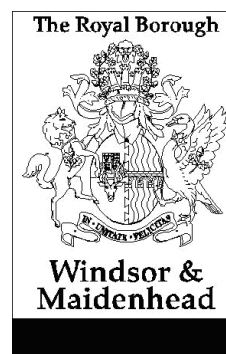


Report for: ACTION



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO - Part I
Title	Chobham Road, Sunningdale - Petition to Reduce Weight Limit from 18T to 7.5T (Consultation Results)
Responsible Officer(s)	Simon Fletcher, Strategic Director of Operations and Customer Services
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Ben Smith - Head of Highways & Transport, 01628 796147
Member reporting	Cllr C Rayner, Lead Member for Highways & Transport
For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	25 February 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	4 April 2016
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Chobham, Road, Sunningdale, Weight limit, lorries, traffic regulation order

Report Summary

1. A petition, with signatories in excess of 1000, was submitted to Council on 22 September 2015 by Councillor Mrs Bateson seeking to reduce the current weight limit on Chobham Road railway bridge, Sunningdale from 18 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes.
2. The Mayor agreed that this petition should be submitted to Cabinet for consideration. Cabinet considered the petition on 26 November 2015 and resolved that:

"Consultation be undertaken (including residents in the Royal Borough and Surrey; Parish Councils; Surrey County Council; Thames Valley and Surrey Police) in response to the request to reduce the weight limit of Chobham Road railway bridge, Sunningdale." and "The results of the consultation be reported to Cabinet for further consideration in February 2016".
3. The purpose of this report is to therefore consider the responses to the consultation and to consider whether to make the proposed order. It recommends that:
 - The Weight Limit on Chobham Road be reduced from 18T to 7.5T.
 - Those people who formally objected to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order

be notified of the decision in accordance with Regulations.

4. This recommendation is being made on the basis that it is considered to be the most appropriate way of resolving the issues arising from the use of Chobham Road by heavy lorries. The issues are set out in more detail below. The financial implications of implementation of the scheme will be contained within existing approved budgets.
5. Additional points to note are that objections were received from a total of 46 respondents. Those objecting include Surrey County Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey Police, Windlesham Parish Council and Chobham Parish Council.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?	
Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
Reducing the weight limit will address the concerns raised by residents living in the Chobham Road area; reducing road safety risks and providing environmental benefits to the residents of Chobham Road and those living in the vicinity	4 April 2016

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED: That:

- (i) **The Weight Limit on Chobham Road be reduced from 18T to 7.5T with effect from 4 April 2016**
- (ii) **Those who formally objected to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order be notified of the decision in accordance with Regulations**

2. REASON FOR DECISION AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A petition, with signatories in excess of 1000, was submitted to Council on 22 September 2015 by Councillor Mrs Bateson seeking to reduce the current weight limit on Chobham Road railway bridge, Sunningdale from 18T to 7.5T. The petition reads: *'...We, the undersigned, wish the RBWM to consider reducing the recently implemented 18 tonne weight limit on the Chobham Road railway bridge to a maximum of 7.5 tonnes. We are concerned that the large lorries pose a safety risk due to the narrow road over the bridge. Large vehicles are forced to cross the central double-white line on a bend where visibility is limited and oncoming traffic may not see them in time...'*
- 2.2 The Mayor agreed that this petition should be submitted to Cabinet for consideration. At Cabinet on 26 November 2015 it was resolved that consultation be undertaken on reducing the weight limit to 7.5T and that the results be reported to this Cabinet meeting for consideration.
- 2.3 Chobham Road is a busy road carrying both local and through traffic, in the region of 10,000 vehicles a day and is currently used by heavy lorries weighing up to 18T. It is a residential road with a mixture of houses, the majority having off street parking but a number requiring to park on street. At the northern end is the village centre with shops on either side of the road. This shopping area is busy 7 days a week, with many elderly residents and

mothers with young children regularly crossing the road, generally at the dropped crossing point between parked cars, although crossing movements are not limited to this location. Limited waiting on-street parking is available and in great demand, leading to vehicles circling the area for spaces and then exiting spaces at busy periods, further adding to traffic congestion in the village. It is therefore considered that the order should be made on the grounds that it is necessary for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising and on the grounds that it is necessary in order to facilitate the passage on the road of pedestrian traffic and other traffic.

- 2.4 The visibility issues and safety concerns on the bridge as referenced in the petition are illustrated in a series of photographs in Appendix E, whilst Appendix G shows the tracked path of a rigid heavy goods vehicle crossing Chobham Road railway bridge. A vehicle of the dimensions shown in Appendix G can currently legally enter the 18T weight limit, although it can be seen that this vehicle would leave a maximum of 2.7 metres of available space in the other lane, even if driven tight to the nearside wall. The proposed Order would make it illegal for vehicles of this size to cross the bridge on Chobham Road aiming to mitigate the current safety risk.

This risk this poses is compounded by the fact that the road is fronted by walls to each side, which leads to drivers positioning themselves more towards the centre of the road than would be the case where there are no vertical constraints at the road edge. Furthermore, the forward visibility on the bridge is highly constrained, due to the road alignment, with a double bend restricting the visibility to create a dangerous situation and a set of constraints that do not exist on other possible alternative routes. The proposed Order would make it illegal for vehicles of this the size shown in the swept path analysis of Appendix G, to cross the bridge on Chobham Road, which it is considered would help aiming to mitigate the current safety risk.

- 2.5 The request to reduce the weight limit was generated by complaints of increases in lorry movements in Chobham Road and in addition to concerns raised by residents that there has been no improvement to public safety as a consequence of the imposition of the 18T weight limit, which came into force in June 2015. Residents have complained that 18T lorries are continuing to be unable to cross the bridge without travelling across the centre white line and into the path of oncoming vehicles, continuing damage only collisions between lorries and cars and continuing congestion in Chobham Road in the vicinity of the shops. It is also likely that a reduction in the current 18T weight limit would improve the quality of life for residents in the immediate vicinity of the bridge due to the inevitable reduction in the number of lorries, which will in turn reduce noise and vibration in the vicinity of their properties. It is therefore considered that the proposed restriction is necessary for the purposes of preventing the use of the road by unsuitable vehicular traffic having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property.

- 2.6 The consultation on the 7.5T weight limit has been carried out in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and included consulting with additional parties specified by Cabinet as well as the required additional statutory consultees. The formal consultation period ran from 16 December 2015 until 14 January 2016; A total of 30 days. This exceeds the statutory minimum period of 21 days to allow objections to the proposed Order. It was subsequently agreed that responses

would be permitted up to and including 22 January 2016. This was in response to a request from Surrey County Council to allow extra time due to the Christmas period.

- 2.7 A total of 174 responses to the consultation were received, of which 73.6% (128) support the implementation of the 7.5T weight limit. The comments are reproduced in tabular form within Appendix C.
- 2.8 Objections were received from 46 respondents, which included Surrey County Council, Surrey Police, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Chobham Parish Council, Windlesham Parish Council and Neville Surtees Ltd. The comments are summarised in tabular form in Appendix D
- 2.9 Surrey Heath Borough Council has objected to the proposed order on the basis that the proposal will generate additional lorry movements through Windlesham village. It is acknowledged that without other measures being considered by Surrey County Council, this may happen. However, it is considered that the proposal is justified on the basis that making of the order is expedient in order to best address the dangers identified in the vicinity of the Chobham Road bridge. It should be noted that Surrey County Council is the relevant Highway Authority for Windlesham village and could consider the introduction of a weight limit in the village or positively sign a preferred lorry route in order to address concerns from some respondents, including Surrey Heath Borough to the possible increase in lorry movements in Windlesham.
- 2.10 The objections of Surrey County Council are along the same lines as detailed in its previous objection to the 18T restriction and their opinions, which are shared by Surrey Police, are included in Appendix D and are also summarised as follows:
- Some of the local roads are less suitable for carrying heavy goods vehicles
 - The B386 through Windlesham village would be used by drivers and this route is less suitable due to poor alignment, a raised table, a number of pinch points and a school
 - Recent safety record in Windlesham is worse than the B383 Chobham Road
 - Not satisfied with the consultation and notification process followed in proposing the Order.
- 2.11 Surrey County Council has also suggested that the proposed alternative route should have been specified as part of the formal consultation documentation. It should be noted that the various alternative routes available to 18T lorries are all within the jurisdiction of Surrey County Council. However, the Royal Borough's has considered, in so far as it is able to do so, the suitability of any alternative routes for lorries over 7.5 tonnes and considers that a suitable alternative route which does not present the same safety issues encountered on Chobham Road at the railway bridge and alongside the parade of shops exists. That route would follow the B383 Windsor Road southwards through the village of Burrowhill to the outskirts of Chobham, turn right at the mini-roundabout onto the A319 and then the A322 dual carriageway to junction 3 of the M3. This route has no narrow bridges and spot checks on the B383 road width were 6.7 metres and there exist no areas where forward visibility is as constrained as at Chobham Road. Appendix B offers a plan of the broader area for information and indicates this possible alternative route.

- 2.12 Royal Borough officers, Cllr Rayner and Cllr Mrs Bateson met with Surrey County Council on 1st February 2016 to discuss the proposed reduced weight limit. Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding outlined his Authority's concerns with the implications of the weight limit on Surrey's roads. There exists a difference of opinion between Surrey County Council and the Royal Borough as to whether Chobham Road is suitable for use by HGVs and whether the possible alternative route shown in Appendix B is better suited to carrying HGV traffic and whether increases in lorry movements on that route and other routes would result in safety problems. Surrey County Council also made it clear that they are primarily concerned that the Royal Borough follows the correct and legal process in making its decision on whether to introduce the 7.5T weight limit and reasonable consideration be given to all objections and concerns raised.
- 2.13 Thames Valley Police commented on the proposed restriction, outlining concerns about the practicality of enforcement. They have commented that, the lack of visibility of the full length of the restriction from a stationary position will require significant police resources to enforce. Thames Valley Police suggest that in order to achieve greater enforcement levels, the Royal Borough consider a lorry watch scheme should the scheme go ahead. Lorry Watch is a scheme operated using local observers, often coordinated through Parish Councils, working alongside Council Trading Standards teams, to detect the misuse of weight restricted routes by heavy goods vehicles.
- 2.14 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police also raised concerns about the length of the alternative route and the provision of turning points if drivers should miss the advance signage. In order to provide advance warning of both the existing 18T restriction and the proposed 7.5T should it proceed, signage would be recommended for installation at the Surrey end of Chobham Road, which would give drivers advance warning, but currently this has been refused by Surrey County Council. Surrey Police also feel that "it would be very difficult to secure a conviction when presented with the facts that there is no advanced warning of the restriction and never has been due to a dispute from the neighbouring Highway Authority and that the driver thought that it was unsafe to carry out a 'u' turn and a safer option was to proceed over the bridge". In this regard, Surrey County Council have, by virtue of not providing permission for advance signage on their roads, prevented the existing legal 18T weight limit from being signed effectively; thereby preventing a reasonable response to the concerns expressed by Surrey Police both in regards to the existing weight limit and the 7.5T limit, if progressed.
- 2.15 Notwithstanding the objections to the making of the proposed order, there is clear strong local support for introducing the 7.5T weight limit, which is evidenced in the petition and in the consultation responses. There are many reported incidents of near misses and complaints regarding lorries on the wrong side of the road on the bridge, contained within the responses. The reasons for making the Order are the same as those reasons for making the original 18T weight limit Order in 2015. This proposed reduced weight limit is intended to help meet the objectives originally envisaged when the 18T weight limit was introduced and in doing so to address the safety and other concerns highlighted following receipt of the petition.

Option	Comments
Introduce alternative measures to mitigate the safety risk.	Alternative measures including the introduction of traffic signals and single-way working over the bridge or removing on-street parking may mitigate road safety risks. However, the overall impact on all road users is considered disproportionate because of delays and congestion that would result from a priority system and the negative impacts on the local economy and amenities from removal of on-street parking spaces
Implement the 7.5T weight limit as soon as is practical and in accordance with the required legal process.	This is the recommended option to address the ongoing safety and other concerns.
Consider the results of the consultation and the feedback from stakeholders opposed to the current weight limit and resolve to revoke the existing 18T weight limit	This option is not recommended as it will not address the issues identified by the petition and the subsequent letters responding to the consultation. This option would lead to increased lorry movements in Chobham Road, heightening the risk of accidents and environmental concerns.
Consider the results of the consultation and resolve not to reduce the weight limit to 17T.	This option is not recommended as it will not address the issues identified by the petition and the subsequent letters responding to the consultation. Larger 18T vehicles, potentially increasing in volume, presents an increased road safety risk and greater environmental concern than a 7.5T weight restriction

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Environmental benefits through reduced number of lorries using Chobham Road*	Lorry numbers increase	0-70%	71-85%	Above 85%	04 July 2016
Reduction in accidents and near misses linked to lorry movements in Chobham Rd (6 months post implementation)	Increase in recorded injury accidents involving lorries	No recorded injury accidents linked to lorries	No accidents or reported near misses linked to lorries	No reports of any lorries breaching the weight limit	4 October 2016

Note: *a baseline position has been established by a traffic survey undertaken in September 2015

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

4.1 Revenue Funding

There are no revenue financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Revenue £'000	Revenue £'000	Revenue £'000
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0

4.2 Capital Funding

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Capital £'000	Capital £'000	Capital £'000
Addition	£0	£0	£0
Reduction	£0	£0	£0

The estimated cost of implementing the weight limit would be £3,000. This would be funded from the approved capital budget 'Traffic Management' (CD10) - £150k'.

This approved overall programme budget includes an allocation for responding to petitions.

