

Sent: 12 October 2020 12:35

To: Luci Ashbourne

Subject: Witney West End and burford Bridge closure to 7.5 Tonnes

Dear Councillor Ashbourne.

I live in Leafield and we are very concerned about the extra amount of trucks over 7.5 tonnes coming through our village since Burford have closed their bridge to 7.5 tonne lorries/trucks.

Having spoken to many of the local businesses, Smiths of Bletchington, Micks Skips, Witney Plant Hire, Hayes Skipper Hire, Tonnes Away and a local farmer, this closure is very much affecting their businesses. Their main complaint is that the county council are allowing communities to close to trucks over 7.5 tonnes giving them less routes to use, which is forcing them onto no name roads, like the ones to and from Leafield that are not made for HGV. It is, also, making some of them go through Witney instead of getting straight onto the A40 to Burford, to deliver to places like Shipton and Milton Under Wychwood, Farms around Ascott Under Wychwood and even to places like Stow and Morton in the Marsh.

For instance I was talking to Smiths of Bletchington who have a quarry in Ducklington, instead of getting straight onto the A40 they are now going through Witney West end, Hailey, left at Finstock and through Leafield to get to jobs north of Witney. They do not want to do this, in the past they used the A40 and A361 through Burford. To keep on A roads they would have to go all the way to NorthLeach, turn left then go up to Stow that way or double back to get to locations north of Witney, which would cost driver hours and extra fuel, which when many of them only do 8 miles to the gallon is all extra cost.(not to mention bad for the environment)

The reason I am emailing you is to ask if the Witney Town council are aware of this problem? If so, I hope you will work with us to lobby the County Council, (Yvonne Constance is the decision maker) and also to lobby Burford Town council and Mayor. If you are unaware of the problem I suggest you contact some of the local haulage companies and delivery companies in Witney and the surrounding area to see how it is affecting them. All of them that I have contacted, so far, are deeply unhappy about it. It would be great if you could support them.(and us too)

It,also, may be worth contacting the residents in the West End to see how it is affecting them and to see if they have noticed a difference.

In Leafield we are spending the next two weeks surveying our traffic and taking the names of the 7.5 Tonne trucks, plus. We are intending to put a case together to put to the County Council. We have until 5th February. We are hoping to stimulate support from as many angles as possible from businesses and communities that this ban is affecting and, also to, highlight the bigger picture, which is that the flow of traffic needs to have some cohesive plan by the County Council, so that HGV's are not forced onto roads that were not built to take them. Ideally a Burford bypass, but for now to stop the 7.5 tonne ban.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Deborah Triff

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