
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 18 February 2015

Subject: Various Roads in Arlesey – Consider Objection to Proposed 7.5 tonnes Weight Restriction

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of a 7.5 tonnes Weight Restriction on Various Roads in Arlesey

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Arlesey

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve the environment by reducing the volume of heavy goods vehicles using the built-up roads through Arlesey.

Financial:

These works are being funded primarily through the Council's Rural Match Fund process.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

The proposal will improve road safety for all road users, including pedestrians and residents.

Sustainability:

None from this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposal to introduce a 7.5 tonnes HGV Weight Restriction on various roads in Arlesey should be implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. The scheme was identified as a priority by Arlesey Town Council who decided to apply for funding through the Rural Match Fund process. There have been longstanding local concerns about lorry movements in the town and this proposal would go some way towards addressing those.
2. The proposed restriction would prohibit vehicles over 7.5 tonnes from using roads in the identified zone as through routes. Heavy goods vehicles would be permitted to enter the restricted area for the purposes of loading/unloading and off-road garaging. Buses would not be affected by the restriction.

The proposal is primarily intended to protect Arlesey from extraneous lorry traffic. Some HGV drivers use the roads through the town to travel between the A507 to the north of Arlesey and the industrial areas to the south of the village. The proposed weight restriction would divert lorries on to less heavily populated routes.

The expected alternative route does extend into Hertfordshire, although is unlikely to have any significant impact on their road network. The County Council was consulted, but no reply was received.

3. The Council published the proposals in October and November 2014. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Hertfordshire County Council, Arlesey Town Council, Stotfold Town Council, Fairfield Parish Council and relevant Ward Members. Public notices were also displayed on street.

Representations and Responses

4. An objection was received from Arlesey Residents Association. A full copy of the objection is included in Appendix C and are summarised below.
 - a) Although there are a large number of large vehicles using Arlesey's roads these are mainly going to and from the industrial areas, rather than through-routing.
 - b) There will be a significant impact on those residents who live at the southern end of Arlesey.

- c) Any proposals should be delayed until the possibility of providing a relief road has been fully considered as part of the masterplan for the area.
5. Central Bedfordshire Highways' response to the points above are as follows:-
- The recommended route for heavy goods vehicles serving the industrial areas to the south of Arlesey would be continue on the A507 to Stotfold, proceed south towards Letchworth, west on Arlesey New Road and north on Hitchin Road to Arlesey. Hence, the weight restriction would force heavy goods vehicles heading for those industrial areas to pass the residential properties located on the southern stretch of Hitchin Road. However, the weight restriction is expected to bring about an overall reduction in the numbers of lorries in Arlesey, which should reduce the number using that road. Consequently, the impact on those residents is very difficult to quantify, but is anticipated to be relatively minor.
- The plans for relief roads and other applications should be viewed as long term aspirations and there are no immediate plans to build any new roads that would relieve Arlesey of the current heavy goods vehicle movements.
6. Bedfordshire Police has asked for consideration to be given to measures being provided to physically prevent vehicles over 7.5 tonnes proceeding through the restriction because enforcement will not be a high priority.
7. Central Bedfordshire Highways' response to Bedfordshire Police's comments is that it is difficult to physically stop oversize vehicles entering the restricted zone, primarily because access has to be maintained to enable such vehicles to enter the area for access and delivery reasons.

Conclusion

8. It is considered that the restrictions should proceed as recommended above on road safety and traffic management grounds.
9. If approved, the works are expected to take place within the current financial year.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public Notice of Proposals
Appendix C – Drawing of Proposals
Appendix D – Representations

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE 7.5 TONNES HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON VARIOUS ROADS IN ARLESEY

Reason for the proposal: The proposed Order is considered necessary on the grounds of promoting road safety and improving the environment of the area. The proposed restriction would prohibit HGVs over 7.5 tonnes from using roads in the zone identified below as through routes. The proposal is primarily intended to protect Arlesey from extraneous lorry traffic.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a 7.5 tonnes HGV Weight Restriction on roads in Arlesey, as follows:-

The weight restriction zone covers Stotfold Road, Church Lane, House Lane, High Street and other roads in Arlesey. The entry points to the weight restriction zone are at:-

- a) Stotfold Road, at its roundabout junction with A507 Arlesey/Stotfold bypass
- b) Hitchin Road, at a point north of Hitchin Road Industrial and Business Centre access

Exemptions: The proposed Order will include exemptions to allow heavy goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes to enter the restricted zone for access and delivery requirements. There will also be exemptions for emergency vehicles and for certain other building and maintenance purposes.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0845 3656116.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Transportation Manager, Central Bedfordshire Highways, Woodlands Annexe, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7NU or e-mail centralbedsconsultation@amey.co.uk by 28 November 2014. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made.

