

Summary of comments to Statutory Consultation

No. of Comments	Comments	Officer Comments
1	Thames Valley Police indicated that they have no objection to the proposal, but that the enforcement of environmental weight restrictions would be a very low priority for them.	Weight restrictions are enforced by an officer from the Property and Public Protection team and so we do not rely on police commitment to these types of restrictions anyway. However with the Council's limited resources and the number of weight restrictions in West Berkshire, enforcement would be very infrequent.
1	The Road Haulage Association Ltd. indicated support for the proposals provided that their members would still be able to access the industrial estate.	Access would not be permitted to other parts of the Industrial Estate and this was immediately highlighted to the Road Haulage Association, however no further correspondence was received from them. Their consultation response has however been treated as an objection.
1	<p>The Freight Transport Association objected to the proposal, indicating that in most cases they do not object to applications for environmental weight restrictions, but in this case they considered the proposal unwarranted as it would have a considerable detrimental impact on local businesses given the nature of the particular location.</p> <p>They also commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal would be costly in time and fuel for businesses due to the additional three mile detour required to access some businesses located on, or adjacent to Bone Lane. • The proposal would be detrimental to the environment due to the additional air pollutants given out by the additional freight miles. • The proposal would add unnecessary congestion to the surrounding road network. 	Comments noted.
5	Five businesses located on, or adjacent to, Bone Lane objected	

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	<p>to the proposal and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal would be costly in time and fuel for businesses due to the additional three mile detour required to access Bone Lane. This would seriously impact on local business commercial requirements, profit margins and affect production. This may ultimately result in job losses if running costs and business viability is affected. • The additional freight traffic, both delivery vehicles and customers, will exacerbate the traffic congestion problems already experienced on Hambridge Road on a daily basis at peak times. • Restrictions on movement and access would have an immediate and damaging effect to some businesses and would be a deciding factor for many on whether to continue to trade from this estate. • The proposal threatens the economic success of local businesses at a time when they are struggling to grow. Any change will affect the businesses that are already in the estate and will discourage new tenants. • Distribution based businesses rely on having good vehicular access. Having a single entry route into a very large industrial employment area does not make sense. • A thriving business estate is important to the local community and vital in providing local jobs. People who choose to buy homes on the gateway into Industrial 	<p>Comments noted.</p>

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	<p>Estates should not be allowed to bring businesses on the estate to their knees and residents of relatively recent residential developments should not threaten the economic life of an industrial area that has been in place for many decades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies have invested in new vehicles and assessed routes in order to lower carbon footprint, but this seems to have been wasted if additional miles are added to each journey for alternative environmental reasons. • The additional time required could result in driver's being over their legal limits according to their tachograph readings if caught in peak traffic congestion. • The Parkway shopping development is designed to encourage additional visitors to the town and many will gain access via the Robin Hood roundabout. Additional and unnecessary HGV movements through this busy roundabout could raise road safety concerns, delay through traffic and discourage shoppers from returning. • One of the companies operates a second site at Greenham Business Park and has a shuttle lorry running all day between sites, which is fundamental to their business. This proposal would directly affect this routine and may result in the business relocating out of the Newbury area. • Members of the council and transport departments should support industry, not view it as an 	<p>Comments noted.</p>

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	inconvenience.	
1	A lorry driver objected to the proposal on the grounds that it would add significant additional time to the journey for any driver approaching the industrial estate from Basingstoke or Tothill due to the general traffic congestion already in place at peak periods during the day. Additional large vehicles using the A4 through Newbury to the Hambridge Road crossroads would cause problems on this length of road.	Comments noted.
1	One business questioned the consultation method used to alert local businesses of this proposal and considered that it was insufficient given the consequences for local businesses if the restriction was introduced.	<p>There is no absolute requirement for individual residents or businesses to be contacted as part of the statutory process. Whilst we make every effort to notify and consult with local communities on many of our traffic management schemes throughout the district, it would not be possible to consult each resident or business on every scheme, as this would seriously impact on the progress and introduction of work. The Council fully complied with the statutory requirements.</p> <p>In this instance, given the potential to seriously impact on goods delivery or customer collection for local businesses, it is accepted that notification letters could have been sent to businesses in the immediate area. However the recommendations in the report have taken due consideration of the concerns of local businesses.</p>