Description	Ref.	Budget	Estimated Costs
Traffic Management	CD10	£150,000	£3,000

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) may be made where it appears to a traffic authority that it is expedient to do so. "Expedient" means advantageous, advisable on practical grounds, suitable or appropriate. The purposes for which a traffic regulation order (TRO) may be made are set out in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984). Section 1 of the Act allows TRO's to be made for reasons such as (a) for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising; (c) for facilitating the passage on the road or on any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians); (d) for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property; and (f) for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. The process for consulting on a traffic regulation order reducing the weight limit to 7.5T has been undertaken in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and after having regard to the network management duty imposed on the authority by section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004).

5.2 Section 16 of TMA 2004 confers a duty on the authority to manage its road network with a view to achieving, in so far as may be practicable having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives, the objective of securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's roads network and facilitating

the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.

5.4 When exercising functions under the 1984 Act the authority is required, insofar as it is practicable to do so having regard to the matters specified in section 122(2) to have regard to the duty conferred upon it under section 122 which requires it to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic including pedestrians. The matters listed in sub-section (2) of section 122 are as follows:

- (a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;
- (b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;
- (c) the strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environment Act 1995 (national air quality strategy);
- (d) the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles; and
- (e) any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant.

A failure to have regard to the matters set out in section 122(2) may lead to the TRO being successfully challenged. However, it is clear that whilst the Council must exercise its functions under section 1 of the RTRA 1984 so as to secure the objectives set out in section 122(2) and to have regard to the network management duty conferred by section 16 of the TMA 2004 these this requirement cannot be intended to prevent statutory powers from being used for the purposes set out in section 1. A balance has to be achieved both between the achievement of the objectives set out in section 1 such as the avoidance of danger to traffic etc. and those matters set out in section 122(2) which include any other matter which the local authority considers to be relevant. It has been decided that following the decision in the case of St. Helens MBC --v- West Lancashire DC (1997) 95 LGR 484 that no one factor necessarily has primacy over another. The weight to be given to each factor is a matter for the authority.

5.5 In relation to section 122 (2)(d), the inclusion of the Chobham Road route in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the redevelopment of the DERA site at Longcross is considered to be relevant since the proposed order will require construction lorries exceeding 7.5T to use the alternative route specified by Surrey County Council in the CEMP, which leads east from the DERA site towards the M25 (see Appendix F).

5.6 Whilst it is recognised that the proposed TRO would generate increased HGV traffic on the other 'preferred route' shown on Appendix F, if no other changes to the construction traffic routes were made within Surrey, it is considered that the road safety risks caused by the current use of the Chobham Road bridge outweighs the inconvenience caused to the affected construction and other HGV traffic and thus that the proposed 7.5 T weight restriction is justified. The current dangers include the risk of collisions between lorries and cars travelling over the bridge, increasing the risk of injury to pedestrian traffic, damage to vehicles, or collision with the bridge itself. Furthermore, there exists a possible alternative HGV route within Surrey as detailed in paragraph 2.10, which Surrey County Council may wish to consider designating and signing as an alternative lorry route, to alleviate concerns about any possible increases in HGV movements on

the alternative route identified in the CEMP or through Windlesham, should they consider those routes to be wholly unsuitable for any increased traffic volumes.

5.7 It should be noted that if Members resolve to make the proposed order, it will be necessary to erect prescribed traffic signs indicating the new weight restriction and advance warning signs to HGV traffic approaching Chobham Road which will include HGV traffic travelling from the Surrey direction. Section 65 of the RTRA 1984 provides for the erection of prescribed traffic signs and section 68(2) of the Act empowers a traffic authority to place traffic signs on the roads of another traffic authority provided that it has consulted with the other authority before doing so. It may therefore be reasonably concluded that if the relevant traffic order is lawfully made, a decision taken by a neighbouring traffic authority refusing to allow requisite signage to be erected on its roads so as to allow for the enforcement a traffic order made by another authority would be unreasonable in the Wednesbury sense and susceptible to challenge.

6. VALUE FOR MONEY

6.1 The works to implement the 7.5T weight limit would be undertaken by term maintenance contractors whose rates have been competitively attained and bench-marked to ensure value for money.

6.2 The recommendations of this report offer a robust, transparent and positive approach which minimise the risk of legal challenge offering value for money.

7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

7.1 A reduction in large vehicles in Chobham Road, Sunningdale may have positive sustainable and environmental benefits in the local area.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The recommendations of this report offer a robust, transparent and positive response to the petition and the results of the consultation, offering a balanced approach to risk.

9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Relevant Strategic Objectives are:

Residents First

- Improve the Environment, Economy and Transport
- Work for safer and stronger communities

Delivering Together

- Strengthen Partnerships

10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION - None

11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS - None

12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

12.1 Introduction of a reduced weight limit may offer additional protection to highway assets by reducing the risk of damage to the bridge, barriers and footway by large vehicles.

13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS - None.

14. CONSULTATION

14.1 This report will be considered by members of the Highways, Transport and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 24 February 2016 with the panel's comments reported to Cabinet for consideration.

14.2 This report recommends implementation of the proposed reduced 7.5T weight limit in response to the clear majority preference for this course of action evident in the consultation responses. This action would provide a safer environment by avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, preventing damage to the road or any building on or near to the road, preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character or the road or adjoining property and for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

14.3 The consultation complied with the requirements set out in the relevant Regulations. The Royal Borough allowed for an extended period for objections beyond the statutory minimum of 21 days, in the interests of ensuring that adequate time was given for all parties to respond. In addition to consulting with potentially affected neighbouring authorities, Royal Borough Councillors and Sunningdale Parish Council, as well as all the required statutory consultees, signs were positioned on site to advise of the consultation and an online consultation was set up. Letters were circulated to residents in the Sunningdale area as requested by Ward Councillors.

15. Timetable for Implementation

Stages	Timescale
Statutory process to make the Traffic Regulation Order (Subject to Cabinet decision)	28 March 2016
Scheme Implementation (subject to Cabinet decision)	4 April 2016

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Location plan of proposed 7.5T weight limit

16.2 Appendix B – Location plan of the broader area for information

16.3 Appendix C – Consultation Results

16.4 Appendix D – Summary of Objections from Councils, police and developers

16.5 Appendix E – Photos of Chobham Road

16.5 Appendix F – Longcross North Construction HGV Traffic Routing drawing

16.6 Appendix G – Swept path analysis for 2 axle rigid HGV

16.7 Appendix H – Full objections from Surrey County Council, Windlesham Parish Council, Chobham Parish Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey Police, Crest Nicholson.

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

17.1 An 18T weight limit was introduced on the railway bridge in Chobham Road, Sunningdale with effect from 1 June 2015.

17.2 The 18T weight limit scheme was implemented as a result of requests from residents and Parish Council to Ward Members to reduce the size and weight of

lorries crossing the railway bridge and entering Sunningdale The 18T weight limit was introduced for the reasons set out below.

- The safety of vehicles on the railway bridge as it is considered to be too narrow for large vehicles. This was confirmed by residents in the consultation feedback with evidence of cars having to reverse to allow large lorries to pass causing a risk of collision.
- The local access road and premises close to the bridge have limited visibility for pedestrian and motorised traffic. Residents complained that they have difficulty emerging from local roads
- The additional road traffic pollution caused by heavy lorries travelling through the area affecting residents living either side of the bridge. Residents have reported noise and dust pollution from lorries crossing the bridge
- Congestion on Chobham Road due to limited visibility and road width when large vehicles are approaching the bridge. Residents have reported having to slow down suddenly and at times reverse to allow lorries across the bridge.
- Danger to pedestrians shopping at local shops in the central part of the village due to larger lorries taking up more road space in a congested and busy shopping area. Vulnerable pedestrians usually require more time to cross the road and wheelchair and pushchair users require more space to cross.

17.4 The request to reduce the weight limit has been generated by continued use of Chobham Road by HGVs since implementation of the 7.5T weight limit. A vehicle survey between 22 and 24 September 2015 showed that between 6am and 7pm, an average of 103 vehicles travelling over the Chobham Road bridge exceed a maximum gross weight of 7.5T and 51 of those vehicles also exceed 18T. Many vehicles exceeding 7.5T but not breaching the existing 18T limit can be of similar dimensions to lorries in excess of 18T, and the proposed Order therefore seeks to address continuing issues; with lorries being unable to cross the bridge without travelling across the centre white line into the path of oncoming vehicles, damage only collisions between lorries and cars and congestion in Chobham Road in the vicinity of the shops. The restriction would be intended to achieve a reduction in numbers of larger lorries in a congested area thereby leading to a safer environment. Photographs of Chobham Road at the railway bridge and alongside the shops are included in Appendix E to illustrate width and visibility constraints.

17.5 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police objected to the current 18T traffic regulation order as they considered the restriction to be unnecessary and that it would create negative benefits on communities in Surrey. It is accepted that if the current proposal is approved and a weight limit of 7.5T implemented that the affected traffic will be forced to use the second route identified in the CEMP implemented as part of the planning permission relating to the DERA site. However, it should be noted that the Royal Borough formally objected to the inclusion of the Chobham Road Route in the CEMP plan at that time and maintain this position having regard to the concerns about the Chobham Road bridge outlined in this report. The reasons given in the objection to the CEMP plan related to concerns about safety and impacts on traffic flow arising from increased use of Chobham Road by construction traffic. The Royal Borough made it clear in its response that it was considered that more suitable alternative routes exist for construction traffic.

17.6 Notwithstanding the objections of the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police, the Royal Borough was of the view that in the vicinity of the Chobham

Road bridge, the safety of pedestrians and the safe movement of vehicular traffic outweighed any inconvenience caused to the traffic affected by the proposed restriction and resolved to introduce the current weight limit.

17.7 The Lead Member for Highways & Transport met with the Executive Member for Highways at Surrey County Council to understand Surrey County Council's concerns in respect of the current 18T restriction and to investigate the possibility of securing a mutually acceptable solution. This was not achieved as Surrey County Council is of the opinion that Chobham Road is a suitable route for large vehicles and does not warrant restrictions. This is not a position shared by the Royal Borough having regard to the views of its local residents who use the road most frequently.

17.8 A location plan highlighting the proposed 7.5T weight limit is attached as Appendix A.

17.9 The proposed reduction in the current 18T weight limit to a 7.5T weight limit is considered necessary to reduce the road safety risk created by large vehicles using Chobham Road, Sunningdale. It appears from local feedback that the volume of large vehicles has increased recently as has the incidence of damage only accidents or near-misses. This is evidenced in the feedback comments for this consultation.

17.10 Alternative measures to a reduction in the weight restriction from 18T to 7.5T to mitigate road safety risks could include:

- Introduction of traffic signals and single-way working over the bridge
- Removal of on-street parking in Chobham Road between the bridge and the A30 (London Road)

These alternative measures are considered inappropriate as they:

- Create an unnecessary negative impact on all road users by increasing the speed of traffic in the approach to the shops due to the lack of on street parking
- Increase congestion and delays by traffic waiting for the traffic lights to change and then being released in a block
- Negatively impact on local shops and trade undermining the vibrancy of this area which is a popular and well used shopping area
- Increase vehicle speeds and numbers, increasing road safety risks in the shopping area with numbers of both old and young pedestrians crossing the road to access the shops on either side

18. Consultation (Mandatory)

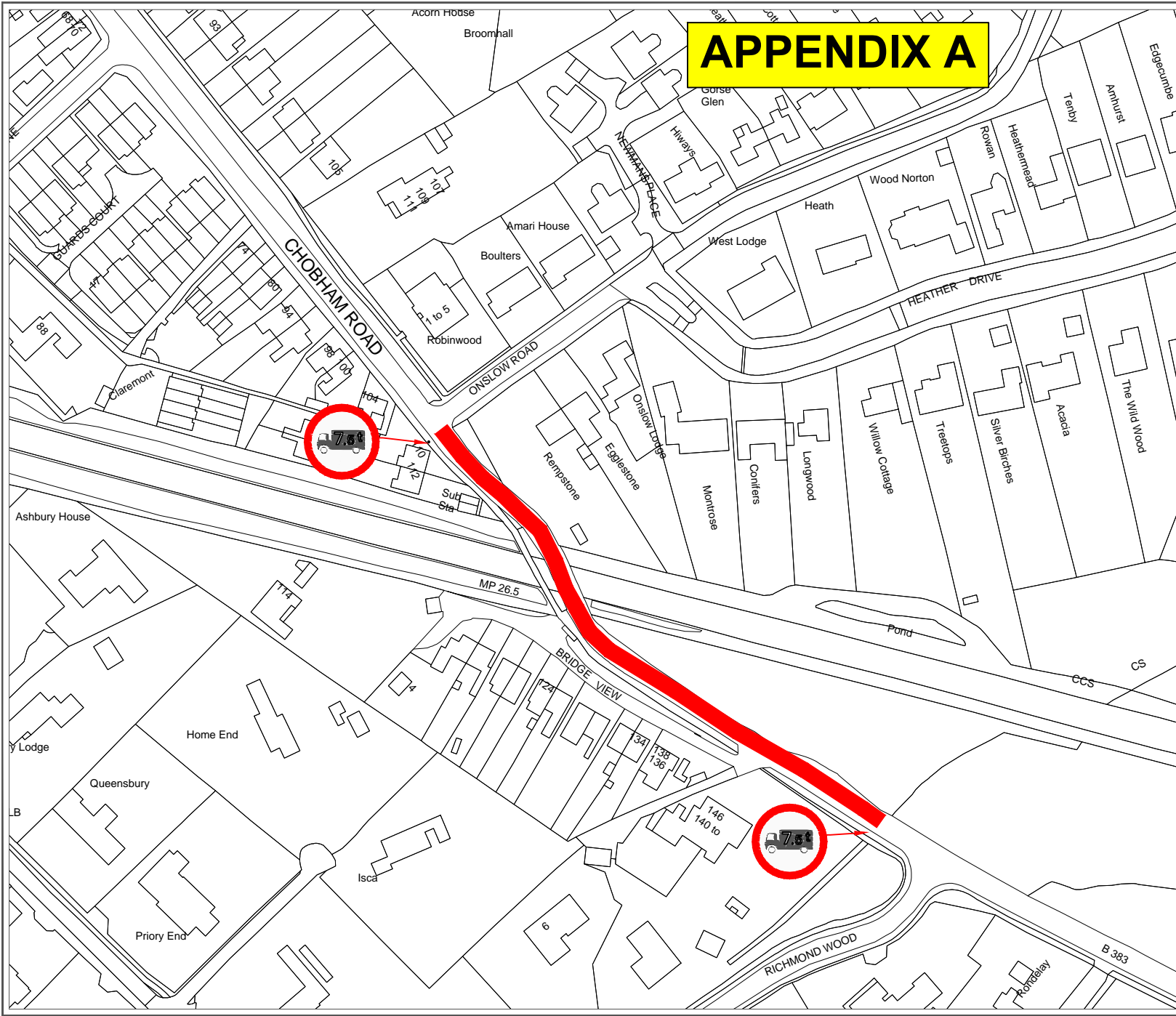
Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Burbage	Leader of the Council	28/01/16	29/1/16	
Cllr Rayner	Lead Member for Highways & Transport	22/01/16	27-01-16 01-02-16	Minor edits. Additional option & appendices
Simon Fletcher	Strategic Director of Operations	22/01/16		

Michael Llewelyn	Cabinet Policy Office	22/01/16	25-01-16	Revised deliverables & other minor changes
Catherine Woodward	Shared Legal Solutions /	22/01/16	25-01-16 & 27-01-16	Additional information / alterations throughout
Mark Lampard	Finance Partner	22/01/16	27-01-16	None
Huw Jones	Traffic Engineer	22/01/16	26-01-16	Technical information.

