

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)****DATE: 2 OCTOBER 2014****LEAD OFFICER: ANDREW MILNE****SUBJECT: WOODLANDS LANE BRIDGE – TEMPORARY WEIGHT AND WIDTH RESTRICTION****DIVISION: BAGSHOT, WINDLESHAM AND CHOBHAM****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

M3 Woodlands Lane Bridge is located to the east of Windlesham where it carries the single carriageway Woodlands Lane (C4) over the M3 motorway. This bridge is a Highways Agency (HA) asset and was constructed in 1971.

In accordance with a European Directive, the United Kingdom has been required to accept 40 tonne vehicles on roads since 1st January 1999 and at the same time a requirement to assess highway bridges designed prior to 1973. A report, following a structural assessment in March 2001, resulted in a permanent weight limit of 25 tonnes on the structure.

Recent assessment of the structure has shown that its strength has degraded since the 2001 report and now requires a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to agree to

- (i) Implement a temporary traffic regulation order on Woodlands Lane, Windlesham, to reduce the weight limit to 3 tonnes and include a width restriction of 6'6"
- (ii) Following the advertisement of the order, any objections to the order can be resolved by the Local Area Manager (Andrew Milne) in consultation with the Chairman and Local Member

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Although a 7.5 tonne weight limit would be sufficient, this does not prevent the structure being used by heavier vehicles.

Reducing the weight limit and introducing a width restriction will allow for the inclusion of a structure that physically restricts access of larger vehicles and stops any mistreatment of the restriction.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 M3 Woodlands Lane Bridge is located to the east of Windlesham where it carries the single carriageway Woodlands Lane (C4) over the M3 motorway. This bridge is a Highways Agency (HA) asset and was constructed in 1971.
- 1.2 In accordance with a European Directive, the United Kingdom has been required to accept 40 tonne vehicles on roads since 1st January 1999 and at the same time a requirement to assess highway bridges designed prior to 1973.
- 1.3 The structure of the bridge was assessed by Mott MacDonald in March 2001 the previous agent for Highways Agency Area 3. Recommendations following the report suggested introducing a weight limit of 25 tonnes on the structure to extend the Records show that the structure is not capable of carrying the full permanent load and that it is therefore not suitable for any live loading. At this point, the permanent 25 tonne weight limit on the bridge was introduced to reflect the structural strength.
- 1.4 The structure is one of five structures (A322, Broadway Road, Highways Lane, and Windsor Road) in the area allowing access across the M3.
- 1.5 The bridge is located near Windlesham and allows traffic to avoid the traffic calming and/or residential roads within the village.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The latest assessment of the bridge deck on Woodlands Lane, Windlesham, has identified that the 25 tonne weight limit was no longer suitable and that the weight limit should be reduced to 7.5 tonne to reduce the risk of a failure.
- 2.2 Although the report identifies that 7.5 tonne would be suitable, it has been recognised that simply changing the signs does not stop drivers of heavier vehicles from ignoring the restriction and driving across the structure. Surrey Police are unable to permanently enforce the weight limit.
- 2.3 A method of enforcing the weight limit on a permanent basis is to lower the weight limit to 3 tonnes and include a width restriction with physical islands with bollards forcing larger vehicles to seek alternate routes.
- 2.4 The new weight limit on the bridge would require any traffic impeded by the weight limit to go through the village. As such, it is recommended that any lower weight limit is implemented on a temporary basis to allow the necessary repair works to be undertaken to limit the overall impact on the general area.
- 2.5 Following recent meetings with the Highways Agency, SCC have received a written commitment from the Highways Agency to replace the deck of the bridge as part of the M3 Managed Motorway works which are due for completion by June 2017.
- 2.6 The deck replacement will require a road closure at some point during the construction. However, by replacing the deck, the new structure will be sufficient to remove all weight limits over the structure following completion

and potentially reduce the number of larger vehicles using Windlesham as a through route.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Leave the current 25 tonne weight limit in place. This option is advised against as all the analytical assessment calculations show that this structure can no longer carry the weight of traffic safely.
- 3.2 Implement a new temporary 3 tonne weight limit with 6'6" width restriction to provide permanent enforcement of the restrictions. This is the recommended option.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Before bringing this report to the Local Area Team, Surrey Highways have discussed the proposal with a number of stakeholders, including Cllr Goodman, Surrey Police, and the Highways Agency.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 All costs of implementing the new weight and width restriction, including legal notices, will be covered by the Highways Agency.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 N/A.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The lower weight limit may temporarily increase the number of large vehicles on local roads in Windlesham. However, due to the nature of the agreement with the Highways Agency, the impact will be for a limited time and will result in the removal of the 25 tonne permanent weight limit and a long term reduction in heavy vehicles driving through the village.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 To ensure the long term structural integrity of Woodlands Lane Bridge and safeguard the users of both the local highway and the motorway, it is recommended that the current weight limit of 25 tonnes is temporarily replaced by a 3 tonne weight limit and a 6'6" width restriction is also included in the scheme.

9.2 The Area Team Manager, Andrew Milne, is given responsibility, in consultation with the Chairman and Local Member, to resolve any objections to the proposal.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Should the Committee approve the new weight limit and width restriction on the bridge, Surrey County Council will progress advertising the temporary removal of the 25 tonne weight limit and replacement with a 3 tonne weight limit and 6'6" width restriction.

10.2 If there are no irresolvable objections to the proposal, the new signage and width restriction will be introduced in line with the activation of the temporary width restriction.

Contact Officer: Peter Orchard (0300 200 1003)

Consulted: Local County Councillor, Surrey Police, Highways Agency

Annexes: Annex 1: Letter from Highways Agency

Sources/background papers: NA
