

10 January 2013**Agenda Item:9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS****PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS AND 'LORRY WATCH' SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The County Council has reintroduced a programme of environmental weight restrictions to remove through HGV traffic from inappropriate routes, reducing damage to the County road network and improving the environment for residents in towns and villages.
- 2 To update on progress regarding the introduction of Environmental Weight Restrictions across the County and also update on the Lorrywatch scheme.
- 3 To seek approval to develop the schemes in the 2013/14 provisional programme as set out in this report including the proposals for the reclassification of the A612 and B6386 in the Southwell area.

Information and Advice

4. Members may recall that a report was presented to the July 2012 Transport and Highways Committee providing an update on the progress of the development and introduction of Environmental Weight Restrictions across the County. This report sets out those that have been introduced during 2012 and provides a programme for introduction of those more recently approved for implementation.
5. Schemes introduced during 2012.

Area	District	Date Introduced
C3 Route Alverton, Kilvington, Orston	Rushcliffe / Newark & Sherwood	Experimental Order 19/04/12
Kinoulton	Rushcliffe	22/06/12
Cotgrave	Rushcliffe	22/06/12
Plumtree	Rushcliffe	06/07/12
Awsorth	Broxtowe	13/07/12
Cromwell	Newark & Sherwood	28/09/12
Carlton on Trent	Newark & Sherwood	28/09/12

Eaton	Bassetlaw	15/10/12
B6030 Forest Road	Mansfield	16/11/12
Cauldwell Road	Mansfield	16/11/12
Town Street Bramcote	Broxtowe	28/11/12
Hickling	Rushcliffe	30/11/12

6. Schemes in Development

Area	District	Status	Implementation
Radcliffe on Trent /Shelford	Rushcliffe	Consultation concluded, legal order to be made.	2012/13
Bathley /Caunton/Norwell	Newark	Consultation underway.	2012/13
Clarborough, Smeath Lane	Bassetlaw	Consultation underway.	2012/13
Barnby in the Willows	Newark	Consultation underway	2012/13
Eastwood Mill Rd/Greenhills Rd	Broxtowe	Consultation concluded during 2012. Objections received. Merit of proposed scheme being assessed.	Further investigation required

7. Further investigation is required in respect of the Eastwood Mill Road / Greenhills Road area wide restriction which has been the subject of consultation for a Traffic Regulation Order. A number of objections have been received in respect of the proposals which it is suggested does not cover the area as expected by a number of residents. To satisfy these concerns it will be necessary to extend the restriction to include the B6010 Nottingham Road. The inclusion of such a route would not be in keeping with the usual adopted policy to include routes which can reasonably be expected to cater for a number of longer distance journeys and form a more strategic part of the road network. It is suggested that further information be collated in respect of HGV movements in the area to establish more precisely the number of trips affected by the proposed restriction.

2013/14 Programme

8. A number of proposed EWL restrictions were provisionally approved for implementation as part of the 2013/14 programme at the Transport and Highways Committee of September 2012. These schemes are detailed below, development of each has started but has yet to reach public consultation stage. In addition to those approved for implementation a number of 'reserve' schemes are also identified to be delivered should funding and capacity in the programme be available. These are also detailed in the table below.

9. 2013/14 Environmental Weight Limits

Area	District
Bagthorpe Jacksdale/Underwood/Westwood	Ashfield
Chesterfield Road, Huthwaite	Ashfield
Goosemoor Lane /Whitehouse's Road, Ordsall	Bassetlaw
Calverton /Woodborough /Lambley	Gedling
Drove Lane, Coddington to Winthorpe	Newark & Sherwood
Southwell Area	Newark & Sherwood
Eakring	Newark & Sherwood
Ollerton Road /Trent Lane /Kelham lane, Kelham	Newark & Sherwood
Reserve Schemes	
Albert Road /Cobwell Road, Retford	Bassetlaw
Sutton Lane, Babworth	Bassetlaw
Brackner Lane, Bilsthorpe	Newark & Sherwood
Main Street, Normanton on Soar	Rushcliffe

10. A restriction for the Southwell area has been proposed which takes into consideration the significant heritage and conservation value of the town and its importance to Nottinghamshire. Roads and footways within the town are very narrow which when combined with high traffic levels (including HGV trips) and very significant pedestrian activity have a detrimental impact upon the town's environment. Proposals for this restriction will be developed in the new calendar year following which consultation with key partners will commence. In order to fully implement this proposal the A612 Lowdham to Kelham and B6386 Oxtun to Southwell will be reclassified to C class roads. This is needed as A and B class roads are reasonably assumed available for HGV traffic.
11. During 2012 refinements have been made to the statutory order making process in an attempt to shorten the length of time required to make and implement an order once approved for funding. As a result, the average time to deliver a scheme has reduced in the vast majority of instances; unfortunately on occasion the process remains a lengthy one especially when local objections are received in respect of the proposals.
12. It is expected that by the close of 2012/13 all schemes scheduled for delivery will be completed. This will have achieved the aim of clearing the backlog of schemes which had developed.