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Ben Smith	Head of Highways & Transport	01628 796147

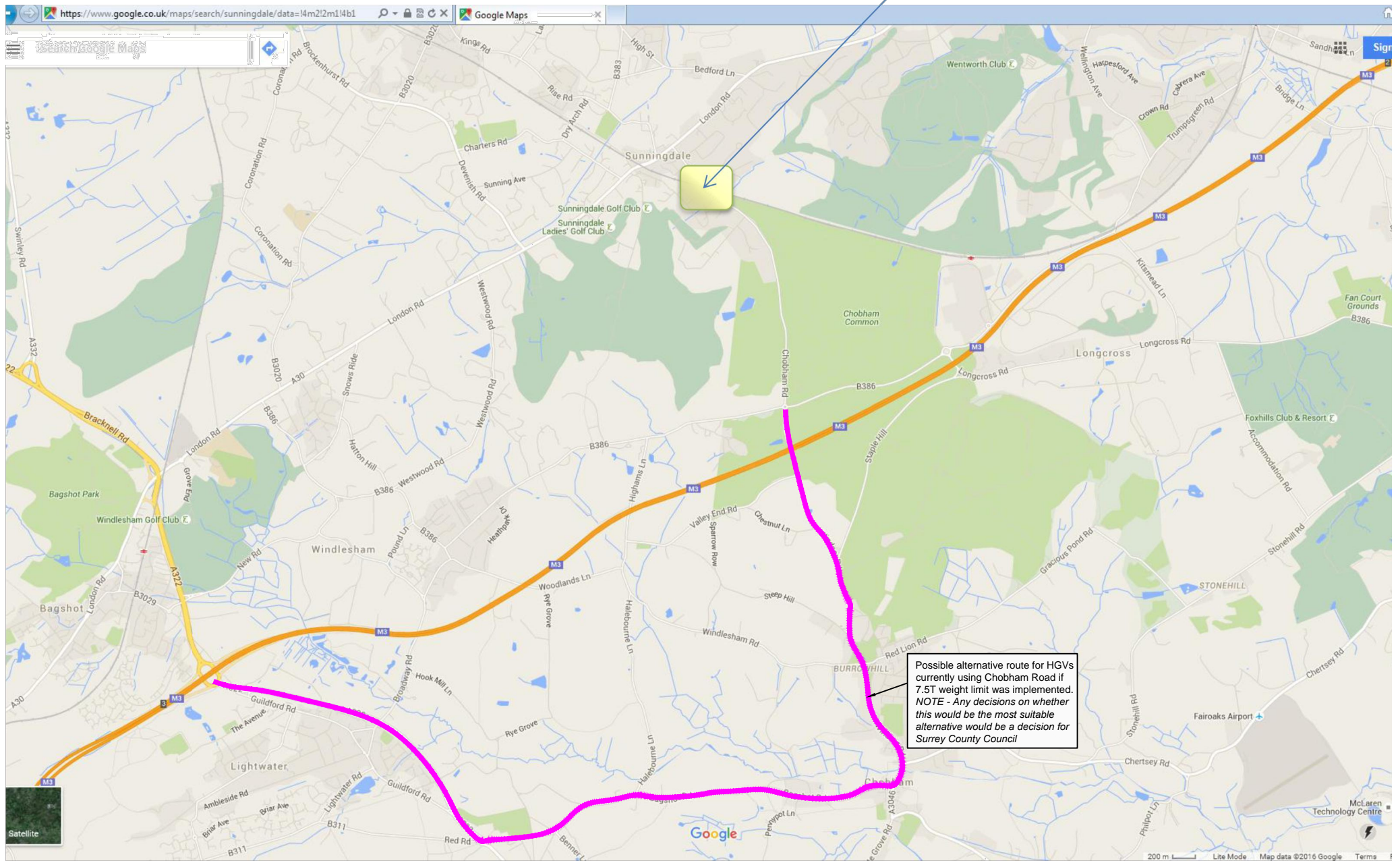


APPENDIX A

Drg No.		Rev.	
PN 2113			
Extents of 7.5 tonne weight restriction shown in red.			
Rev	Date	Amendments	By
Directorate of Operations			
Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 1RF.			
			
Tel: 01628 683800 Fax: 01628 796774 http://www.rbwm.gov.uk			
Project:			
Local Safety Schemes			
7.5 Tonne			
Weight Restriction			
Title:			
Chobham Road			
Sunningdale			
Drg No.		Rev	
PN 2113		-	
Date	Scale	Size	
08.12.15	NTS	A3	
Drawn By	CAD By	Checked By	Signed Off By
HJ	HJ	-	
Drawing Path.			
Y:/Drawings/PN 2113			
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APPENDIX B - LOCATION PLAN OF THE BROADER AREA

Location of weight limit



Chobham Road 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction - Consultation Summary

Appendix C

Consultation results

1	Reference	Agree with proposal?	Comments
2	CRWT124124	No	No further comments.
3	CRWT124775	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere (Windlesham). Danger to children. Find alternative route.
4	CRWT124835	No	In Windlesham heavy vehicles already straddle both lanes. New housing will increase problems further.
5	CRWT124989	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere (Windlesham). Large vehicles already mount the kerb in order to pass.
6	CRWT125196	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere (Windlesham). Implement same weight restriction here.
7	CRWT125210	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere (Windlesham), which is already unsuitable for HGVs.
8	CRWT125202	No	It would be better to replace or widen the bridge to allow vehicles to pass.
9	CRWT125303	No	Traffic in Windlesham already suffers. With planned M3 works situation will become unacceptable.
10	CRWT125316	No	Ban all HGVS in Sunningdale and Windlesham.
11	CRWT124793	No	Windlesham already has increased traffic due to width restrictions on bridge over the M3, the repairs to which will force even more traffic through the village.
12	CRWT123596	No	Better as it is now.
13	CRWT124832	No	Traffic will be diverted through Windlesham, which is already congested.
14	CRWT125311	No	Traffic will be diverted through Windlesham village centre, which is already expected to be inundated with extra traffic due to the closure of the bridge over the M3.
15	CRWT125330	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere, on to less suitable roads.
16	CRWT127322	No	Traffic will be diverted through Windlesham, a more residential area. Greater danger to school children. Bridge should be upgraded & redesigned, incorporating the existing pedestrian bridge.
17	CRWT126483	No	Windlesham is at total breaking point with traffic in the area.
18	CRWT128339	No	Current weight limit is contributing to severe traffic congestion and queues on the Chertsey Road.
19	CRWT126579	No	Restricting the weight limit on this bridge has already diverted a lot of inappropriate heavy goods traffic through Windlesham. Further restrictions would make the situation worse.
20	CRWT125535	No	Concerns traffic will be diverted through Windlesham.
21	CRWT127430	No	Other villages will suffer as a result.
22	CRWT125341	No	Vehicles are already mounting the pavement along Chertsey Road in order to pass. Danger to pedestrians.
23	CRWT125342	No	Traffic will be diverted elsewhere (Windlesham). The roads here are already over used by ratrunning commuters, and are not suitable for HGVs.
24	CRWT125356	No	The scheme is unnecessary and displaces traffic to adjacent parishes that already suffer from too much heavy goods traffic.
25	CRWT125357	No	Steer lorries towards the A322 via the Chobham Road, not through Windlesham. Better still, repair the bridge quickly so that it can accept the 18 tonne lorries.
26	CRWT126010	No	Lorry traffic in Windlesham makes it difficult for residents - additional traffic would make it impassable.
27	CRWT127734	No	Restriction will just transfer HGV traffic to equally narrow roads through Windlesham Village.
28	CRWT125675	No	Limit to be applied will have a further major negative impact on Windlesham. A more permanent repair or replacement for the rail bridge should be determined. Other schemes in the area will cause additional traffic.
29	CRWT125362	No	Proposal would substantially increase the amount of heavy goods traffic through Windlesham.
30	CRWT125375	No	Weight restriction combined with other works will cause more traffic to travel via Windlesham.
31	CRWT125387	No	Level of heavy traffic through the centre of Windlesham village will undoubtedly increase.
32	CRWT125388	No	Increase of HGV traffic through Windlesham. Spend money improving the bridge.
33	CRWT125600	No	Weight restriction combined with other works will cause more traffic to travel via Windlesham.
34	CRWT125727	No	Weight restriction combined with other works will cause more traffic to travel via Windlesham.
35	CRWT125796	No	This has already increased heavy goods lorries traveling through Windlesham. Roads cannot cope.
36	CRWT126345	No	Concerns over rise in traffic in Windlesham.
37	CRWT126445	No	Would support the weight restriction on the bridge if heavy lorries could also be prevented from travelling through Windlesham village.
38	CRWT127509	No	The volume of traffic going through Windlesham, particularly HGVs, is unacceptably high. Please do not implement any measures which will increase it.
39	CRWT129489	No	Traffic will be diverted through Windlesham, which already congested as a result of earlier changes and will be unable to cope.
40	CRWT133034	No	Concerns over lack of reasonable alternative route.

42	CRWT125005	Yes	Plan makes sense.
43	CRWT125158	Yes	No further comments.
44	CRWT125256	Yes	Look at alternative routes for HGVs that can not use the bridge and indicate whether they are practical. Other villages may be inundated with the influx of heavy trucks. This will cause damage to the already over stretched roads repair budgets.
45	CRWT124565	Yes	In addition to road safety, concerns that if two 18t lorries collide they could damage the bridge structure.
46	CRWT124568	Yes	The situation will get worse once they start building houses at Longcross.
47	CRWT124045	Yes	Please do it soon!!
48	CRWT124050	Yes	Entirely in support of the scheme.
49	CRWT125012	Yes	Constant passing of heavy traffic is weakening the structural integrity of the bridge.
50	CRWT124217	Yes	Large vehicles significantly reduce visibility for other road users.
51	CRWT124326	Yes	No further comments.
52	CRWT124529	Yes	No further comments.
53	CRWT124530	Yes	Bridge seems too narrow and quite dangerous.
54	CRWT124916	Yes	Near misses involving large vehicles occur on a daily basis.
55	CRWT124926	Yes	Traffic lights or a mini roundabout needed at junction between A30 and Chobham Road due to increasing traffic turning right from Chobham Road.

