

Appendix A

Mr White advised that he had attended the Delegated Decisions meeting held earlier in the day at which the Cabinet Member for Environment (Including Transport), Councillor Yvonne Constance OBE had considered the proposed Environmental Weight Limit on the A361 Burford High Street and agreed to defer the implementation of the proposals as advertised, pending further investigation to determine the wider effect the scheme would have on neighbouring areas as a result of displaced vehicles.

The investigation would also consider whether a 7.5 tonne limit was appropriate or whether a 18 or 22 tonne limit should be introduced. The introduction of a 20 MPH speed limit would also be considered hence the current proposal could be changed.

Mr White considered that the case for the introduction of a weight limit made itself as HGV's caused damage to the town's 162 Listed Buildings through impact, vibration and, where vehicles stood stationary by the bridge, through acid rain formed by exhaust emissions.

The Town Council's offices at The Tolsey had also suffered damage through vibration caused by HGV movements.

HGV traffic was also detrimental to the town's economy which was reliant on income from visitors. Some £15 Million per annum was generated by businesses located on and just off the High Street and those staying in the town did not want to be disturbed by HGV traffic.

HGV's also caused congestion and air pollution in the vicinity of the bridge where air quality levels were approaching European Union limits in a location only 25 metres away from a primary school.

Mr White indicated that he did not believe that the adverse impact resulting elsewhere was sufficient to outweigh the damage caused to the town. The use of an alternative route would result in a 50% improvement in air quality in Chipping Norton.

Whilst he acknowledged that there would be some adverse impact on other settlements, Mr White stressed that there were 19 children living in Fulbrook who attended school in Burford. There was no pavement on the bridge and, despite the provision of pedestrian refuges, HGV's were too large and put these children in danger.

In conclusion, Mr White expressed the hope that the Council would support the restriction but look at the final terms of any order once these were known.