

**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(ELMBRIDGE)**

**LETTER OF REPRESENTATION RESPONSE
REQUEST FOR HGV RESTRICTION, OCKHAM LANE,
COBHAM**

14th JUNE 2012

KEY ISSUE

To provide Members with an Officer response to the letter of representation submitted to the Local Committee.

SUMMARY

A letter of representation has been received signed by 66 signatories requesting a HGV restriction be placed upon Ockham Lane, Cobham.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Elmbridge Local Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) Note the content of the report

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A letter of representation signed by 66 signatories has been submitted to the local office on behalf of the residents of Ockham Lane. The full details are as follows:

We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to introduce a 7.5 weight limit for HGV's using Ockham Lane.

A weight limit should be put on lorries using Ockham Lane unless for access to existing premises.

Reasons:

1. There is no reason for large lorries travelling to or from the A3 or M25 to enter Ockham Lane a. from Church End (the B039) since it leads only to Old Lane which has a 7.5 tonne weight limit and to Plough Lane which is unsuitable for HGVs; b. from Old Lane since access to Old Lane for HGVs is already restricted; c. from Plough Lane since Plough Lane is extremely narrow and considered unsuitable for HGVs.
2. There is no footpath and a limited verge on Ockham Lane between Bridge End and Plough Lane. Pedestrians have nowhere to shelter from traffic.
3. A weight limit on lorries is consistent with the designation of other local roads.
4. The lane is very narrow and winding with poor visibility in places and cannot accommodate a large lorry and a car.
5. HGVs are a hazard to the community traffic including pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.

- 1.2 This letter of representation has also been presented to the 21 March meeting of the Guildford Local Committee who have resolved to impose a 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Guileshill Lane, Ockham and Ockham Lane, Ockham up to the junction of Old lane. Full details of which can be found on the SCC website for the Guildford Local Committee.
- 1.3 The C38 Plough Lane/Ockham Lane links Cobham to Ockham and is in most part a narrow rural road with few properties. The volume of traffic using the road is generally low.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 There are low numbers of collisions on the Elmbridge section of Plough lane/Ockham Lane with only three recorded injuries within the last three years. All three collisions involved pedal cycles, two were slight injuries and one was serious. None of collisions involved HGV's.
- 2.2 Guildford Local Committee have resolved to impose a 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Guileshill Lane and Ockham Lane up to the junction of Old Lane.

- 2.3 Old Lane is currently subject to an existing 7.5 tonne weight restriction throughout its length. The introduction of a weight restriction in Guileshill Lane and Ockham lane (Guildford Borough) would effectively prevent HGV's from entering Plough Lane/Ockham Lane in Cobham other than for access, as they would not be able to proceed beyond the junction of Old lane, eliminating the need for a weight restriction to be placed on the Elmbridge section of Ockham Lane/Plough Lane.
- 2.4 Officers in the North East Area Highways Team support the ban being taken forward by the Guildford Local Committee for the introduction of weight restrictions on Guileshill Lane and Ockham Lane.
- 2.5 Advisory signs will be required in the Elmbridge Borough to warn motorists in advance of the restriction on Ockham Lane at the junctions of Chillbrook Rd and Plough Lane. These will be supplied and installed as part of the Guildford Committee agreed scheme.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 Do nothing. This option would not require any advanced warning signs to be placed at the junctions of Chillbrook Rd and Plough Lane. The impact of this may create a problem of HGV's inadvertently using Plough Lane/Ockham Lane and finding that they are unable to proceed in any direction at the junction with Old Lane. This would result in either the HGV driver trying to manoeuvre a vehicle at this junction to turn around and go back up Ockham Lane/Plough Lane or proceed on and contravene the weight restrictions. This option may lead to complaints from Surrey Police who enforce the restrictions due to inadequate advanced warning, resulting in drivers escaping prosecution. It may potentially create a collision problem at the junction of Old Lane with heavy goods vehicles turning on a narrow country road.
- 3.2 To support the weight restriction by the Guildford Local Committee. This option will allow the provision of advanced warning signs to help prevent the issues mentioned above.
- 3.3 A further option would be to impose a HGV ban from Chillbrook Rd and Plough lane, it isn't though considered that this would represent value for money as the ban in the Guilford Borough Area will in reality achieve the same results as long as advanced warning signage is included.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It would not provide value for money to implement a weight restriction, which would cost approximately £10,000. The proposed advanced

warning signs should eliminate the use of Plough Lane/Ockham Lane by HGV's for anything other than access requirements.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To support the weight restrictions approved by the Guildford Local Committee.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To prevent HGV's from using Plough Lane/Ockham Lane as a rat run and to prevent deterioration of the verges and highway.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 Officers in the two Area Highway Teams will liaise to ensure the advanced warning signs needed are installed prior to completion of the scheme.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None