Chobham Road 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction - Consultation Summary

1	Reference	Agree with proposal?	Comments
56	CRWT124979	Yes	Necessity for sufficient signage and exceptions (Refuse Vehicles).
57	CRWT125183	Yes	Live in Windlesham so prefer no HGVs coming through unless delivering to a Windlesham shop or pub.
58	CRWT124464	Yes	It is difficult emerging from Heather Drive on to Chobham Road. This will improve matters enormously.
59	CRWT124477	Yes	Lorries often drive at excessive and unsafe speeds when approaching and crossing the bridge.
60	CRWT124480	Yes	Numerous near misses when passing other vehicles on the bridge.
61	CRWT124541	Yes	No further comments.
62	CRWT124040	Yes	Please implement ASAP.
63	CRWT124038	Yes	No further comments.
64	CRWT124061	Yes	Fully support and would like the restriction to go ahead.
65	CRWT124057	Yes	No further comments.
66	CRWT124059	Yes	Reduce speed limit to 20mph. Vehicles are crossing the bridge at speeds greater than 30mph.
67	CRWT124062	Yes	Strongly support.
68	CRWT125041	Yes	Would like to be contacted regarding graffiti issue on and under bridge.
69	CRWT125043	Yes	A very good plan. Also a need to stop parking one side of the shops as it's difficult to cross the road.
70	CRWT125046	Yes	ASAP please, size of vehicles using the bridge regularly is scary!!
71	CRWT125048	Yes	Chobham Road becomes congested and dangerous as a result of car parking on the left hand side. Recommendation is to remove the right to park on this section of this narrow road.
72	CRWT125050	Yes	No further comments.
73	CRWT125052	Yes	No further comments.
74	CRWT124283	Yes	I fully endorse the weight limit being applied. Lorries and other high vehicles blind drivers with their lights when coming over the bridge.
75	CRWT124284	Yes	No further comments.
76	CRWT124499	Yes	Is there a risk that 7.5+ tonne vehicles when "lost" will turn around in Onslow Road or Richmond Wood?
77	CRWT124550	Yes	Good idea. Large lorries are a hazard to all oncoming traffic. Clear signage needed at both entrances to Chobham Road to prevent heavy lorries having to turn round in Richmond Wood or Onslow Road.
78	CRWT126217	Yes	Speed bumps on Chobham Road would also be a good idea for safety.
79	CRWT125605	Yes	Weight limit needs to apply from junction of Chobham Road with the A30. Recently there was a serious accident. Clear signage needed.
80	CRWT128168	Yes	Additional signage needed to enforce weight limit.
81	CRWT126491	Yes	No further comments.
82	CRWT125764	Yes	Lorries drift on to opposite side of the road on an almost daily basis.
83	CRWT125781	Yes	Enforcement - plans to have police cameras in the area? Would these also serve as speed cameras?
84	CRWT126254	Yes	No further comments.
85	CRWT127720	Yes	Concerns over policing and placement of warning signs.
86	CRWT125344	Yes	No further comments.
87	CRWT125367	Yes	No further comments.
88	CRWT126260	Yes	There should be a length restriction as well, as long vehicles also cause problems, especially with a trailer.
89	CRWT126307	Yes	No further comments.
90	CRWT126313	Yes	To protect the High Street should the ban start at the London Road - Chobham Road junction?
91	CRWT126311	Yes	The sooner the better. Only be a matter of time before something serious happens.
92	CRWT126319	Yes	Support fully, long overdue! It will improve the daily standard of living in this area 100%. Would also like a traffic calming measure along Chobham Road, possibly speed humps.
93	CRWT126327	Yes	Very much agree with the proposal - this is a narrow bridge and large lorries are creating safety issues.
94	CRWT126321	Yes	No further comments.
95	CRWT127242	Yes	Strongly support with proposal. However would have appreciated an ability to respond on paper.
96	CRWT125640	Yes	No further comments.
97	CRWT125364	Yes	No further comments.
98	CRWT125436	Yes	Fine as long as there are sufficient warning signs.
99	CRWT125656	Yes	Absolutely agree. Would prefer it to be even lower. Concerns over enforcement.
100	CRWT125597	Yes	Have had to reverse off bridge on several occasions to allow lorries room. Lower limit is much needed.
101	CRWT126030	Yes	No further comments.
102	CRWT126433	Yes	In addition to weight limit a speed limit of 20 mph is needed. Cars frequently cross the middle of the bend due to too fast an approach.
103	CRWT127107	Yes	Excellent idea - should be implemented asap.
104	CRWT127245	Yes	This scheme has been long awaited - approach from both sides of the bridge is blind.
105	CRWT133955	Yes	No further comments.
106	CRWT131876	Yes	Bridge is totally unsuitable for heavy vehicles - 7.5 tonne limit should be implemented without delay.
107	CRWT131889	Yes	Two vehicles have difficulty passing each other safely. Cars are squeezed in to the wall by large vehicles.
108	CRWT133550	Yes	Would greatly ease access on to Chobham Road and reduce noise and dust levels.
109	CRWT133548	Yes	Lot of near misses due to speed & size of lorries. Weight limit would help to ensure the longevity of the physical structure of the bridge.
110	CRWT133871	Yes	Have had a near miss with a lorry crossing too quickly and on the wrong side of the road.
111	CRWT130234	Yes	Cars have to reverse off bridge to allow on-coming lorries to proceed.
112	CRWT131326	Yes	Damage to car suffered after meeting a large vehicle. Two vehicles unable to pass each other safely.
113	CRWT131344	Yes	Please implement ASAP it will make Chobham Road much safer.
114	CRWT131941	Yes	Limit should be from the 'Christmas Tree' Roundabout to the bottom of Chobham Road (A30) as large lorries are NOT going to be able to turn round at Richmond Wood or Onslow Road.
115	CRWT133901	Yes	No further comments.
116	CRWT133896	Yes	For safety reasons this is the only viable option. The limit of 7.5 tonnes is sufficient.
117	CRWT133897	Yes	The road is very narrow. Concern from all residents in Heather Drive and surrounding areas about the increased traffic using this bridge.
118	CRWT128454	Yes	No further comments.

Chobham Road 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction - Consultation Summary

1	Reference	Agree with proposal?	Comments
119	CRWT128962	Yes	Two vehicles have difficulty passing each other safely.
120	CRWT130338	Yes	See supporting letter.
121	CRWT130340	Yes	See supporting letter.
122	CRWT131211	Yes	The bridge is much too narrow for existing traffic let alone any growth.
123	CRWT131812	Yes	Bridge is becoming increasingly busy with traffic travelling through Sunningdale. Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes represent an unnecessary danger to other road users across this narrow bridge.
124	CRWT132256	Yes	Implement as soon as possible. Lorries over 7.5 tonnes have to cross the centre line to go over the bridge.
125	CRWT133335	Yes	No further comments.
126	CRWT133724	Yes	Heavy vehicles drift on to opposite side of the road. Risk of serious collision.
127	CRWT133732	Yes	No further comments.
128	CRWT133902	Yes	Strongly encourage the council to accept the 7.5 tonnes weight limit as shown on the plan.
129	CRWT133962	Yes	No further comments.
130	CRWT134221	Yes	No further comments.
131	CRWT134245	Yes	No further comments.
132	CRWT134250	Yes	No further comments.
133	CRWT134256	Yes	Great benefit from a weight reduction as it would reduce traffic and pollution levels.
134	CRWT131854	Yes	Proposal will be beneficial to traffic congestion.
135	CRWT128856	Yes	Signage indicating new weight limit needs to be clear to avoid dangerous U-turns by larger vehicles.
136	CRWT130532	Yes	I think this is a good idea, these huge lorries are a constant problem.
137	CRWT128847	Yes	HGVs cut across the lane narrowing the other carriageway, slowing progress of all road users.
138	CRWT130235	Yes	No further comments.
139	CRWT130227	Yes	Lorries drift on to opposite side of the road.
140	CRWT130907	Yes	Difficult to access consultation page.
141	CRWT130922	Yes	This is priority for Sunningdale which is plagued by heavy goods vehicles.
142	CRWT131515	Yes	No further comments.
143	CRWT131527	Yes	Numerous near misses. Lorries drive in the middle of the road as they cannot stay in their own lane. Need to hug the side of the road to avoid an accident.
144	CRWT131629	Yes	No further comments.
145	CRWT132563	Yes	Fully in favour. Large vehicles often hit the bridge causing damage.
146	CRWT133043	Yes	Lorries are too wide to stay in their half of the bridge.
147	CRWT132957	Yes	Very important to Chobham Road residents.
148	CRWT133218	Yes	Reduction in weight would bring a massive change in noise pollution as well as an increase in safety. Bridge is often damaged. Tippers in particular ignore speed limits and litter the road with debris. Can't come too soon.
149	CRWT133736	Yes	A reduction in the weight limit will mean making Chobham Road and Sunningdale safer.
150	CRWT133748	Yes	No further comments.
151	CRWT133759	Yes	Bridge too narrow to accommodate such large vehicles. If no weight limit is imposed then sooner or later there will be a fatal accident.
152	CRWT133763	Yes	Weight limit will be a great contribution to the traffic problem in Chobham Road.
153	CRWT134257	Yes	No further comments.
154	CRWT134266	Yes	Fully agree with this scheme. It should be introduced without delay.
155	CRWT134273	Yes	There is a blind bend on the bridge and large trucks take over both sides of the road.
156	CRWT134462	Yes	Residents of Bridge View (Chobham Road) wholeheartedly support the weight reduction. Heavy good vehicles cause accidents and damage to bridge when trying to cross.
157	CRWT122505	Yes	About time too!!
158	CRWT123242	Yes	Very dangerous when large lorries attempt to cross. Limit is very important for safety of other road users.
159	CRWT122864	Yes	Would also propose an extension of the limit to the junction of Chobham Road with the A30 London Road.
160	CRWT123002	Yes	No further comments.
161	CRWT123020	Yes	Idea of creating some safer means of managing pedestrian crossing of Chobham Road would not go amiss.
162	CRWT123133	Yes	Important that as many people as possible approve this proposal. Larger vehicles are noisier, more pollutant and a major hazard for traffic.
163	CRWT122985	Yes	It would be beneficial to have a weight, width and speed restriction on Chobham Road.
164	CRWT123015	Yes	No doubt that a restriction is needed urgently.
165	CRWT123026	Yes	Impossible for lorries over 7.5 T to pass over the bridge without crossing double white lines. Have had a number of near misses.
166	CRWT123067	Yes	Many near misses. Lorries cross double white lines. Vehicles often required to reverse.
167	CRWT123280	Yes	No further comments.
168	CRWT122901	Yes	Also look at kerbside parking on Chobham Road from the bridge to the A30 to improve traffic flow.
169	CRWT122969	Yes	Lorries cannot pass each other safely.

Total No = 39

Total Yes = 128

+ additional 7 objections from other bodies (see Appendix D)

Chobham Road 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction - Consultation Summary

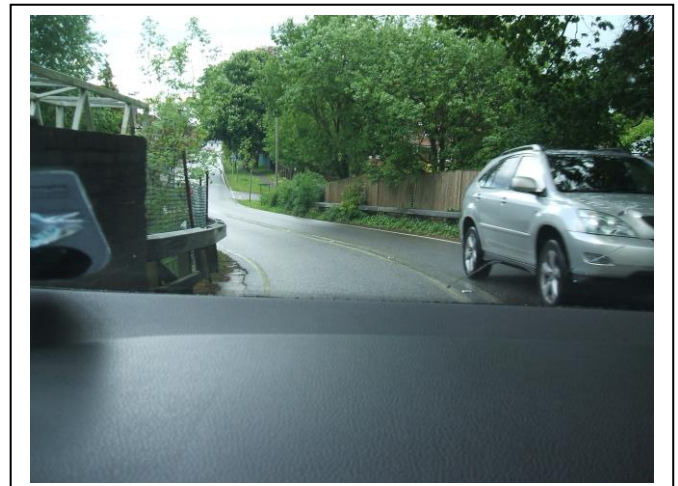
Appendix D

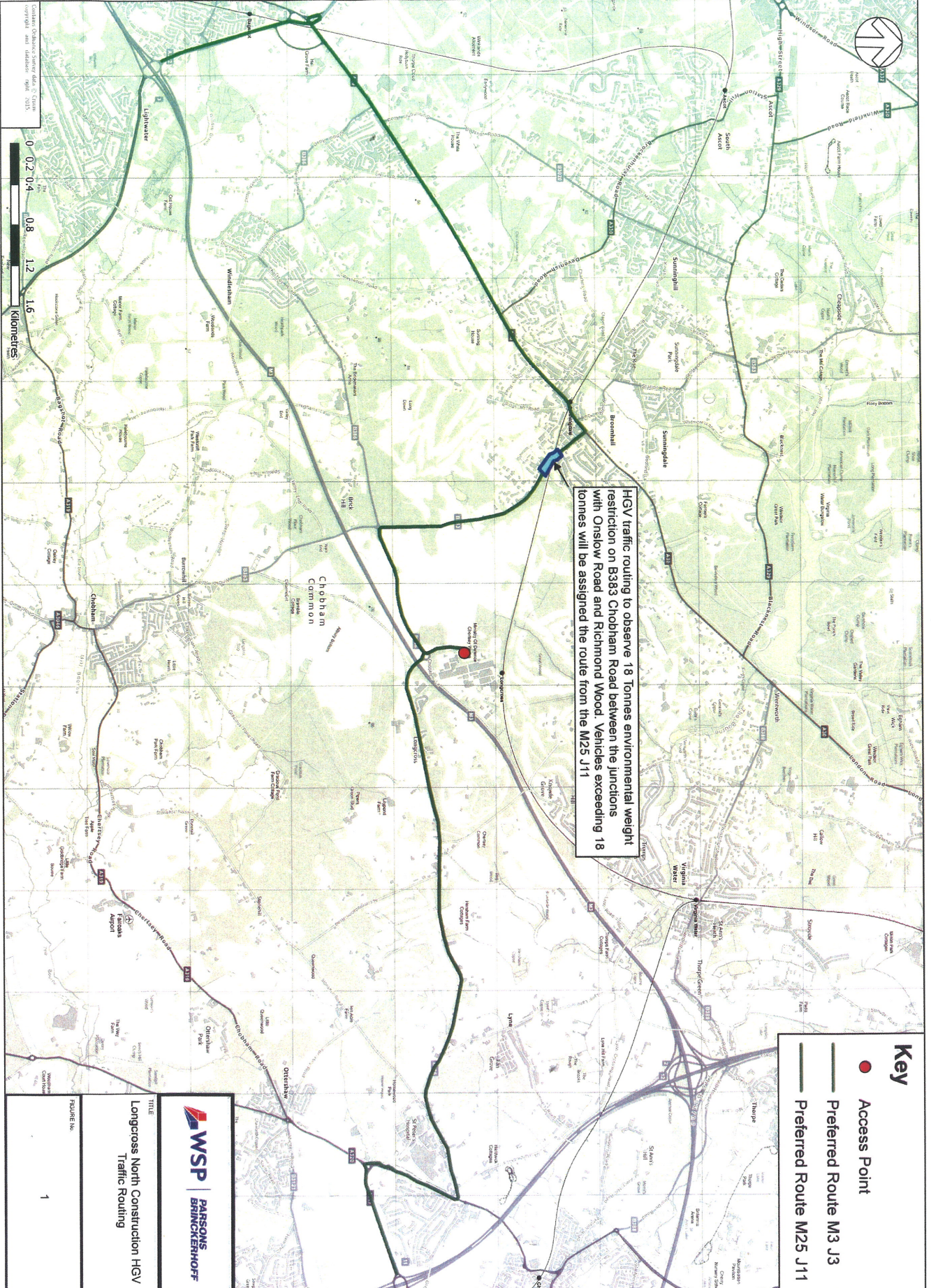
Objections from Councils, police & developers (summarised)

