
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 25 August 2015
Subject: Totternhoe and Eaton Bray Area – Consider Objection to Proposed 7.5 tonnes HGV 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 HGV weight restriction on roads in the Totternhoe and Eaton Bray area

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
nick.chapman@amey.co.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable Watling, Eaton Bray and Heath & Reach
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety and the environment by reducing the number of heavy goods vehicles passing through the restricted zone.

Financial:

These works are being funded by Totternhoe and Eaton Bray Parish Councils.

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.

Sustainability:

None from this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposal to introduce a 7.5 tonnes HGV weight restriction on roads in the Totternhoe and Eaton Bray area be implemented as published.

Background and Information

1. There have been long standing concerns about heavy goods vehicles travelling through the villages to the south-west of Dunstable and, in particular, Totternhoe. The roads in this area form a convenient route between the south-west of Dunstable and the A505 Leighton Buzzard bypass. The route is used to avoid congestion and traffic delays on the A5 in Dunstable, particularly at times when traffic volumes are at their heaviest.
2. A proposal covering most roads in Totternhoe and some lengths of road in Dunstable and Eaton Bray was previously considered. This was formally advertised by public notice in October 2014. There was a high degree of support for the proposal from residents of Totternhoe. However, residents and others from Eaton Bray expressed concerns about the likely transference of lorries to neighbouring villages. Consequently, it was agreed to consider an enlarged weight restriction zone covering other roads in the area.
3. The revised proposal would cover most roads in Totternhoe and Eaton Bray, plus Stanbridge Road, Billington and some short lengths of road in Dunstable. It is usually necessary to implement such weight restrictions on a zonal basis so that lorry drivers are encouraged to use the major road network to avoid the restriction. Exemptions would be included to allow HGVs to enter the restricted area for the purposes of loading/unloading, off-road garaging and other essential purposes.
4. This weight restriction was not identified as a priority scheme for Central Bedfordshire Council, so Totternhoe Parish Council has agreed to fund the order processing and traffic signing work.
5. The 7.5 tonnes weight restriction was formally advertised by public notice in May 2015. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Totternhoe Parish Council, Eaton Bray Parish Council, Billington Parish Council, Dunstable Town Council and the all relevant Ward Members. Notices were also posted on street.

Representations and Responses

6. A total of 66 representations have been received, 65 of which support the proposed restriction.

One objection has been received, a copy of which is included in Appendix C. The objection is from a business owner who is concerned about the impact on his business. He considers that there are three roads, namely Totternhoe Road and The Rye in Eaton Bray and Stanbridge Road, Billington that should not be included in the restricted zone as it would affect businesses located there. He appreciates that vehicles over 7.5 tonnes would be permitted to enter the area for loading/ unloading and other access purposes. However, he is concerned that the restriction could be used as grounds for an objection to a future planning or operators' licence application. Finally, he points out that there are very few residential premises on the three roads to which he refers.

7. Central Bedfordshire Highways' response to the points above are as follows:-

The extent of the weight restriction zone has been designed so that it is bounded by, but not including, class A or B roads that are more suited to carrying HGV traffic. The restriction would protect the communities within the zone from extraneous lorry traffic, attempting to take short cuts between main roads. If the three roads were excluded, they are even more likely to be used by drivers of heavy goods vehicles due to other unsuitable routes being restricted.

It is permissible for goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes to enter the area for legitimate access purposes. The types of weight restrictions always include such exemptions and there are already a number of them in operation in Central Bedfordshire.

It is, of course, possible that people could use the existence of a HGV weight restriction as grounds to object to future applications. This alone is unlikely to result in the refusal of an application as each application would be assessed on its own merit.

