services is not appropriate eg urgent visits to a vet, ill friends, relatives etc. Saying this though, it should be made clear than anyone using the forest tracks does so at their own risk, with there being no liability or responsibility for damage to vehicles on the part of fls. Quite rightly, they can not be expected to maintain the forest tracks to the standards required for public roads. I think the situation would be self limiting anyway as most people will only use the forest access routes if they have to, postponing any non-essential journeys.
- We live on the North Shore private road round Loch Katrine so have access at all times to this as an alternative to using the B829 in periods of bad weather. Other residents in Stronachlachar and Inversnaid are unable to use this legally in bad weather as since the horrendous landslides in August 2019 Scottish Water's attitude is that the private road, owned by them, is closed to general access whenever there is a weather warning for the area in place. On the past two weekends, when the B829 was impassible, the temporary gates on the road were padlocked in addition to the permanent road barriers. Perhaps the matter can be raised with Scottish Water to use the road in exceptional circumstances. I seriously doubt it knowing their aversion to risk

and wish to restrict access code info. If this can't be an alternative for everyone then the forestry road is the only answer, not just for general use but for emergencies. It makes sense for Kinlochard residents, regardless.

- Because the B829 is the only road out of Stronaclachar and we need to have an option to be able to travel out whenever needed. On one occasion I was travelling to pick my husband up from Train station in Stirling to bring him home and I couldn't get through and of course he couldn't get home either as gates on forest road were locked.
- Particularly important when someone is trying to get home after the B829 has flooded. Even with a 4 x 4 with a snorkel the police will not allow access to the B829 due to the wash created and the potential damage to low lying houses. However sometimes access to and from the forest road from Aberfoyle main street is not possible due the force of water flooding over the entrance to the Manse Road bridge.
- On this specific occasion, well stocked up and face it, not many have important appointments to be anywhere!, so no necessity to use road. On other occasions, when onward travel was essential - eg work, plane /train booked, hospital/doctor/charity appointment; emergency purchases necessary; illness Certainly would not have been able to be here with no escape in days when member of household undergoing Chemo - if fever comes MUST get out However, it was always an unwritten "right" that the forest was there, so even from the point of view of a Bride not making it to Kinlochard, we always knew that if push came to shove, something could be done to make sure that show went on. I feel the trouble now is that folk have chosen to live here when there was an unofficial emergency route and it seems unfair to expect them to move house (if they have a eg a medical condition) when the goal posts have moved unexpectedly . It is important to note, however, that the road does belong to the forestry and that finding a solution to this should be based on that premise, rather than the demands of those who have no legal right to have vehicular access.
- I have lived in the area for over 35 years and the flooding around Aberfoyle is getting worse and deeper. It is therefore essential that we can use the road through the forest. Better signposting of the exact route to be used would be helpful.
- Essential that you can get in and out in case of medical emergency
- This is important for medial emergencies, if people run out of food they have no way to get it, a few years ago we had a house fire, we would have had no where to go and the emergency services would not have been able to get to us. It is also indecent to expect people who have been at work all day to have to find a hotel and stay in it until they can get home especially if they have to come home to care for somebody such as there own children or an elderly relative. If children are at school in the time the road becomes impassable the parents would not be able to get to their kids. This could end up being for multiple nights. Again this could end up being an extreme problem if the children have any special needs that they need either a parent, carer or medicine ect, as there is no way to get to the children unless the forest access route is open.
- Purchasing food, medical emergencies etc.

- I need to get to work in Glasgow. I work as a Lecturer and am often responsible for 10's to 100's of students. Not turning up due to flooding is a massive disruption to the running of things for them.
- In case of emergency it is essential that there is an alternative route to enable emergency vehicles access, (there are several people in the village with a range of serious medical conditions) access in case of fire, we personally have had a house fire, had we been cut off we would have lost our house. People should not be denied access to their home after a days work or fail to be able to get to work. Parents should not be stressed about whether their children will be stranded the opposite side of the flood during or after a school day with no way of reaching them if the road floods. There are numerous reasons why access should be available especially life threatening ones. There is no reason why the gate cannot be opened in these instances with a disclaimer that you use at own risk and the forestry are not liable for anything relating to your journey via that route.
- Emergency access for emergency services, family emergencies
- My son is autistic and is educated in Stirling because of this. When water rises quickly it can be impossible to collect him and get back to Kinlochard in time using the road so we have had to use the forest access route. If he were to be marooned away from Kinlochard he would suffer significant mental trauma and he would be unable to stay in a hotel. His phobia of people means he could not stay with anyone in Aberfoyle. He also has serious food allergies, necessitating an epipen so getting food for him would also be a serious problem. I worry that his education will be impacted upon if we cannot send him to school when the weather looks ominous because of the lack of access.
- It is extremely important so people can get to their homes, emergency vehicles have access, and children are not stranded at school without a parent to collect them in the event of flooding. Lochard road tends to flood before Aberfoyle, so it is essential we have forest access to get to our children
- The Forestry attitude regards this gate seems to be more to do with the legal precedent-setting than humanities safety and wellbeing. This should be a safe route for residents when needed, as it has been historically.
- If the B829 is blocked/closed our only route out from Inversnaid is to use the forest tracks.
- On several occasions, residents have been unable to return to their homes or get out for emergencies. During the winter when the main road can very quickly become impassable (but not limited to only Winter, the road has been impassable due to accidents all year round before), there have been several times when parents have been unable to get to the school to collect their children before the waters are too high. This doesn't include getting back again, and then consider Inversnaid where it takes considerably longer to execute a round trip. We also have several elderly residents across Strathard that rely on family and the emergency services regularly, who are now cut off from their lifelines. We have also had several chimney fires over the past few years across Strathard, and it is only pure luck that these didn't happen during a period where the road was impassable. Residents should be able to pass freely around