Organisation	Reasons for Objection
Chobham Parish Council	<p>Parish council was not informed.</p> <p>More heavy vehicles would travel through Chobham, endangering residents.</p> <p>Lack of evidence supporting feedback relating to severity of increases in traffic volume and minor incidents.</p> <p>Unable to understand the need for further reduction when a reduction was also implemented last year.</p> <p>Contradictory reasoning for weight limit reduction and a lack of supporting data.</p> <p>Failure to see a problem with the inability for two large vehicles to pass each other.</p> <p>Traffic will be diverted on to other, more dangerous routes.</p>
Surrey Police	<p>Displacement of HGV traffic on to arguably even more unsuitable roads.</p> <p>No mention is made of any particular injury collision problem.</p> <p>Lack of quantifiable data on HGV counts.</p> <p>New weight limit introduction coming very soon after previous one.</p> <p>No permission from Surrey County Council for erection of signage.</p> <p>Lack of advanced warning signage for HGV drivers.</p>
Barton Willmore and Parsons Brinckerhoff on behalf of Crest Nicholson	<p>Lack of evidence relating to potential accident risk reduction, and nothing referring specifically to HGVs.</p> <p>Road width appears sufficient for two lorries to pass side by side.</p> <p>No evidence that the restriction would prevent damage to the road, and no evidence that vehicles over 7.5 tonnes have been the cause of any damage thus far.</p> <p>No evidence has been provided supporting claims relating to the speed of vehicles, including HGVs.</p> <p>HGVs account for minimal percentage of overall road users (5.6% on weekdays, less at weekends), and therefore do not trigger any environmental implications which may give cause to protect amenities in the area.</p> <p>No indication that RBWM's maintenance liability in respect of repairs or maintenance of the route would be increased should the existing restriction be maintained.</p> <p>As Chobham Road is classified as a B road, its use by HGVs cannot be considered unsuitable.</p> <p>No assessment on the suitability/availability of and impact on alternative routes.</p> <p>The wider displacement of HGV movements would not be in keeping with the RBWM objective to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Restriction would create unnecessary traffic movements and would contradict RBWM's efficient management of the road network.</p> <p>Sufficient signage needed, including in locations which fall outside the jurisdiction of RBWM and which are opposed to the scheme. Signing detailing an alternative route has not been considered.</p> <p>Chobham Road is the most suitable route for construction vehicles for the site at Longcross.</p> <p>HGVs may need to use roads through Windlesham Village, which is deemed less suitable than Chobham Road.</p> <p>Increased cost of and disruption to development of Longcross site.</p> <p>Impact on local businesses not taken into account.</p> <p>The plan accompanying the order does not cover the full extent of the works required.</p>
Surrey Heath Borough Council	<p>Traffic likely to be diverted on to the B386 through Windlesham, a road which is less suitable than Chobham Road and has a poorer safety record.</p> <p>Construction traffic will have to find an alternative route which may impact villages in Surrey Heath.</p>
Surrey County Council	<p>No data presented to support claims that the volume of HGV traffic has recently increased.</p> <p>18 Tonne limit was only recently implemented and considered suitable. No evidence to support a change in existing conditions to warrant further reduction.</p> <p>Restriction is likely to displace HGV traffic on to routes in Surrey that are considered less suited to carrying this type of traffic.</p> <p>Greater environmental impact.</p> <p>Traffic likely to be diverted on to the B386 through Windlesham, a road which is less suitable than Chobham Road and has a poorer safety record.</p> <p>No suitable alternative route identified. Impact on alternative routes has not been assessed.</p> <p>No evidence to support claim that two HGV cannot pass each other on the bridge without the risk of colliding. Width of vehicles is not always proportional to their weight. Nothing to prevent wide vehicles from still using the bridge.</p> <p>Construction traffic for the Longcross site will be forced to use only one route, which has a poorer safety record than Chobham Road. This would also have a detrimental environmental impact.</p>
Cllr John Furey Cabinet Member Highways and Transport Surrey County Council	<p>Preliminary consultation with Surrey County Council was not carried out.</p> <p>Statement of reasons does not properly justify the order on environmental grounds.</p> <p>No consideration given to new routes to be used by HGVs, which in all likelihood will be Surrey roads, or considered the amenity of localities affected in Surrey.</p> <p>Carriageway width of the bridge is not considered to pose any difficulties to the two-way movement of vehicles.</p> <p>No accidents in the last 5 years so no evidence that restriction will reduce risk.</p> <p>No indication of where and how appropriate suitable alternative routes would be. The "most obvious alternative is through Windlesham Village which already had a speeding/injury collision problem".</p> <p>No evidence to support justification on environmental grounds.</p>
Windlesham Parish Council	<p>Parish council was not informed.</p> <p>More heavy vehicles would travel through Chobham, endangering residents.</p> <p>Lack of evidence supporting feedback relating to severity of increases in traffic volume and minor incidents.</p> <p>Unable to understand the need for further reduction when a reduction was also implemented last year.</p> <p>Contradictory reasoning for weight limit reduction and a lack of supporting data.</p> <p>Failure to see a problem with the inability for two large vehicles to pass each other.</p> <p>Traffic will be diverted on to other, more dangerous routes through Windlesham.</p>

Appendix E

Photos of Chobham Road





APPENDIX G

Drng No.	Rev.
PN-2113-04	-

Rev	Date	Amendments	By
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Operations Directorate

Highways, Engineering & Transport
Town Hall, St. Ives Road,
Maidenhead, Berks,
SL6 1RF.

Tel: 01628 683800
Fax: 01628 796774
<http://www.rbwm.gov.uk>



Project:
**B383 Chobham Road,
Railway bridge**

Title:
**Swept path analysis
for two axle
rigid HGV**

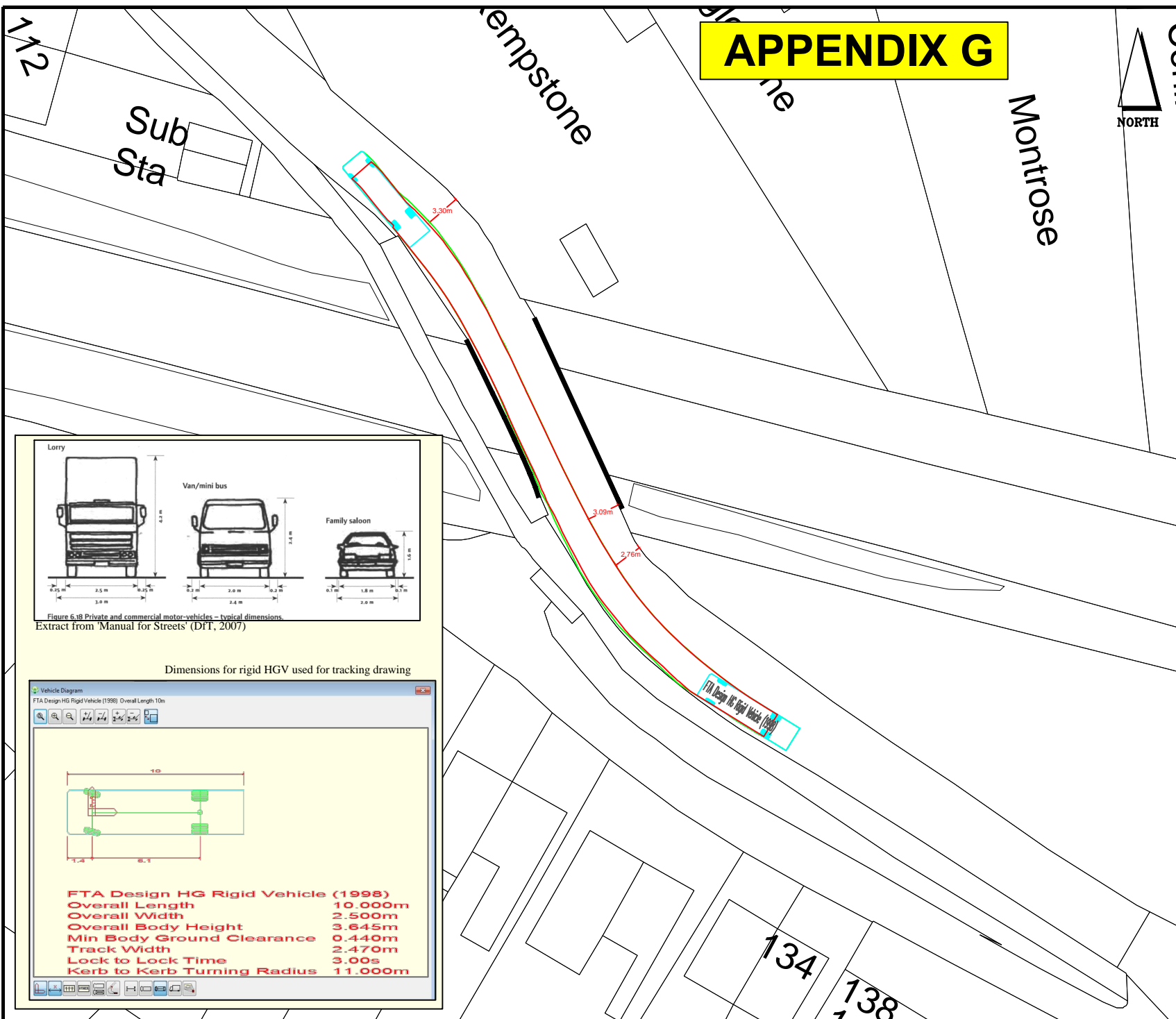
Drng No.	Rev
PN-2113-04	-

Date	Scale	Size
26-01-16	1:500 @ A4	A4

Drawn By	CAD By	Checked By	Signed Off By
rmb	rmb	-	-

Drawing Path.
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Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
By email: cllr.c.rayner@rbwm.gov.uk

Your ref: Our ref: CGL/NS/60246

21 December 2015

For information

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road, Sunningdale) (Weight Restriction) Order 2016 ("the Order")

I am writing to you having been informed by our Senior Highways engineer that the County has now been consulted about the proposed introduction of a 7.5 Tonne weight limit on Chobham Road. This follows your Council's making of an order on 26 May to restrict HGV traffic on that route to 18 Tonnes. That order was made despite serious and comprehensive formal objections by the County Council, Surrey Police, Crest Nicholson Runnymede Borough Council, and 13 objections from residents of Windlesham, backed up by residents and parish councils. It was made in the total absence of any technical reasoning. It therefore is extremely disappointing to see that your council now proposes an even more draconian restriction which is again totally unjustified in our view. In its new Statement of Reasons no effort is made to provide any evidence for the changes or any information that would address the previous objections. This letter is not the County's formal response to your consultation or a letter before claim but is intended to explain our concerns and to indicate to you the deficiencies of the proposed Order. It is necessarily repetitive as it covers the same areas of concern highlighted in our previous letter before claim which did not proceed

In relation to the current consultation our view is that the Royal Borough have failed to

1. carry out a preliminary consultation of the County Council as required by Regulation 6 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 which provides that the order making authority shall, before making an order consult the other authority where an order relates to, or appears to the order making authority likely to affect traffic on, a road for which another authority is the highway authority
2. Ensure a fair formal consultation given the Christmas period. Its one week extension to the County has not been advertised so that other parties are aware.
3. provide an adequate Statement of Reasons to properly justify the making of the Order on environmental grounds and provide sufficient technical justification with proper assessment of the impacts for the making of the Order.

4. give any consideration to the routes in Surrey which would in all likelihood be taken by HGVs prohibited from crossing the Chertsey Road bridge and the impact of such additional HGV use on sensitive locations, particularly Windlesham which has HGV accident history and where a school will be affected

As background to this issue, Runnymede Brough Council as local planning authority granted planning permission on 12 August 2014 for a large development (100,00 sq m office space and 120 residential units) at the DERA site on Chobham Road, (Longcross) Surrey, near the County boundary between Surrey and Berkshire. RBWM did not object to that application subject to consideration of timing of off site highway works, timing of agreed Longcross Station improvements, and the securing of a construction management plan. They subsequently were consulted on the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the development, which anticipated construction traffic travelling between the site and the motorway network over 2 different routes to reduce the impact on local roads. One of these routes between the development site and the M3 via the A30 includes the section of Chobham Road over the railway bridge. The Royal Borough took two months to respond to that consultation to the effect that they strongly objected to the use of the Chobham Road bridge and during that time the Royal Borough made and confirmed the Order described below.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road, Sunningdale) (Weight Restriction) Order 2015 ("the Order") was made on 26 May 2015, and came into operation on 1 June 2015. The Order was made under section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and its effect is to prevent any vehicle, the maximum laden or unladen weight of which exceeds 18 Tonnes, to proceed in any direction along the length of Chobham Road Sunningdale described in the schedule to the Order as being from the junction with Onslow Road, South East to a point 17m North West of its junction with Richmond Wood. This is a distance of approximately 200 metres and effectively restricts the use by HGVs of the bridge carrying Chobham Road over a railway.

No preliminary consultation pursuant to Regulation 6 of the 1996 Regulations has taken place. While it is clear that no assessment has been carried out by your Council of the effect of the proposed Order on other routes, your Council is of course on notice following objections to the 2015 Order that traffic on Surrey roads is likely to be affected.

Moreover, formal consultation has taken place over the Christmas period and while a week's extension to the minimum period has been agreed at our officers' request this has not been advertised and no other public notification by your Authority has taken place.