8. Bedfordshire Police have raised no objection to the proposals.

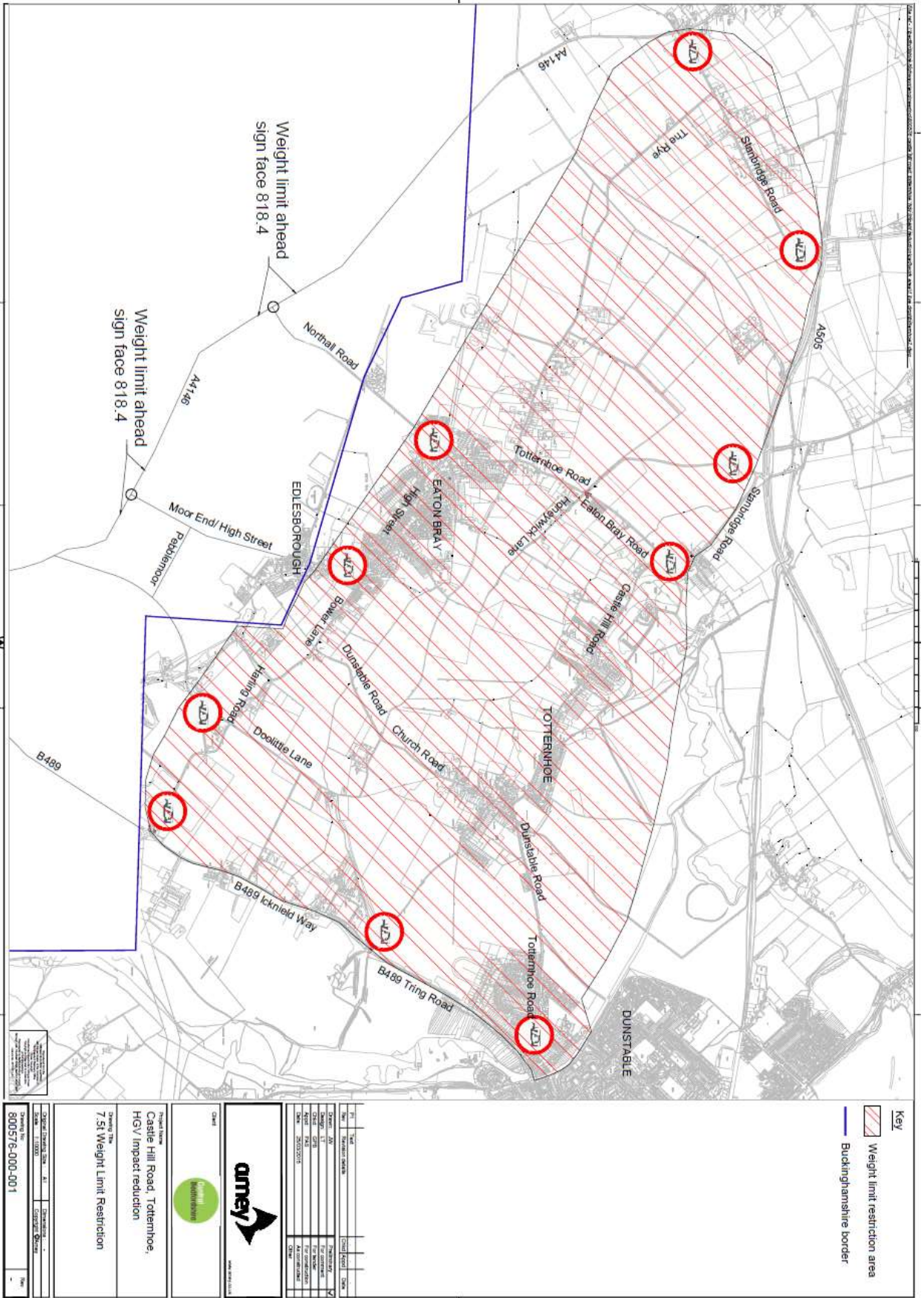
Conclusion

9. There is overwhelming support for the proposed restriction from those living in the area, with only the one objection received. As the restriction would not have any impact on the operation of any businesses in the area, it is recommended that the 7.5 tonnes HGV restriction be implemented as published.
10. If the approved the works are expected to take place within the current financial year.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Drawing of Proposal
Appendix B – Public Notices of Proposals
Appendix C – Objection

Appendix A



Key
 Weight limit restriction area
 Buckinghamshire border

Project Name:
 Castle Hill Road, Tottenhamhoe,
 HGV Impact reduction

Drawing Title:
 7.5t Weight Limit Restriction



NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHECKED
1	10/03/2023	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
2	10/03/2023	REVISED

DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
10/03/2023	...	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
10/03/2023	...	REVISED

PROJECT NO.	800576-000-001
DRAWING NO.	...
SCALE	...

800576-000-001



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE 7.5 TONNES HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON VARIOUS ROADS IN TOTTERNHOE, EATON BRAY, GREAT BILLINGTON AND DUNSTABLE

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 Totternhoe and Eaton Bray from extraneous lorry traffic.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce a 7.5 tonnes HGV Weight Restriction on roads in Totternhoe, Eaton Bray, Great Billington and Dunstable, as follows:-

The weight restriction zone covers:-

- Castle Hill Road, Dunstable Road, Church Road and other roads in Totternhoe.
- High Street, Bower Lane, Totternhoe Road and other roads in Eaton Bray.
- Stanbridge Road in Great Billington.
- Totternhoe Road and its side roads in Dunstable.

The entry points to the weight restriction zone are at:-

- a) Totternhoe Road, Dunstable at its junction with B489 Tring Road
- b) Well Head Road, Totternhoe at its junction with B489 Icknield Way
- c) Harling Road, Eaton Bray at its junction with B489 Icknield Way
- d) Unnamed road that extends from Harling Road/Doolittle Lane towards Edlesborough, at a point south of Harling Road
- e) Moor End Road, Eaton Bray at the Buckinghamshire County boundary at Edlesborough
- f) Northall Road, Eaton Bray approximately 120 metres south-west of Northall Close
- g) Stanbridge Road, Great Billington at its junction with A4146 Leighton Road
- h) Stanbridge Road, Great Billington at its junction with A505 Leighton-Linslade southern bypass
- i) Unnamed road from Totternhoe to Honeywick, Eaton Bray, immediately south of its junction with Stanbridge Road
- j) Castle Hill Road, Totternhoe immediately south of its junction with Knolls View

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 5 June 2015. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Various Roads in Totternhoe, Eaton Bray, Great Billington and Dunstable) (Weight Restriction) Order 2015"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