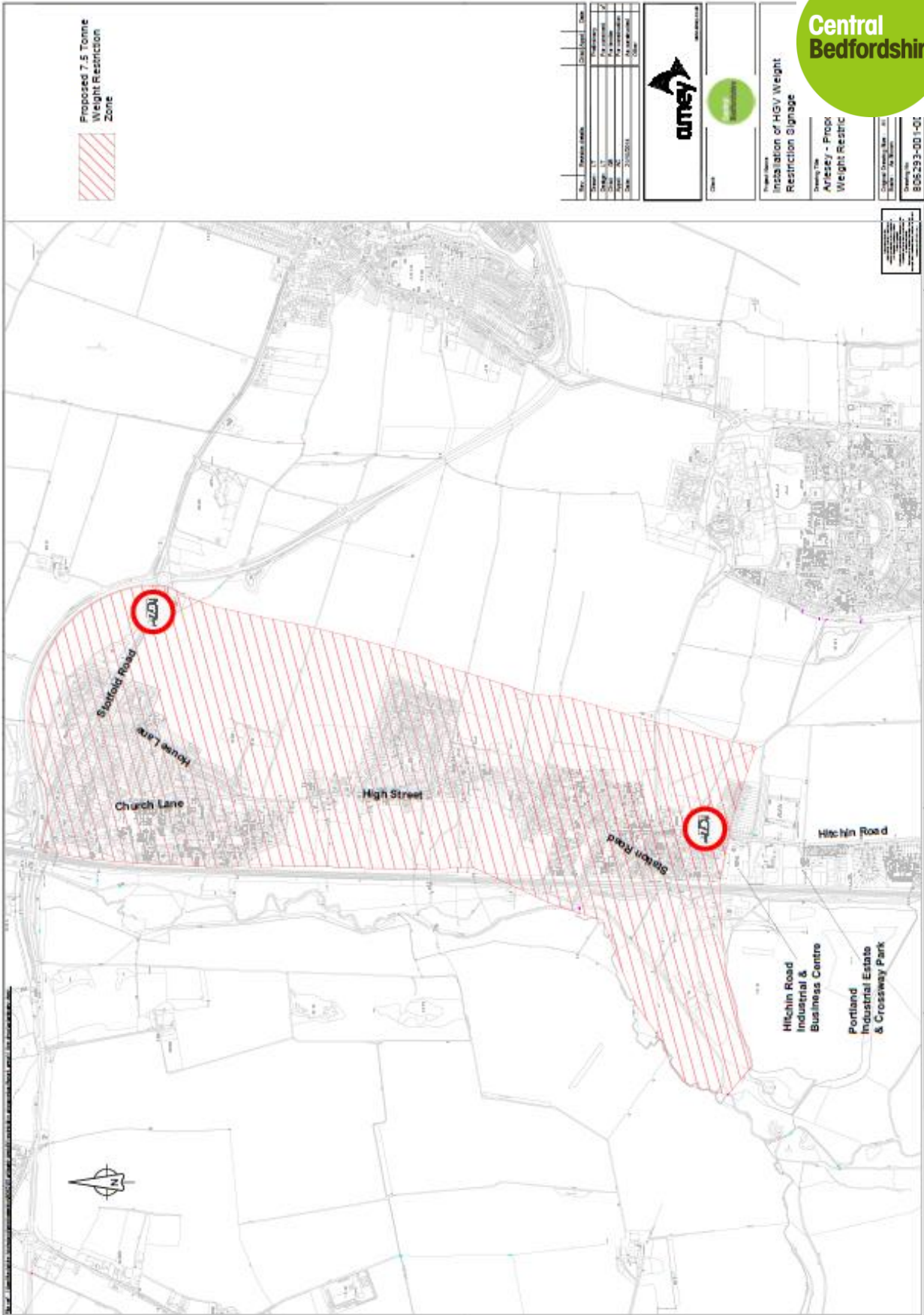
Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Various Roads in Arlesey) (Weight Restriction) Order 2014"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

31 October 2014

Appendix B



Appendix C

The Arlesey Residents Association wish to object on the proposed introduction of 7.5 tonnes HGV Restriction on the roads in Arlesey.

Although we do agree that Arlesey does have a large amount of HGV vehicles using the roads, they are primary going to the Industrial areas and not using Arlesey as a through route.

We understand that Arlesey Town Council have been advised that this proposal will have a contribution by residents of £7,300.00 towards the cost of the work. The Council did not at any time consult with residents before voting to proceed.

The impact on residents to the South End is of considerable concern to us and needs addressing.

We are therefore of the opinion that as the Core Strategy for the north as an allocated site (MA8) with the adoption of a Masterplan for a Relief Road should first be looked at before any proposals for vehicle weight restrictions are introduced.

The Masterplan has identified a Relief Road on both the West and East side of the High Street and although the West side is awaiting an environment statement we believe this is being undertaken.

The Eastern side - works are currently being undertaken for an application for the Relief Road on the Eastern Side to be submitted for planning consent..

St Johns Road and 5 ways junction - an application has been resubmitted on the previous application reference CB/14/0319/FULL for a Link Road. This is currently being considered.

Concern over traffic flows south of the High Street 5-ways junction - There has been an analysis of the capacity of this section of the road undertaken.

The Arlesey Cross Stakeholders group will be considering this at their next meeting in January

It is therefore our considered opinion that the work already being carried out on traffic flows for the relief road should be considered before any proposals for weight restrictions are done.