As you know when making a permanent Traffic Regulation Order local authorities are obliged to have regard to the duty in section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and we would emphasise s2 (b) as set out below. Your Authority failed to demonstrate that it had had regard to that statutory duty and considered the amenity of localities affected in Surrey and the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to improve the amenities of the area through which the roads run, in coming to the decision to make the Order.

"

(1) It shall be the duty of every local authority upon whom functions are conferred by or under this Act, so to exercise the functions conferred on them by this Act as (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in subsection (2) below) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

(2) The matters referred to in subsection (1) above as being specified in this subsection are—

(b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;

Prior to the making of an order under section 1 of the Act the promoting authority is required to seek internal approval for such order in accordance with its constitutional arrangements and apply

the advertising and consultation provisions of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2489) ("the Regulations").

Section 1 of the Act provides a series of possible grounds for making an order when it is expedient to do so. These can include the prevention of the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road and for preserving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. Grounds for making the 2016 Order are set out in a Statement of Reasons. As with the previous Statement supporting the 2015 Order, this statement is short and does not provide any information/evidence to justify the proposal. Again the Statement says that a 'number' of HGVs have had difficulty in passing each other over the bridge but no precise details are given of the nature of the problem, numbers of HGVs affected, history of complaints, impact, collision problems or personal injury history and any steps taken by your Authority to address this i.e. to remove/reduce on-street parking that is acknowledged causes congestion to the north of the bridge on Chobham Road. Crest Nicholson's objection to the 2015 Order looked at this in depth and found that the carriageway width of the bridge on Chobham Road was not considered to pose any particular difficulties to two-way movement of vehicles across the bridge (p2 of WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff technical note)

It further stated that the level of HGVs (over 18T) reported by an automatic traffic count over the course of a weekday was low and that "The occurrence of two opposing HGVs passing each other over the bridge, at any one time will be so low as to make it a rare event". It added that there were no reported accidents in the last five years along the section of Chobham Road subject to the proposed weight restriction. (page 4 of Technical Note). The County's professional officers have no reason to doubt that evidence, backed up by police data based on the database of personal injury accidents derived from Police reports. This indicates no personal accident recorded on the bridge or in the immediate vicinity of it.

The 2016 Statement of Reasons repeats that the purpose of the proposal is to reduce the amount of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using the streets in the local area as a through route and to manage HGVs use of the local network by keeping them on more appropriate roads wherever possible. No details are given of what, or where, those 'appropriate roads' are or how they were deemed to be more appropriate for HGV use , how HGVs were to be persuaded or obliged to use them, or indeed why the Chobham Road bridge was deemed unsuitable. There are other routes in the vicinity, but there is no evidence to show that these routes were analysed for their suitability as alternatives. Again Crest Nicholson previously addressed these issues. Again the overall reason for making the new Order appears to be environmental (in the absence of any reference to any structural deficiency in the bridge or indeed any evidence of the same), but the Statement does not provide sufficient information to justify the proposals and the subsequent making of the Order on environmental grounds.

The unsuitability of other routes in the vicinity was one of the main objections by the County in its objection letter of 14 May to the 2015 Order, where it sought to set out its concerns that HGVs would now potentially divert onto local roads in Surrey and that some of these roads were less suited to carrying HGV traffic than Chobham Road and that a greater environmental impact would consequently result. Graham Cannon, Surrey Police Road Safety and Traffic Management Officer, while acknowledging that Surrey Police as neighbouring police authority was not a statutory consultee, wrote on 14 May to the Royal Borough's Senior Highways and Parking engineer with a formal objection to the proposed weight restriction because of the impact it would have on Surrey roads. He explained that "the most obvious alternative route is through Windlesham Village which already had a speeding/injury collision problem. (one involving an HGV). It has a school along the route as well as traffic calming and priority give ways. To increase HGV traffic through this area would be totally unacceptable to Surrey Police". Crest Nicholson, the developer of the Longcross site, also made a strong objection.

The email trail supplied to the County (19 and 20 May 2015) sets out the matters considered by the Lead Member in deciding to make the 2015 Order, but there was no reference to the impact that the restriction would have on other routes in the vicinity,

The Senior Engineer outlined his alternative route to the Cabinet Member

I have looked at the question of an alternative route: The vehicles travel along the B386 from the site. At the junction with the B383 Chobham Road (roundabout) they would turn left towards Chobham. This road is a standard two lane road with a national speed limit, later reducing approaching Chobham. On the outskirts of Chobham the route turns right, at a mini-roundabout, onto the A319 Vicarage Road. Continuing along the A319 for approximately 3.7 kilometres before turning right, at a roundabout, onto the A322 (dual carriageway) up to the M3. There are few shops, all with off road parking, and no designated on street parking spaces on this route. There is one raised crossing on this route (B383), shortly after a mini-roundabout which will ensure speeds are low for all vehicles. Spot measurements of the B383 indicated an average width of approximately 6.5 metres.

It would appear to be more suitable for heavy vehicles than Sunningdale village and the railway bridge.

The alternative route suggested is in fact marginally narrower than the bridge and does not avoid the alleged concern regarding the dangers posed by passing HGVs. In addition there is of course no guarantee at all that HGVs or any other wide/heavy vehicles will use this alternative route when passage across the bridge is restricted. The decision was based on a flawed assumption that there is an issue with HGVs passing one another on the bridge when no evidence is produced for that.

The matter was referred to the Cabinet Member on 19 May 2015 at 14.54 hours, who with no reference to officers but only to the Councillor proposing the Order, had made his decision by 20.00 hours that evening relying on discussions with local member Cllr Christine Bateson "who has raised the following concerns on behalf of local residents in Sunningdale:-

- ☐ The safety of vehicles on the railway bridge as it is too narrow for large vehicles
- ☐ The local access road and premises close to the bridge with limited visibility
- ☐ The additional road traffic pollution in local area affecting residents either side of the bridge
- ☐ Reduced traffic flow due to limited visibility and road width when large vehicles are opposing
- ☐ Danger to pedestrians shopping at local shops in the central part of the village, either side of Chobham Road involving crossing movements
- ☐ Danger of increased congestion at the junction of the A30 London Road / B383 Chobham Road close to the London Road pedestrian crossing "

No technical evidence was provided or referred to to support these concerns being grounds for the draconian action of a weight limit on a long standing structure and it was clear that the Cabinet Member acted on assertions by the Local Member, the very same councillor who had proposed the scheme, when he should have been asking for advice from his professional officers as to the justification for making an Order on those grounds. The Cabinet Member did not address in the email confirming his decision the serious objections made by the County Council, Borough Council, Surrey Police, or Crest Nicholson by way of their consultants WSP.

There is no evidence that the Royal Borough has considered any alternative routes for vehicles in excess of 7.5 tonnes that would be affected by the proposed Order. The provision of an alternative route is an option by virtue of regulation 7; schedule 2(c) of the Regulations. This provides for a map to be made available for inspection, such map to clearly show the location and effect of the Order as proposed to be made or as made and, where appropriate, alternative routes for diverted traffic. A map has been provided for the consultation exercise, showing the bridge and its immediate vicinity, but does not describe any alternative routes. As part of the Royal Borough's internal process for seeking approval to make the 2015 order referred to above (after receiving objections) the officer dealing with the matter found it necessary to describe an alternative route to the member who gave approval. As it was felt necessary to provide this information for the purpose of the approval process, it follows that this information should have been available as part of the advertising of the Order. This should have been picked up in the consultation for the proposed 2016 Order. Again, this shows a fundamental lack of understanding and consideration of the wider effects of the proposed Order.

Again, the grounds for making the 2016 Order, in the absence of any corroborating evidence, have not been made out. The County's Officers are preparing their response to the consultation exercise. It is anticipated that their strong objections will remain. In the event that the 2016 order as advertised is confirmed the County will consider their options.

Yours sincerely



John Furey
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Flooding

Cc Cllr David Burbage
Leader of the Council
cllr.burbage@rbwm.gov.uk

Catherine Woodward
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Surrey Highways
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Surrey
GU4 7BQ

11 January 2016

Our Ref: ME-98964
Your Ref: PN-2113

Dear Mr Jones,

Re: THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD (CHOBHAM ROAD, SUNNINGDALE) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2016

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2015 attaching a notice, plan and statement of reasons, sent by way of a formal consultation relating to the above Traffic Regulation Order. You have stated that although the legal notice requires representations to be made by 14 January 2016 you would accept comments or objections in writing until 5 pm on 22 January 2016, presumably in view of the Christmas period. It is not clear whether this extension of time has been made public.

I am writing to advise you that Surrey County Council (SCC) formally objects, in the strongest terms, to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's (RBWM) proposal to introduce a 7.5 Tonne weight limit in Chobham Road, Sunningdale. The grounds for objection are detailed below and are unsurprisingly similar to those cited when the County Council objected only last year to the proposed introduction of the existing 18 Tonne weight limit at the same location.

I must also state that SCC finds it extremely disappointing that RBWM has commenced a statutory consultation without undertaking any prior consultation with SCC especially given the objection and serious concerns raised when the existing 18 Tonne weight limit was proposed.

Grounds for objection:

- The Statement of Reasons justifies the proposed Order to reduce the weight limit to 7.5 tonnes on the following grounds:
 - For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
 - For preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road
 - For preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property
 - For preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs

It concludes that Chobham Road narrows over the railway bridge to such an extent as to "prevent two HGVs from passing in opposing directions without the risk of colliding with roadside

obstacles or oncoming vehicles". The report presented to RBWM's Cabinet on 26 November 2015 states "it appears from local feedback that the volume of large vehicles has increased recently as has the incidence of damage only accidents and near misses". However, there is no technical evidence presented (such as HGV counts, personal injury collision data etc) to verify the extent of the claimed problems and justify the need for introducing the proposed reduction in weight limit. It is not acceptable to rely on local feedback when RBWM must know that proposals of this kind have to be based on professional assessments of the issues.

- Despite the objections it received to the 2015 Order, RBWM introduced the existing 18 Tonne weight limit at the location with effect from 1 June 2015. Having assessed the situation it must therefore have considered this to have been an appropriate measure to address the concerns raised by residents. To justify the need to reduce the weight limit after such a short time a significant change in the existing conditions would have been expected to have occurred. However, no evidence is presented of such a change.
- In its objection to the existing 18 Tonne weight limit, SCC stressed that the restriction was likely to displace HGV traffic onto routes in Surrey that are considered less suited to carrying this type of traffic than Chobham Road. As a result, the environmental impact caused by the traffic would be greater. This impact will only be increased further if the weight limit is reduced to 7.5 Tonnes. The route most likely to be used as an alternative by HGVs is the B386 through Windlesham village. This road has a poor alignment with a number of bends and high levels of on-street parking in the centre of the village (which effectively restricts the carriageway to a single lane width over significant lengths). In addition, there is a raised table and a number of pinch points along the route as well as a school. Personal injury accident data also indicates that this route has a significantly poorer safety record (including an HGV accident history) than the B383 Chobham Road. The other obvious alternative routes also have a significantly poorer safety record than Chobham Road and are not considered more suitable for large vehicles to use.
- Despite the concerns raised previously and further to the above point, the consultation documents for the latest proposal to reduce the weight limit to 7.5 Tonnes (and the report presented to RBWM's Cabinet) do not identify a suitable alternative route for vehicles affected by the restriction. Furthermore, it appears that the potential impacts of the proposal on other routes have not been assessed. However, as highlighted in the Officer report presented to RBWM's Cabinet, section 122 (2)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 makes it the duty of an authority exercising functions under this Act to, insofar as is practicable, have regard to the *effect on the amenities of **any** locality affected and ... the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles, so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the **roads** run*. SCC asserts that this duty has not been complied with and that the amenities of the obvious alternative routes will be severely affected if this Order were to come into effect.
- The Statement of Reasons states that where Chobham Road crosses the railway line the width of the road prevents two HGVs from passing in opposite directions without the risk of colliding with roadside obstacles or oncoming vehicles (although no evidence is presented in support of this). However, the width of vehicles is not always directly proportional to their weight. As such, imposing a weight limit will not necessarily prevent wider vehicles from travelling across the bridge.
- The Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the proposed mixed-use development on the former DERA Longcross site initially proposed two alternative routes for construction traffic travelling to and from the site. These routes were identified following an assessment of alternative options and the origin of the construction traffic. Chobham Road forms part of the one of these routes. The introduction of the existing 18 Tonne in Chobham Road therefore meant that all vehicles over 18 Tonnes would have to use the other route. Further reducing the weight limit to 7.5 Tonne would then require all vehicles over this weight to use this one route due to the lack of suitable alternatives other than Chobham Road. As a result it would have a disproportional environmental impact along this route which has a significantly poorer safety record than Chobham Road.

In conclusion, SCC does not consider that RBWM has demonstrated that there are any technical grounds to justify the making of the proposed 2016 Order to introduce a 7.5 Tonne weight limit overriding the already questionable grounds for the 2015 Order. Its duty to have regard to the amenities of localities affected by the Order has not been complied with and the impacts of the restriction on the other routes HGVs are likely to use have not been properly assessed and considered. On this basis, SCC objects to the proposed Order. Surrey Police shares the views of SCC.

Further to the above objection, County Council Officers would be happy to meet RBWM Officers and Members to discuss the County Council's concerns in more detail prior to the responses to the consultation being considered by RBWM's Cabinet.

Yours sincerely

pp 

Andrew Milne
Area Highways Manager (NW)
Surrey Highways
Surrey County Council



Windlesham Parish Council

Sarah Walker
Assistant Clerk to the Council
Tel: 01276 471675
Email: sarah.walker@windleshampc.gov.uk
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The Council Offices
The Avenue
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GU18 5RG



Huw Jones
Senior Engineer
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Town Hall
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF

Your reference PN-2113

20th January 2016

Dear Mr Jones

Re: The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road Sunningdale) (weight restriction) order 2016.