Strathard and go about our day to day lives without being throttled by the bureaucracy of F&LS Scotland, who should be communicating with the community that lives around and within the Forest, as this is our land too.

- To be able to get to the hospital to receive chemotherapy for cancer!! To be able to get to the hospital with DVT This was an issue in the recent floods To be able to access food from the local shop
- If it was needed for someone to go for a Covid test or any other medical emergency, or to help elderly family members, taking food, medications etc.
- It is essential for emergency vehicles to be able to have a vehicular route to be able attend to any incidents/emergencies in the area, especially as we have a majority population being classified as vulnerable. As a mum to a 6 year old son who has had concussion due to an accident slipping on the patio slabs in our garden - typical of an energetic boy. On the incident of my son having concussion, it was essential for my husband to get my son by car in a timely manner to the minor injuries unit in Stirling for assessment to ensure there was no serious damage. My husband who is asthmatic has also developed anaphylaxis and we had an incident last year where had had a serious reaction and had a 999 emergency. We were advised he was minutes from death and had an issue with the air ambulance finding a suitable place to land. By the time it had found a suitable site about 2km from our home, the ambulance had thankfully made it here just in time to administer life saving treatment. I am aware of 2 other residents who also have anaphylaxis in Kinlochard. Since starting school last September my son missed out on days of schooling, due to the road being impassable due to flooding and we have had to collect him early to ensure we could safely get him home. This causes us stress and concern as he is at School in Gartmore, so unless we are extremely proactive there could be a time that we unable to get to him in time and he would be stranded. Plus we have to factor the 50 minute round trip to ensure we can make it to the school and back in time without getting our vehicle stuck in floodwater.
- When my son in law suffered anaphylaxis the air ambulance had problems finding a suitable landing site and that caused delay. Fortunately the ambulance arrived in time to administer essential life saving treatment last summer. I also know of residents that depend on prescription medication being delivered by Aberfoyle pharmacy.
- Being able to access family members who are in need out with the Strathard area - we have a single parent family member who have chronic illness and at times needs support with her child. We also have elderly parents who live in the community and they both need to access hospitals for treatments including chemotherapy. Access to work which is outside of the Strathard community.
- If the public road in and out of the glen is impassable, the forest road is and has always been a lifeline. This weekend our supermarket order was due to arrive on Friday. It didn't due to the flooding, and as such, we were down to eating out of our last cans for a few days. If the road had been blocked another day, one of us would have needed to cycle into Aberfoyle and back, and pack all we could into a backpack. This week, my wife needed to move a Glasgow film shoot to a day when rain was not forecast because there was no way she would have been able to fulfil her

contractual responsibilities if the road was blocked. Up until last year, we always had the forest road as a last resort (that's why most in Kinlochard have four-wheel drive) - and while we only ever used it in case of emergency, I try to think of what would have happened if we'd not been able to do it. One occasion was two days before Christmas, and my whole family had arrived in Aberfoyle. My wife and I were both working, and so were able to pick them up on the way home, and recruit a friend to carry the third contingent. The family left their cars in Aberfoyle. Without the forest road, that would have been 12 folks aged between 6 and 50 sleeping in their cars. We understand why the gate should be locked ordinarily, but the way and land are owned by a public body, it is a historical route of access, and they have a duty to open it and enable a vulnerable communities to function during a crisis. The situation we faced this weekend was disgraceful and difficult to comprehend.

