

Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 8th July 2014

Briefing Note - Proposed 7.5 Tonne Weight Limit - The Street, Stowey

Background

In October 2000 the Transportation Sub Committee agreed to implement a 7.5 tonne weight limit in The Street, Stowey. It was recommended for implementation in the 2000/2001 Capital Programme. It is not known why this was never implemented.

A planning application was received in 2010/11 to reuse the quarry which, if successful, would consequently increase the HGV movements by a significant amount. These proposals included a Section 106 sum of £5,000 to implement the 7.5 tonne weight limit. This planning application was however not approved and consequently the funding was not received and the HGV ban was not progressed.

Issues

A further request has now been received and a traffic survey was commissioned at the start of this year to understand the amount of HGV movement in The Street. That survey revealed that approximately 20 HGVs per day use this road. The road is steep in nature and has a narrow pinch point less than 5 metres in width between residential houses.

There is a local agricultural business which is located in The Street and this will continue to require access for associated HGV vehicles and delivery vehicles if a 7.5 tonne weight limit is introduced. Providing that the business is located within the length of the 7.5 tonne weight limit, vehicles are however permitted to access the premises within it. HGV vehicles are not permitted to pass through a 7.5 tonne weight limit without having a requirement or need within it. It is therefore proposed to install a 7.5 tonne weight limit over the length of The Street from the A368 to the junction with Stowey Road at the top of the hill. This will be introduced with the intention of preventing HGVs "rat running" along The Street between the A368 to the A37. Vehicles wishing to access the quarry will still be able to do so via the road at the southern end locally known as Stowey Road from the A37.

Consultation

An informal consultation has been carried out with the police and they have no objection to this proposal although it must be noted that due to the rural nature of the area it is unlikely to receive regular proactive enforcement. A formal statutory consultation process must take place, including a 21 day objection period, when the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) necessary to implement this measure is advertised.

Finance

A funding source will be required and identified given that there are no funds available from a planning application or from the current 2014/2015 Capital Programme. The cost of advertising the TRO and implement the necessary signing will be £5,000. It is intended to seek the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Transportation to fund this work via an adjustment to the 2014/2015 capital budget, subject to sufficient funds being available.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, once the appropriate funds have been identified, the TRO is progressed and the scheme implemented if no objections are received. If objections are received and sustained these will be reported to the Cabinet Member for determination.