We have been informed by our County Councillor that you are considering reducing the weight limit on the Chobham Railway Bridge to 7.5 tonne. Furthermore, after reading the cabinet minutes on this proposal it states that Parish Councils would be contacted, however, I am not aware this has happened. It is therefore disappointing and clearly contravenes the duty to cooperate. We are also concerned that you have conducted this consultation over the Christmas period when Parish Full Councils do not meet. We understand that you have agreed to extend the consultation till the 22nd of January but have failed to confirm this on your web site.

I can confirm that Windlesham Parish Council formally objects, in the strongest terms to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's proposal to make the Chobham Road Sunningdale restricted to vehicles above 7.5 tonne. We also objected to RBWM reducing this to 18 tonne last year at the same location. RBWM failed to consider Windlesham residents objection and took no notice of their concerns.

Reasons for objection.

1. You have failed to consult Parishes and kept them informed of your proposal.
2. Your decision to impose a weight limit last year to 18 tonne has increased the number of heavy vehicles going through Windlesham, causing danger to residents and children, particularly along School road where there is an infant school.
3. We can see no technical evidence that supports the cabinet paper on the 26th November where it states "it appears from local feedback that the volume of vehicles has increased recently as has the incidence of damage only accidents and near misses". RBWM surely are aware that introducing measures must be based on facts not opinions.
4. On June the first RBWM introduced the 18 tonne limit how can the situation be different less than five months later.

5. In the original decision the reason given was to reduce traffic going through Sunningdale, now a number of different reasons are being given with no official data to back this up.
6. You state that one of the reasons given was that - where Chobham Road crosses the railway line the width of the road prevents two HGV's from passing in opposite directions without the risk of colliding with roadside obstacles or oncoming vehicles. I can see no evidence that any collisions have occurred so why do you now believe after a number of years this is a problem?

Windlesham Parish Council do not believe RBWM have in any way demonstrated that there are any technical grounds to warrant the proposed 2016 order to introduce a 7.5 tonne weight limit. The affect of this order will mean traffic will use more dangerous routes through the parish of Windlesham. We also understand that Surrey police object to this order.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Walker', followed by a small dot.

Sarah Walker
Assistant Clerk
On behalf of Windlesham Parish Council



CHOBHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk, Chobham Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road
Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AJ

Tel: 01276 856633

Email: clerk@chobhamparishcouncil.org Website: www.chobhamparishcouncil.org



Huw Jones
Senior Engineer
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Town Hall
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF
Your reference PN-2113
19th January 2016

Dear Mr Jones

Re: The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road Sunningdale) (weight restriction) order 2016.

We have been informed by our County Councillor that you are considering reducing the weight limit on the Chobham Railway Bridge to 7.5 tonne. Furthermore, after reading the Cabinet minutes on this proposal it states that Parish Councils would be contacted; we are not aware this has happened. It is therefore disappointing and contravenes the duty to cooperate. We are also concerned that you have conducted this consultation over the Christmas period when Parish full Councils do not meet. We understand that you have agreed to extend the consultation till the 22nd of January but have failed to confirm this on your web site.

I can confirm that Chobham Parish Council formally objects, in the strongest terms to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's proposal to make the Chobham Road Sunningdale restricted to vehicles above 7.5 tonne. We also object to RBWM reducing this to 18 tonne last year at the same location.

Reasons for objection.

1. You have failed to consult Parishes and kept them informed of your proposal
2. Your decision to impose a weight limit last year to 18 tonne has increased the number of heavy vehicles going through Chobham, causing potential danger to residents and children.
3. We have searched but can see no technical evidence that supports the Cabinet paper on the 26th November where it states "it appears from local feedback that the volume of vehicles have increased recently as has the incidence of damage only accidents and near misses". RBWM surely are aware that introducing measures must be based on facts not opinions.
4. On June the first RBWM introduced the 18 tonne limit how can six months later the situation be so different as to warrant a further change.
5. In the original decision the reason given was to reduce traffic going through Sunningdale, now a number of different reasons are being given with no official data to back this up.
6. You state that one of the reasons given was where Chobham Road crosses the railway line the width of the road prevents two HGV's from passing in opposite directions without the risk of colliding with roadside obstacles or oncoming vehicles. I can see no evidence that any

collisions have occurred so why do you now believe after a number of years this is a problem?

Chobham Parish Council do not believe RBWM have demonstrated that there are any technical grounds to warrant the proposed 2016 order to introduce a 7.5 tonne weight limit. The affect of this order will mean traffic will use other routes that are more dangerous. We also understand that Surrey police object to this order.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette Barber', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Annette Barber
Parish Administrator



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Service Regulatory

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Huw Jones
Senior Engineer
RBWM
Town Hall
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Maidenhead SL6 1 RF

January 4th 2016

Dear Mr Jones

**The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road, Sunningdale)
(Weight Restriction) Order 2015**

Thank you for your consultation in respect of introducing a 7.5 Tonne weight restriction on the B383 Chobham Road, Sunningdale.

I am writing to advise you that Surrey Heath Borough Council **objects** to the proposal for the following reasons:

The statement of reasons sets out that the purpose of the proposal is to avoid danger to persons or other traffic using the road, to prevent damage to the road to prevent unsuitable traffic impacting on the character of the road and to preserve or improve the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

The introduction of a 7.5 tonne limit would mean that areas within Windlesham Parish would be adversely impacted by traffic diverting onto roads through these areas. The impact on these areas would reflect those which the proposed weight restriction order is seeking to address.

Vehicles avoiding the weight limit would divert onto local roads which are less suited to carrying this type of traffic than the Chobham Road in Sunningdale. Traffic is likely to divert onto the B386 through Windlesham village. Surrey County Council has identified that this road has a poor alignment with a number of bends and high levels of on-street parking in the centre of the village. In addition there is a raised table and a number of pinch points along the route as well as a school. Surrey County Council personal injury data indicates that the route through Windlesham has a significantly poorer safety record than the B383 Chobham Road.

In addition as part of the Construction and Environmental Management plan for the large scale development at DERA (Longcross) construction traffic will travel to the site by two routes, one of these routes includes the section of the Chobham Road where the weight restriction is proposed. If this route is no longer available construction traffic will need to find other routes to the site. These routes could impact on villages in Surrey Heath.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Ireland', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jane Ireland
Planning Policy Manager

Huw,

I have been informed by Jason Gosden at SCC that RBWM are considering reducing the weight limit on Chobham Road, by the rail bridge from 18t to 7.5t.

I wish to register a formal objection to this proposal on behalf of Surrey Police.

The reasons for this are in many ways the same as when you only recently introduced the 18t weight limit-;

- Displacement of HGV traffic on arguably even more unsuitable roads than the B383 Chobham Road. The most obvious alternative route is the B386 through Windlesham Village, which already has a speeding/ injury collision problem (one involving a HGV) that we are trying to address. It has a school along the route as well as traffic calming and priority 'give ways' within the main part of the village. To increase HGV traffic through this area would be totally unacceptable to Surrey Police.
- In your statement of reason, no mention is made of any particular injury collision problem on the rail bridge in question, or if any HGV counts have taken place that would help to quantify the problem and the reason for the proposal.

As indicated above, despite formal objections from Surrey CC and Police you introduced a 18t weight restriction in the summer. At that time you must have considered a 18t weight restriction suitable and that it achieved the aims of the borough and satisfied the residents. I now wonder why you feel it necessary to introduce an even lower limit of 7.5t's, only a few months on. This is only going to increase the problems and potential road safety dangers highlighted above on the B386 through Windlesham Village, which is the obvious alternative route.

In addition to the above I would like to point out an issue with the advanced signing that I do not feel that you or Thames Valley Police have taken into consideration. You have introduced the current 18t weight restriction, which as your design drawing (PN-1702-31) indicated, should have advanced warning of the restriction on both approaches. This is so that HGV drivers have ample time to understand where the restriction is and can alter their route accordingly. In the design drawing there is provision of a warning sign to be situated at the Chertsey / Chobham Road roundabout in the Surrey CC area, that would indicate to HGV drivers approaching from the southeast that there was a weight restriction 1 mile ahead. It is my understanding that SCC have never given you permission to erect the sign at this location.

Yesterday I checked the advanced signing of the current weight restriction and can confirm that there is no advanced signing at the Chertsey/ Chobham Road roundabout, or at any other suitable place that would allow a driver of an HGV to take an alternative route. On this approach the first indication a HGV driver would have that there is a weight restriction on the rail bridge would be when faced with the actual weight restriction sign just beyond the junction with Richmond Wood. What is the HGV driver supposed to do then? As far as I can see he would be faced with two options- 1) either attempt to carry out a very difficult reversing manoeuvre so that he could go back the way he came, or 2) continue on and contravene the weight restriction. I would suggest that to carry out a 'u' turn manoeuvre would be very dangerous for any following traffic or pedestrians that were in the area at the time and also a distinct possibility that property could be damaged in the process. Also, from a prosecution point of view, I think that it would be very difficult to secure a conviction when presented with the facts that there is no advanced warning of the restriction and never has been due to a dispute from the neighbouring Highway Authority and that the driver thought that it was unsafe to carry out a 'u' turn and a safer option was to proceed over the bridge. Perhaps you can ask Thames Valley Police what their thoughts are on such a scenario.

As indicated before, I appreciate that Surrey Police is not a formal consultee on this matter, as the restriction falls outside our policing area, however I feel that I must make comment on this proposal as it will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect of road safety on Surrey's roads. It is for these reasons that I formally object to the introduction of a 7.5t weight restriction.

Regards,

Graham Cannon

Road Safety & Traffic Management
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Tel 01483 638697
mobile 07967 987393

Highway Projects Team,
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16460/A3/NS/dw

BY EMAIL & POST: projects@rbwm.gov.uk

11th January, 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD (CHOBHAM ROAD, SUNNINGDALE)
(WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2016 RESPONSE REFERENCE PN2113: OBJECTION ON
BEHALF OF CGNU AND CREST NICHOLSON**

On behalf of CGNU and Crest Nicholson, the promoters of the consented redevelopment of the former DERA site at Longcross North (in Runnymede Borough) we hereby submit an objection to the Weight Restriction Order proposed by RBWM. This weight restriction relates to the road bridge on Chobham Road, Sunningdale.

To explain this objection a Technical Note has been prepared by CGNU and Crest Nicholson's transport advisor WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff (see attached). The conclusions reached in the Technical Note are as follows:

- The reasons given for the weight restriction are not justified, against the status of Chobham Road as B-road which confers it a particular status and is of local importance for North-South movements.
- The volume of HGVs, and traffic in general, on Chobham Lane does not trigger any environmental implications which could give rise to a requirement protect amenity.
- There have been no accident records involving HGVs in the last 5 years on this section of Chobham Road. The reason given that, with the restrictions, accident risk would be avoided is therefore unfounded.
- Restricting the use of Chobham Road by HGVs over 7.5T would increase the reliance placed on other less suitable routes.
- No assessment of the significance of HGV movements or consequent diversions has been considered. The effect of the proposed 2016 Order is not compliant with RBWM transport policy which requires 'effective' management of the highway network and a reduction in unnecessary journeys.



FS 29637

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- There is no indication that RBWM's maintenance liability in respect of repairs or maintenance of the route would increase as a result of maintaining the current access regime. If less maintenance is expected, then this should be evidenced and should be information that the public should be consulted upon.
- The implications on local businesses have not been taken into account, nor has there been any indication that consultation has taken place with the users that would be affected by the proposed 2016 Order.
- The plan accompanying the order does not cover the full extent of the works required to implement the order, including signage, affecting the scope of the material available for consultation.

Taking all of the above into account, there does not seem to be any robust physical or environmental reasons which would justify the placing of a further environmental weight restriction on Chobham Road.

It is also the case that no information has been presented relating to the speed of vehicles along Chobham Road, including that of HGVs, and whether alternative means of managing this through alternative restrictions (e.g. speed limits) would yield more appropriate outcomes against the amenity objectives being sought by RBWM.

The proposed Order is therefore unjustified and places a disproportionate constraints on users, the wider economy and risk increasing journey frequency and length, against local policy.

Please can you confirm that this objection has been received with the set consultation period and that it will be the subject of full and proper consideration by RBWM. Following your review of this objection we would be pleased to discuss this with you in the hope that no further weight restrictions will be placed on the Chobham Road bridge at Sunningdale. Should you have any questions or require any additional information then please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully,



NEVILLE SURTEES
Associate

Encs.

- cc. B. Smith (RBWM Head of Highways and Transport) - w/encs.
T. Jones (Crest Nicholson) - w/encs.
I. Maguire (Runnymede Borough Council) - w/encs.
K. James (Surrey County Council) - w/encs.

TECHNICAL NOTE

TO: Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
FROM: WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff on behalf of Crest Nicholson
SUBJECT:

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (Chobham Road, Sunningdale) (Weight Restriction) Order 2016

Response Reference PN2113

DATE: 07 January 2016

OBJECTION TO THE 7.5 T WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER (2016)

Background

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff has been asked by CGNU & Crest Nicholson to consider the Weight Restriction Order 2016 by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), which has been lodged for consultation under reference PN2113.

In line with the details of the 2016 Order, this review has considered the following:

- Publication of the Order for consultation, dated 16 December 2015
- Statement of Reasons, undated
- RBWM Drawing PN-2113, dated 8 December 2015

Context

Two broad types of weight restrictions can be applied by a highway authority:

- Environmental weight restrictions; and,
- Weak bridge/road weight restrictions.

Such Orders can be made by a highway authority under exercise of powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with subsequent enforcement by The Police and, if required, Trading Standards.

