

Agenda Item IMD22

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: IMD 2023/22

TITLE	Back Lane 7.5T weight restriction WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (BACK LANE, SPENCERS WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES OVER 7.5 TONNES MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT) ORDER 2023
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways - Paul Fishwick
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	31 October 2023 LGF4, Shute End. 11.30am
WARD	Shinfield South; Swallowfield;
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framaliccio

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

To report the results of the statutory consultation for the above-named Traffic Regulation Order and to seek the decision of the Executive Member for Active Travel, Highways & Transport.

The Order seeks to introduce a 7.5T weight limit restriction at Back Lane, Spencer's Wood. The weight limit restriction is considered necessary to address safety concerns regarding pedestrian users of the roads by deterring vehicles over 7.5 tonnes from passing in front of Lambs Lane Primary School.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Active Travel, Highways and Transport:

- 1) Considers the correspondence received for the proposal and note no objections have been received.
- 2) Agrees to proceed with the making of the proposed Order in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Local Authorities Traffic Order Procedures 1996; and
- 3) Instructs the Assistant Director for Highways & Transport to inform those who have responded to the consultation accordingly.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report considers all comments and correspondence that have been received on the proposal to introduce a 7.5T weight limit restriction at Back Lane, Spencer's Wood. Three responses were received, all expressed support for the scheme.

Having considered all the correspondence received, it is proposed that the scheme will be implemented and that relevant notices are now advertised in accordance with the Local Authority Traffic Order making procedures.

Background

After receiving complaints from local residents about large vehicles coming from Lambs Farm Business Park and other businesses in the area to access A33 and vice versa, proposals were considered to introduce a 7.5T weight limit restriction at Back Lane. The aim of this restriction would be to address the concerns raised by the residents and promote safer traffic flow in the area.

The initial consultation was conducted with local residents and Thames Valley Police, who supported any practical measures that would make it safer for children attending Lambs Lane Primary School.

Additional consultation was conducted with local ward members and Shinfield Parish Council, who were supportive of the weight restriction, and it was taken forward to consultation with the wider community.

Response to TRO Consultation

The proposal has now been taken through a formal consultation. The statutory objection period started on 8th June 2023 and ended on 29th June 2023. A total of 3 responses were received, all expressed support for the scheme.

All responses can be seen in Appendix A.

Recommendation & Conclusion

It is recommended to proceed with the introduction of a 7.5T weight limit restriction at Back Lane and that The **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (BACK LANE, SPENCERS WOOD) (PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES OVER 7.5 TONNES MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT) ORDER 2023** be approved for signing and sealing with subsequent implementation on site.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£1000	YES	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	NIL	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	NIL	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Costs incurred will be in relation to changing the signing.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including property and priorities?)

Speed and traffic management across the Borough in response to resident and business needs contributes towards the Council's statutory duties for road safety management and ensures that the statutory requirements of the Road Traffic Act 1988, Highways Act 1980 and Traffic Management Act 2004 are met, whilst also contributing towards responsible asset, transportation and mobility management.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

No impact or disproportionate impact has been identified.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Director – Resources and Assets	No comment
Monitoring Officer	No comment
Leader of the Council	No comment

For Highways use only

If your item is not about a highways matter you do not need to complete the Town and Parish Council information or the Local Ward Member information

Town and Parish Councils

Shinfield Parish Council	No Comment
Swallowfield Parish Council	No Comment

Local Ward Members

Stuart Munro	No Comment
Catherine Glover	No Comment
Chris Johnson	No Comment
Jackie Rance	No Comment

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Matt Gould	Service Place and Growth
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Appendix A – Responses.

OBJECTION, SUPPORT or COMMENT	DETAILS	OFFICERS COMMENT
SUPPORT	<p>Shinfield Parish Council supports this TRO with the proviso that there is adequate and effective enforcement of the restriction when it is introduced.</p> <p>I don't think we have any objections to this in principle but I couldn't read what the wording on the signs would say. If it is "Except for Access" then wouldn't the builders merchants further along Lambs Lane still be able to use this section of road?</p>	<p>This falls under 'moving traffic offence' and enforced by the police.</p> <p>If a lorry stops to load/unload in-between the restricted area, this is permitted. However, if a lorry does not stop, then it is committing an offence. i.e a vehicle cannot pass through the restriction to access a location on the other side, it is only exempt if it accesses a location within the extent of the restriction.</p>
SUPPORT/ COMMENT	<p>To whom it concerns, I wish to highlight an error in the drawings showing a sign inside the boundary of The Shieling, Lambs Lane Swallowfield. Herewith a ground plan for The Shieling and the service area it abutts on the Back Lane side of its boundary. If it is decided to place a sign on the south side of the junction of Lambs Lane and Back Lane it needs to be within the land registered area BK 129642, which lines up with south side of Lambs Lane to the west. Thank you,</p>	<p>Engineer has met with resident and has confirmed that the sign for the 7.5T restriction will be installed within the extent of the adopted highway.</p>
SUPPORT/ COMMENT	<p>This order is welcome in that it would limit the flow of heavy vehicles past Lambs Lane primary school. It would force vehicles leaving the Lambs Farm Business Park to turn right towards the Basingstoke School and limit the approach to Grant and Stone Builders merchants to access from Beechhill Road. Or, that, I assume, is its intention.</p> <p>I would point out though that until quite recently Lambs Lane/Back Lane has been used as a large turning circle for buses running from Reading to Spencers Wood and back to Reading (i.e. approaching down Basingstoke Road, up Lambs</p>	<p>The 7.5T restriction is subject to 'except for access' and anyone can use it as long as it is for access purposes only. i.e a vehicle cannot pass through the restriction to access a location on the other side, it is only exempt if it accesses a location</p>

	<p>Lane/Back Lane and then onto Beechhill Road where they are facing towards Reading for their return). I gather than a single-decker bus would weigh in the region of 19 or 20 tonnes.</p> <p>This facility is not being used at present although there remains a bus stop on Back Lane which is presently not used as no buses pass it. However, the option of turning a bus in this way does offer a flexibility which might be useful in the future and might be necessary if it is decided that the service to Swallowfield and Riseley is to be thinned and alternate buses terminated in Spencers Wood. (This was the case until around a year ago.) There would seem to be a danger that this flexibility will be lost if a blanket ban is imposed. Provision should therefore be made for bus access. It may also be welcome should Lambs Lane primary school wish to engage a coach for outings.</p> <p>I am bound to query how and how widely the notice of these orders has been circulated. It transpired at the meeting of Shinfield Parish Council last night (28 June) that they were not aware that it had been published. I have yet to see the notice of it appear in Wokingham Today. You may recall that I wrote on 15 June pointing out that the order had not been published on your website at that time. (I gather that it was posted the following day). I wish to see both orders implemented, albeit in an amended form. I do not wish to have people saying that your behaviour in publishing it, or rather not circulating details, was furtive and that they were denied the opportunity to comment either favourably, or challenge the proposal. The failure to inform generates a cynicism which is nether desirable not possible to challenge when it is fed on occasions such as this.</p>	<p>within the extent of the restriction.</p> <p>Consultation was carried out with the bus operators and they confirmed that they had no intention of running a bus service along Back Lane.</p> <p>The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was advertised in the papers on 8th June 2023. Notices were also put on site on the same day. An email was sent to Shinfield Parish Council and all other Statutory consultees on the 9th June 2023 advising them of the advertisement in the papers. Shinfield Parish council did respond.</p>
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