14 May 2015

Appendix C

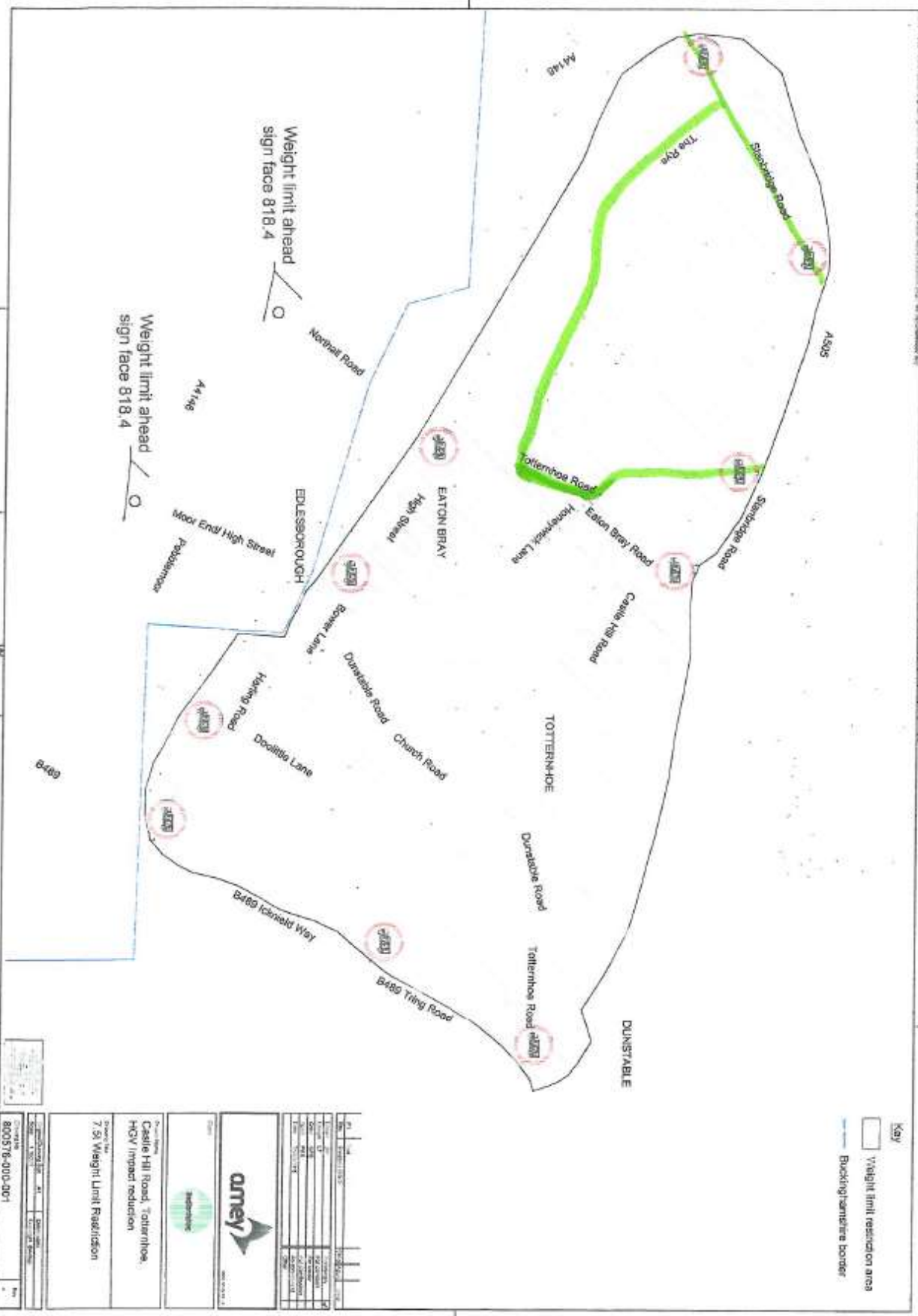
Re: Central Bedfordshire Council (Various Roads in Totternhoe, Eaton Bray, Great Billington and Dunstable) (Weight Restriction) Order 201

I am writing to object to the proposed weight restrictions being placed on roads to the North and West of Eaton Bray due to the potential adverse effects they will have upon established and potential future businesses in these areas.

I attach a plan showing the 3 roads which I do not believe should be restricted due to the potential adverse effects upon the businesses and the jobs which they provide now and in the future.

I am fully aware that current businesses would have access to these roads for access and delivery requirements however I have concerns that the restrictions will be used in the future to object to any potential Planning Applications or Operators Licences which may be put forward for commercial premises along these routes.

In addition it should be noted that very few residences would be effected by the changes I propose as the roads in question only pass a limited number of residential properties and the proposed loop route would give no access to either Eaton Bray or Totternhoe preventing through traffic from using these villages.



Key
 [Green shaded area] Weight limit restriction area
 [Blue dashed line] Buckinghamshire border

Castle Hill Road, Tollerhose, HGV inward reduction	
7.5t Weight Limit Reduction	
Drawing No: 800576-000-001	
Date: 27/09/2023	
Scale: 1:1000	
Project: 800576-000-001	
Rev: 1	
Date: 27/09/2023	
Drawn by: [Name]	
Checked by: [Name]	
Approved by: [Name]	