The main difference between the two types relate to the reasons for the restrictions, and the additional 'exemptions' that can be applied, in the case of environmental restrictions, in allowing access to collect or deliver goods or carry out maintenance. There is generally no such exemption in respect of protecting a weakened structure, although this does not apply in this instance.

Permanent Orders can be made in the interest of, *inter alia*:

(d) preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property,

or

(f) *for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs*

Based on the above, the restrictions subject to the RBWM 2016 Order would be classified as an environmental weight restrictions order. In such cases, councils should seek to demonstrate that there are reasonable grounds to seek a change in conditions affecting the Highway as they relate to the specific circumstances and outcomes of the Order.

The objection lodged by CGNU & Crest Nicholson is on the basis that such grounds cannot be substantiated by RBWM in this case.

The Parliamentary Standards Note (SN6013, 17 November 2014) also makes it clear such TROs should be considered where the road has a significant problem and the order garners substantial local support. To date, no information has been provided to demonstrate if both of these criteria are met in this instance.

Reasons for Objection

In its *Statement of Reasons*, RBWM cites the reasons for seeking the 2016 Order as being:

- **Reason A:** For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.
- **Reason B:** For preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road.
- **Reason C:** For preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property.
- **Reason D:** For preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the roads runs.

The reasons given above are different to those outlined by RBWM in support of a 2015 Order covering the same section of road, which sought to impose 18T weight restriction. Those reasons were:

- Reason (1): The difficulty experienced by two-way movement of vehicles across the bridge; and,
- Reason (2): The need to reduce the volume of HGVs on the route

Different reasons are being given to support a further restriction to 7.5T under the 2016 Order consultation, when the primary underlying objective of RBWM would seem to simply be limiting HGV movements on the route, whether the Order is actually justified or not.

No information has been provided by the RBWM to quantify the current level of HGV traffic and the reduction that it would be seeking to achieve. The 2015 Order was considered by CGNU & Crest Nicholson to be largely ineffective against the stated objectives, given that only *circa* 10% of all existing HGV traffic would be affected.

Limited consideration has been paid to the effects of the restriction on the affected users, including the practicality and economic case of any consequent HGV diversions. Consequently, the effects of the restrictions on the local road network has not been taken account of in the highway authority's overall management of the highway network and dis-benefit arising from longer journeys on that network, including increased mileage and CO2 emissions and loss of productivity.

In the same way as new infrastructure schemes are required to consider the weight given to the benefits and dis-benefits to all users, no such assessment has been carried out in respect of the effective 'closure' of infrastructure on (the same) groups of users. This case is not a simple restriction placed on an otherwise undesirable route for traffic, but a B-road of importance for the local economy.

Finally, the plan accompanying the order does not cover the full extent of the works required to implement the order, including signage, affecting the scope of the material available for consultation. The signage shown on plan PN2113 is not sufficient to deliver the objective of the 2016 Order.

Notwithstanding the general points made above, further commentary on the individual reasons is provided below:

Reason A

The rationale for Reason A, which suggests that allowing HGVs continued use of the route would create danger, is not borne out of the existing road safety statistics, which also has not reported either, any significant level of general accidents and none related specifically to HGVs. WSP's appraisal of the statistics has concluded that there have been no reported accidents in the last five years along the section of Chobham Road subject to the proposed weight restriction

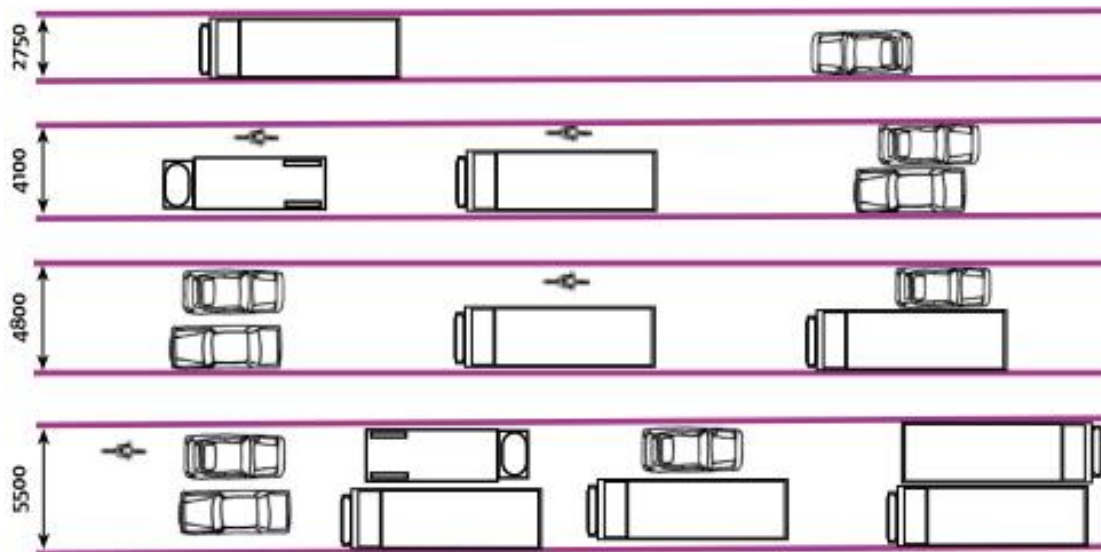
The papers submitted to the Committee make reference to "*damage only collisions between lorries and cars and congestion in Chobham Road in the vicinity of the shops*". However, it should be noted that the Statement of Reasons does not refer to this issue, and in any event, a weight restriction on the bridge would not necessarily address this issue, if indeed it is borne out of a comprehensive analysis. Consequently, it should be disregarded as any part of the decision making process.

It is also the case that frequency of movements, by all users, is not generally reflective of increased or decreased road safety risk, which is what Reason A seems to be suggesting.

The Statement of Reasons state that HGVs "*have been having difficulty passing each other*", but offer no data or other proof that this is actually the case.

Measurements taken by WSP of the bridge on Chobham Road suggest that its carriageway width is 6.64m. According to Figure 7.1 of the Manual for Streets, the minimum width of carriageway required for two lorries to pass each other would be 5.5m (but at very low speeds), although 6m is typically required to allow unimpeded opposing movements of buses and HGVs.

Figure 1. Accommodation of Various Carriageway Widths in mm (replicated from Table 7.1. of MfS)



Based on the above, the carriageway width of the bridge on Chobham Road is not considered to pose any particular difficulties to two-way movement of vehicles across the bridge.

The geometry of the bridge is such that HGVs should be able to safely pass each other, and the lack of accidents involving HGVs would strongly suggest that this is indeed the case. Consequently, there is no justification for Reason A.

Reason B

Roads generally have to be maintained in accordance with their status against the prevailing local highway hierarchy. In the present situation, Chobham Road is a B-road and, therefore, the maintenance of the route will be to a standard commensurate with this status.

There is no evidence that the restriction under the 2016 Order would necessarily 'prevent' damage to the road, as per the reason given. There is no indication that the maintenance liabilities in respect of maintaining the standard of the B-road would necessarily reduce.

Conversely, if the local highway authority is suggesting that a reduced level of maintenance would ensue, it is not clear whether local residents would have been appropriately informed of this consequence.

No suggestion has been made that vehicles over 7.5 T have been causing excessive, or specific damage to Chobham Road or any buildings, and there is therefore no justification for Reason B.

Reason C

The character of the road befits its designation as a B-road and its historical use as an important local thoroughfare by all traffic for many years. This level of use would not come as a surprise to any existing residents along the route, who would have had full knowledge of this status.

The movement of HGVs along Chobham Lane is appropriate for its status and geometry so that their use of the road could not be considered 'unsuitable', as is suggested by RBWM for Reason C.

The Statement of Reasons refer to keeping HGVs on "*more appropriate roads wherever possible*", but fails to say which roads are more appropriate given the status of Chobham Road as classified B-road, or how HGVs would be encouraged to use them. There is no assessment of the impacts of the increased use of these roads (should they exist) to ascertain their relative appropriateness to requiring a specific restriction being imposed on Chobham Road.

Reason C, therefore, cannot justify the imposition of the proposed restriction.

Reason D

Preserving or improving the amenities of the area implies that the level of amenity which is currently enjoyed by residents is 'deficient' to the point that there is no alternative but for this type of intervention by the local highway authority.

Table 1. Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) Summary for Chobham Lane (24 hours)

Day (June)	Total	Total LGV/HGV (under 18T)
Weekday average	7746	435
Weekend average	4742	171

The traffic data relating to Chobham Road, summarised above, demonstrates that:

- The volume of HGV traffic is low comparatively to overall vehicle movements, at 5.6% of all weekday movements.
- The level of HGV movements at weekends is further reduced, when the majority of residents are more likely to be at home.
- The capacity of Chobham Lane is within its design capacity (estimated to be 12,600 vehicles per day), and therefore not approaching any threshold of significance.

The level of traffic on Chobham Lane generally does not trigger any environmental effects in line with EIMA's *Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic* (1993) that would otherwise suggest that conditions had been reached which could affect amenity.

Neither does the accident data suggest there is an amenity issue that needs addressing. On this basis, Reason D is not a justifiable reason for the Order.

Implications of the 2016 Order

Existing RBWM Policy

The wider displacement of HGV movements would not be in keeping with the objective of reducing emissions, set out in RBWM *Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026* as it relates to “*the efficiency of operation of the local road network will be improved in order to minimise unnecessary congestion and delay and associated carbon emissions ...*” (Policy SEG6: Network Management)

As part of its network management function, RBWM recognises in the LTP that it “*is about increasing the efficiency of the road network by enabling smoother traffic flow and by ensuring that there are no unnecessary traffic movements or obstructions within the network*” (Para 6.6.12). It is CGNU & Crest Nicholson’s view that the 2016 Order would create unnecessary traffic movements and would contradict RBWM’s efficient management of the road network.

The implementation of the weight restrictions would also need to be supported by necessary signage, some of which will need to be located at the Chobham Lane / Chobham Road roundabout which fall outside RBWM’s jurisdiction. We understand that SCC do not support the proposed weight restriction. No information has been presented relating to the speed of vehicles along Chobham Road, including that of HGVs, and whether alternative means of managing this through alternative restrictions (e.g. speed limits) would yield more appropriate outcomes against the amenity objectives being sought by RBWM.

Consented DERA Longcross Site

The proposal for mixed-use development on the former DERA Longcross site is the subject of a planning consent issued by Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) under Planning Reference RU.13/0856. The application was subject to consultation with neighbouring authorities, including RBWM.

In the process of consultation over this application, feeding into the discharge of conditions relating to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), an HGV construction vehicle routing plan was produced. This is attached in Appendix A.

As a result of an assessment of a range of roads leading from the proposed development, the routing plan places emphasis on two routes. These have emerged from the assessment as being of a ‘higher order’ in respect of the local highway network and the likely origin of HGVs associated with construction activities.

The choice of Chobham Road as one of these two routes for construction HGVs raises some significant issues in respect of the proposed environmental weight restriction being considered by RBWM:

- The CEMP identified the two routes as being the most environmentally suitable for the routing of HGVs during construction;
- Generally, an environmental restriction should not be used if there is no suitable alternative route for the displaced traffic;
- Where a TRO restricts the use of a road, route or area to certain vehicles, the signing of a recommended alternative route would be required. This has not been considered by RBWM;
- The alternative routing strategy would increase the length of construction HGV trips on the road network, with consequential impact on routes and associated communities; For example, HGVs may need to use roads through Windlesham Village, which is deemed less suitable than Chobham Road
- The disruption from further restrictions on movements will affect the local economy, including increasing the relative cost of developing the Longcross site, placing a constraints which will have implications on the phasing of the development and thus impact on its contribution to the wider economy.

Conclusions

This objection on behalf of CGNU & Crest Nicholson is summarised as follows:

- The reasons given for the weight restriction are not justified, against the status of Chobham Road as B-road which confers it a particular status and is of local importance for North-South movements.
- The volume of HGVs, and traffic in general, on Chobham Lane does not trigger any environmental implications which could give rise to a requirement protect amenity.
- There have been no accident records involving HGVs in the last 5 years on this section of Chobham Road. The reason given that, with the restrictions, accident risk would be avoided is therefore unfounded.
- Restricting the use of Chobham Road by HGVs over 7.5T would increase the reliance placed on other less suitable routes.
- No assessment of the significance of HGV movements or consequent diversions has been considered. The effect of the proposed 2016 Order is not compliant with RBWM transport policy which requires 'effective' management of the highway network and a reduction in unnecessary journeys.
- There is no indication that RBWM's maintenance liability in respect of repairs or maintenance of the route would increase as a result of maintaining the current access regime. If less maintenance is expected, then this should be evidenced and should be information that the public should be consulted upon.
- The implications on local businesses have not been taken into account, nor has there been any indication that consultation has taken place with the users that would be affected by the proposed 2016 Order.
- The plan accompanying the order does not cover the full extent of the works required to implement the order, including signage, affecting the scope of the material available for consultation.

Taking all of the above into account, there does not seem to be any robust physical or environmental reasons which would justify the placing of a further environmental weight restriction on Chobham Road.

It is also the case that no information has been presented relating to the speed of vehicles along Chobham Road, including that of HGVs, and whether alternative means of managing this through alternative restrictions (e.g. speed limits) would yield more appropriate outcomes against the amenity objectives being sought by RBWM.

The proposed Order is therefore unjustified and places a disproportionate constraints on users, the wider economy and risk increasing journey frequency and length, against local policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kay', is located above the printed name.

Kevin Kay
Technical Director
07 January 2016




Appendix A



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Key

-  Access Point
-  Preferred Route M3 J3
-  Preferred Route M25 J11



TITLE:

Longcross North Construction HGV Traffic Routing

FIGURE No: