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Reference A1057/MB

8th March 2022

Stuart Jarvis,
Director of Economy, Transport and Environment,
Hampshire County Council.
The Castle
Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ
Reference: A1057/MB

Dear Mr Jarvis,

OBJECTION: THE HAMPSHIRE (B3055 SWAY ROAD JUNCTION BRIDGE, BROCKENHURST) (EXPERIMENTAL ONE-WAY WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2022

1. An outline of Friends of Brockenhurst (FoB) is as footer. Further details are available at friendsofbrockenhurst.gov.uk
2. Friends of Brockenhurst objects to the above Order creating a HGV traffic route through the centre of Brockenhurst and requests its immediate termination.
3. FoB intends to provide a more detailed objection after receiving a response to questions posed in this letter and taking advice. FoB contends that the hazards created by the installation of a HGV route through the centre of the village far outweighs the periodic hazard that it seeks to eliminate.

The creation of an HGV route will attract a significant percentage of HGVs currently using the A337 to Setley via the unpopular level crossing and then the B3055 to the west. Did Hampshire Highways (HH) survey or model the likely volume of traffic likely to divert?

The experimental HGV route passes along Grigg Lane, the very heavily walked route between Brockenhurst College and the Village high street. A road that pedestrians need to cross and which lacks a formal crossing or traffic calming measure. FoB requests that if the order is made permanent then, within a reasonable time, traffic calming, perhaps a raised road section, is installed at the junction of Grigg Lane and Horlock Road. Have HH any figures on the term time footfall along Grigg Lane?

Friends of Brockenhurst was established in 1957 to protect and improve the character and amenities of Brockenhurst and the surrounding areas for the benefit of residents of the village and wider community

The proposed HGV route then crosses Brookley Road. This junction is currently unsatisfactory. Parked cars and increased car widths have resulted in a one way section shortly after the junction. The recently installed double yellow line section is too short and needs to be extended to some distance beyond the bus stop. Traffic frequently backs up to Brookley Road, the southbound carriageway of which then becomes blocked by traffic unable to turn right. Increased traffic, especially lorries, will exacerbate the problem.

The proposed HGV route through the village travels along Sway Road, past the play and infant schools. Sway Road is very heavily used by cyclists. Indeed, I understand, Southampton and Bournemouth Councils paid for the signs directing arrivals by train to this road. The pavement which is unofficially shared by pedestrians and cyclists changes sides in Sway Road. There is no formal crossing or traffic calming measure at this point and FoB requests that if the order is made permanent then, within a reasonable time, traffic calming, perhaps a raised road section, is installed at that point.

4. FoB notes that when consulted on NFNPA planning application 17/01037 for Meadens Garage, HH made no mention of the hazards posed by HGVs reversing and made no suggestion that an HGV route might be required to alleviate any problem caused. Had HH mentioned these matters at the time, as the Parish Council did, FoB has little doubt the decision on the application would have been different.

5. FoB were under the impression the weight limit on Sway Road junction bridge was 7 tonnes, not 7.5 tonnes. Certainly that is what all the signs said. Can details of the order raising the limit from 7 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes be provided. If it does not exist can FoB be so informed please. No matter what the background, the signage stopped seven and half tonners using the route through the village. Did HH foresee the creation of a two way through route for vehicles of this weight? If so, what was the anticipated volume in each direction?

6. Can HH confirm that Network Rail were informed on the experimental change by HH and can HH provide to FoB the volume details used in the discussions?

Yours sincerely



On behalf of Friends of Brockenhurst

*Copied to Keith Mans as CC representative
New Forest National Park Authority*

Brockenhurst PC