

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Traffic Committee

Report for the Year ended 31st March 2023

(1) HGVs

Although HGVs were not the all-consuming concern of previous years, they kept us pretty busy on two fronts. First, the search for a regional solution to the county wide problem of HGVs on country roads which we were promised as a sop for losing our weight limit in the High Street. This has moved at a pace a snail would be ashamed of. It was always recognised that a regional solution would involve consultation with and, in some aspects, agreement with, third parties. Gloucestershire County Council, the Road Haulage Association and National Highways to mention a few. But that consultation has not even started because OCC has produced nothing to consult on. At the time of writing (April 2023) OCC has not formally instructed, let alone briefed, the consultants they feel they have to have to advise them on what the options are. We have regular two monthly meetings with OCC to track progress but they don't take very long! We will continue to press.

Secondly, when the weight limit of 7.5 tonnes on the High Street was not renewed by OCC, the similar weight limits on Barns lane and Tanners Lane also fell away. OCC accepted this was not intended and have agreed to reimpose those limits. That process is in train.

(2) The bridge

The bridge has featured in two ways. First, part of the upstream parapet was knocked into the Windrush by an errant van. Repair work is being constantly postponed by OCC – it is now scheduled for June 2023. Secondly, we are waging a campaign jointly with some concerned residents to improve the pedestrian walkway to make it safer for users. There are a number of ways this can be done and we have canvassed all of them with OCC's Highways

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Department (which recognises the problem). The chosen solution was to install bollards along the perimeter especially constructed to bend and bounce back upright if attacked by an HGV. As this is a mediaeval bridge in a Conservation Area we had to apply to WODC for Listed Building consent which in turn meant there had to be public consultation. Historic England objected and WODC folded. Hopefully, OCC are now negotiating with Historic England to find out what improved safety initiatives they would support.

(3) Cole's Field

We could not submit a report like this without mentioning Cole's Field. The impact of the increased traffic flow which development of Cole's Field would generate was a major plank in our objection. The effect on Frethern would have been particularly severe. With the whole-hearted involvement of Cllr. Hugo Ashton, who is not only our WODC Councillor but also an expert traffic planner, we were able to make a strong case as part of our overall objection.

(4) Church Lane

We considered at length a proposal to make Church Lane one way to avoid the regular jam caused by vehicles trying to turn into Church Lane from the High Street. We eventually concluded, with the help of a number of comments from residents, that the cons outweighed the pros and the proposal was dropped.

John White

Chair – Traffic Committee