Update on Lorrywatch activity 1st July 2012 - 30th November 2012.

13. This is managed by NCC officers based in Trading Standards with an annual funding contribution of £50,000 being made from the highways revenue budget. The scheme is operated in an attempt to establish compliance with Environmental Weight Restrictions that are introduced. This is achieved through a combination of enforcement and education in partnership with a local organisation such as a Parish Council. The partnership approach is paramount to the success of the scheme and without it the scheme has little chance of a sustained impact. Local people are offered guidance on how to identify heavy goods vehicles and specifically those in contravention of the traffic order.

Enforcement Exercises

14. Twenty six enforcement days have been carried out across the County within the period July to November 2012. Enforcement continues to be targeted at Community Lorry Watch (CLW) Areas, new restrictions and those areas which intelligence suggests are being breached. Overall trading standards have seen a reduction in the number of vehicles recorded during enforcement days where a CLW has been put in place.

Action taken	Jul-Sept	Oct-Nov
Enforcement Days Conducted	13	13
No. of overweight vehicles recorded	107	86
No. found to have a legitimate reason	92	56
No. warned	13	8
No still under investigation	2	22
No. awaiting determination of weight	0	10

No repeat offenders were recorded between July-November at any location.

Community Lorry Watch (CLW)

15. There has also been a drop in the number of Lorry Watch Reports in most areas:

CLW	Reports Jul-Sept	Reports Oct-Nov
Papplewick	4	1
Coddington	0	1
Cropwell Bishop	4	0
Langar cum Barnstone	4	0

Larkfield Road, Nuthall	14 but none over 7.5T	0
Longdale Lane, Ravenshead	0	0

16. All CLWs are contacted at least on a quarterly basis to notify each of the current activity in their area and to request feedback as to whether the reports received reflect the level of compliance in their area.
17. All reports are recorded and analysed. The data is used to plan future enforcement and where a vehicle is found to be over the weight limit for the area in which it was observed the registered keeper will receive an advisory letter. These letters make the registered keeper aware that there is a CLW in that area and that their vehicle was spotted by an observer (identity not revealed). It is requested that they make all of their drivers aware that the restriction may only be used for legitimate uses.

Activities in areas with New Restrictions for 2012/13

18. Netherton Road, Worksop - Two enforcement days have been conducted with seven legitimate vehicles recorded and three drivers warned
19. C3 (experimental) - Three separate enforcement days have been conducted. Whilst a large number of vehicles have been recorded they are in general visiting the landfill site within the restriction or are based within the restrictions themselves. So far only one driver has required a warning and a further three are currently under investigation. Whilst the local parish councils have been approached, none have requested further contact regarding CLW.
20. Cotgrave and Tollerton, Kinoulton, Keyworth and Plumtree - Once the signs were in place for these three restrictions Trading Standards were involved in surveying the area to assess the effective of the signs and this included contact from residents. As a result of our recommendations, additional signs have been put in place and feedback from the residents suggests that this has had an effect in reducing the number of breaches. Tollerton Parish Council has recently become the latest CLW area. To date nineteen reports have been received from the local residents.
21. Cromwell, Carlton-on-Trent and North Muskham - Trading Standards Officers visited both Carlton-on-Trent and Cromwell residents to discuss the new weight restriction and CLW. Due to the number of vehicles using Cromwell there has been significant contact with the local residents and a CLW is imminent. A total of 99 reports have been received since the restriction came into force. Each overweight vehicle reported was sent a letter to the registered keeper notifying them of the new restriction and requesting that all drivers were made aware they could no longer drive through the village after laying over on the nearby verge. This was followed up by three enforcement days during which time four vehicles were observed breaching the restriction. All four drivers have received a warning.

Residents have reported that whilst the situation here has improved they still witness a number of vehicles in the village and so alternative methods are being explored to resolve the problem.

22. Bramcote -An officer attended a Bramcote Community Action Team meeting to discuss the new restriction. CLW was also featured and activities are likely in this area in the future.
23. Proposals for January - March 2013
 - Continue targeted enforcement days
 - Survey and conduct enforcement at newly enacted weight restriction orders
 - Maintain contact with CLWs
 - Continue to explore alternative methods of enforcement

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled having given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required

RECOMMENDATION

25. To note the report
26. To approve the development of the schemes in the provisional 2013/14 programme including the reclassification of the A612 and B6386 in the Southwell area.

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Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SHB 17/12/12)

The Committee has authority to approve the recommendation

Financial Comments (IC 17/12/12)

The cost of the scheme development will be within the approved highway capital programme.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.