

## Corsham Area Board – 20 October 2011

### Chairman's Announcements

#### Lorry Watch scheme

Heavy Goods Vehicles are known to have a negative impact on road surfaces, underground services, bridges and other structures. They can create unnecessary noise and air pollution in residential areas. Large vehicles can also pose a serious safety hazard for other road users and pedestrians, particularly children.

A large number of roads and bridges in Wiltshire are subject to Weight Restriction Orders to protect them against damage or to prevent their use by unsuitable vehicles. These Orders make it an offence, subject to certain exemptions, to drive a vehicle through the restricted area where the vehicle exceeds the weight limit imposed.

Wiltshire Council Public Protection Service have been piloting a scheme called Lorry Watch designed to prevent HGVs from breaching weight restrictions. Lorry Watch enables groups such as parish councils, residents associations etc to form a body of volunteers who act as observers and report suspected weight restriction breaches to the Public Protection Service. These reports are investigated and the appropriate action taken; this can range from a formal warning to prosecution.

It is left entirely up to the local community running each scheme how they wish it to operate. This could be on a formal basis with a rota of observers or informally with observers reporting infringements they spot whilst going about their normal business. Each scheme is required to nominate someone to act as a local co-ordinator; this person will liaise with the Public Protection Service and submit all appropriate reports. There has to be an existing Weight Restriction Order in place for Lorry Watch to be effective.

Wiltshire Council Public Protection Service are now looking to roll-out Lorry Watch through the Area Boards and invite any interested parties to contact us for further information.

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