



REMENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Rebecca Walkley
Public Rights of Way Manager
Wokingham Borough Council
Civic Offices
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1BN

15th December 2017

Dear Rebecca,

Wokingham Borough Council Traffic Regulation Order Road Traffic Act 1984 Remenham 4 (part) 2018

Remenham Parish Council (RPC) is the guardian of many tens of miles of public rights of way, including a part of the Thames path, which are enjoyed by many hundreds of thousands during any year. RPC therefore in principle opposes any closure or diversion of any public right of way. Reflecting the importance of this issue Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has agreed that any application for such a closure or diversion must be approved in a full Executive Meeting in public for each time and every year that such a closure takes place and by limiting any closure or diversion of the towpath to the Henley Festival and to ensuring that the closure or diversion is limited to that which is absolutely necessary. It was further agreed that the view of the Ward member would have weight in the decision. We are grateful to the Executive for reflecting the gravitas on this issue, which we, RPC, give it.

The application this year for the Henley Festival, as I understand it, increases the closure/diversion for Saturday 14th July 2018 10:45 – 14:45 for a Concert by the Henley Symphony Orchestra or the Henley Youth Orchestra and increases the amount of towpath closed to include the portion between Leander and the Festival gate upstream during performances. We understand the latter is to improve security and is at the request of the police. We understand that the application for the Concert starts a quarter of an hour before the Concert and is ended a quarter of an hour after the Concert.

RPC will always have difficulty in agreeing any extension of any closure or diversion of any public right of way and is concerned that every year the extent of closure or diversion is greater. We would be grateful if the Executive is mindful of this and ensures that any closure or diversion is limited to that which is absolutely necessary and every year challenge whether any closure is necessary at all. RPC is

however grateful that the Festival at its cost is extending the courtesy of inviting residents of Remenham Parish to the Concert on the Saturday,

Yours sincerely,

John Halsall
Chairman of Remenham Parish Council
Ward member for Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe

Cc Charlotte Geeves,
Remenham Parish Council