

DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, STREETSCENE AND BROADBAND - CLLR JOHN THOMSON

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: **HSB-006-13 Approved**

18 TONNE WEIGHT LIMIT PROPOSAL, A3098, CHAPMANSLADE

Purpose of Report

To agree the advertising of an 18 tonne weight limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the A3098 through Chapmanslade.

Consultation

Chapmanslade Parish Council, Warminster's Community Area Transport Group and Somerset County Council.

Options Considered

To:

- (i) **Do nothing.**
This would leave the existing 17 tonne weight limit signs in place. This would be an unsatisfactory situation since the signs do not relate to an enforceable weight limit.
- (ii) **Remove the old 17 tonne weight limit signs and leave the road open to all traffic.**
This option would mean that there are no restrictions along the route. So all traffic, including HGVS greater than 18 tonnes would be allowed along the route. This is likely to be unpopular with residents since they are expecting a more stringent weight limit (7.5 tonne) as opposed to a relaxation of weight limits. It should be noted that the 7.5 tonne area weight limit was suggested as part of a package of weight limits in western Wiltshire to safeguard Chapmanslade from rerouting as a result of the proposed weight limit through the B3098 through Maiden Bradley (see paragraph (iii) below).
- (iii) **Implement the made 7.5 tonne weight limit.**
The 7.5 tonne weight limit formed part of a wider package of weight limits in West Wiltshire. Implementing one of the three proposed weight limits is likely to displace restricted HGVs on to the other equally unsuitable routes. In addition, Somerset County Council opposed this proposal and has stated that it is not prepared to assist with advance signing.

(iv) **Advertise an 18 tonne weight limit.**

Somerset County Council has indicated that it would be willing to work with the Council if an 18 tonne weight limit was proposed along this section of the A3098. This option is likely to raise few objections and does not preclude the future implementation of a 7.5 tonne weight limit as part of a wider scheme in West Wiltshire. Importantly, this option will provide an enforceable weight limit and protect the amenity of those living along the route.

Reason for Decision

The introduction of an 18 tonne weight limit will protect the amenity of residents in Chapmanslade and also remove the confusion regarding the existing signed 17 tonne weight restriction, which is not enforceable.

DECISION MADE

I approve that a Traffic Regulation Order to make an 18 tonne weight restriction on the A3098, which commences at Berkley Cross in Somerset and continues through Chapmanslade to the slip road with the A36 at Dead Maids be advertised by the Council.

This decision was published on 6 August and will come into force on 14 August.

The following supporting documents are attached:

HSB-006-13 - Report

HSB-006-13 - Appendix 1 Long Vehicles Volumes along the A3098 north east of Chapmanslade

HSB-006-13 - Appendix 2 proposed 18 tonne weight limit Traffic regulation Order on the A3098 Chapmanslade

Date: ...1st August 2013.....

Cllr John Thomson
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for
Highways, Streetscene and Broadband