- Necessary hospital and doctor appointments, if missed can mean a longer wait for replacement appointments. Personally I attend hospital on a regular bases for treatments and consultations with my consultant. I am sure this must affect other residents in the area.
- The communities of Kinlochard, Inversnaid and Stronachlachar must have emergency access to a route out of the Glen in times of flooding. It is a simple issue, the route is there, preventing well mannered residents from using it in moments of crisis is an unacceptable removal of rights.
- At my age I don't relish the fact that I could be forced to spend a night or longer in my car, Life is stressful enough without having to worry if you will be able to get home or get out for food, appointments etc. when a flood warning has been issued. Knowing our emergency route has been cancelled makes me feel vulnerable and increases my stress levels,
- We have several extremely vulnerable residents who may at any time require urgent medical attention and when the main B829 is blocked the forest road is the only means of exit. Many residents have dependent children, elderly relatives and animals which means even a lapse of a few hours access to their homes both can be profound. Everyone has the right to feel confident in their environment and not to have the undue stress of worrying every time an amber weather alert is declared or any other unforeseen event occurs to block the B829 that their historical emergency route is also denied to them. In the 17 years I have lived in Kinlochard I can count on two hands the number of times I have used the Forestry road but on each occasion it was extremely important to me both to get to work and to return home. Locking the Duchray gate in times of emergency cannot be justified on any level.
- We cannot always plan ahead for supplies and emergencies come without any notice. If the B829 is impassable for more than a day or two, which is possible, circumstances could become critically challenging if there is no alternative, accessible route out of the area. We had a specific requirement to travel out of the area this Saturday and sought to use the Duchray route. The gate at Duchray Cottage was locked so we looked to the Old Drymen Road which is a very long alternative with no guarantee that the gate at the end of the forest track (ie when reaching the public tarmac road) being open. Residents in the Strathard Communities need to be certain that in an emergency there will be an alternative to the B829 should that be impassable.
- It should be viewed as a no brainer that an escape route is available to the community given the frequency now of the B829 being closed. Even more so given the lack of progress to any tangible

solution to the flooding issues. Forestry Scotland are a Scottish government agency and should view this as an opportunity to contribute in a positive way to the difficulties faced by the community during flooding on the B829. A glance at the SEPA charts over the last year shows the regularity that makes this such a disruptive issue. Everything that we are seeing regarding climate change points to this becoming more frequent and more extreme.

IMPORTANT

- In the 30 odd years we've lived near Kinlochard we have had to use the forest route several times. Once to catch a flight and another time to make a rendezvous in Aberfoyle for an onward road journey and getting to and from work in Glasgow several times. I was always glad to know that if the road was flooded I could still function. Residents still need access to services and employment at times of road closure, such as flooding, and the only alternative when the gates are closed is a long route which isn't ideal. This is particularly important when commercial deliveries are unable to get through and people may be without food. That said, over the last couple of years we have seen a significant increase in tourist traffic in the forest which presents an environmental challenge and issues with public and wild life safety. Any move to improve access for local residents at time of difficulty should also consider making the forest less accessible to people with no justifiable reason for vehicle access.
- The only other way round is very long and not ideal for normal cars. The community needs access for food shopping when deliveries can't get through (happened this weekend) and in case of emergencies/work etc
- It should be used in my opinion in emergency situations, hospital, fire, police, prescription collection if the road is flooded over short periods OR if the road is closed for longer than say 2 days for collection of essential shopping, it shouldn't be used just because there is an opportunity to. Im not sure that the school run would qualify as an emergency...
- Access - whether by forest roads (the most obvious route) or by other means - is clearly vital in emergencies. It can also be of considerable importance in other situations where safety and well-being are in play. At the same time there have been problems resulting from abuse of open vehicle-access by visitors and locals. We should all be aware more keenly now of what constitutes emergency and essential travel - a trip to the shops or a Foresthill sight-seeing convoy do not amount to either. "All" residents - yes; but not for all purposes or at all times. We can't have it both ways. We need a properly planned and agreed system for opening of emergency & essential access triggered by potential safety concern - or closure - of the B829. This should not be beyond us. Forestry keys seem to be far too widely available.
- On previous occasions the gate being open has meant been able to get to important things such as a job interview, a doctor's appointment and to work.

FAIRLY IMPORTANT

- It really depends on what is considered essential travel. ie.buying a pint of milk from Co-op. Not essential. Getting Newspaper or buying supplementary food for cupboards. Not essential Work. Not at all important - essential, depending what it is. Picking kids up from school/bus. Important - essential
- There is usually warnings of potential floods. The problem is that if Gates are always open then the general public drive into the forest to camp, fish, picnic etc. During lock down this was a real problem and people were cutting locks and leaving rubbish behind. Fires were started and illegal camping and fishing went on. It is a difficult balance.

UNNECESSARY

- I am puzzled by the use of their within this question as this gives the assumption that this is route open for all to use or does this refer to only the residents.