Stuart Jarvis,
Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, Hampshire County Council.
The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ

DATE

Dear Sir,

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

I write to object to the above Order which, despite its title, removes the longstanding southbound weight restriction on the bridge on Sway Road. This opens up the way to any / all HGV to cut right through the village of Brockenhurst.

I understand that this change has been introduced to address the perceived danger of the regular HGV Car Transporter delivering cars to Meadens Car Dealership having to turn around in the road following its delivery. However, I believe this is the wrong solution to this problem in that:

1. **It fails to address all the dangers presented by the Car transporters off-loading cars on Sway Road:**Whilst the removal of the weight restriction does remove the need for the car-transporters to turn around, it does not address the equally significant dangers that are present when the HGV is parked over the carriageway andfootway offloading cars, obstructing both the pavement and the road. Other traffic is trying to get past this obstruction with impeded vision, in the very place where pedestrians are being forced to cross the road as the pavement is blocked. It is an accident waiting to happen.
2. **In trying (unsuccessfully) to mitigate one danger, it introduces new but equally damaging, and potentially more dangerous, risks:**
* Allowing unrestricted access to HGVs makes Sway Road a highly dangerous road to cycle along, or indeed to cross on foot. This flies in the face of the key Government strategy to promote active travel. Please note that the Sway Road is part of the National Cycle route 2 and is heavily used by cyclists and walkers (including children walking to their primary school which is located on that road). Please note that these HGV’s will also be driving along Grigg Lane(the main route used by students at Brockenhurst College to access the village centre) and the already difficult to negotiate, offset, Brookley road junction.
* Ponies, donkeys and cattle freely roam on this road and, when they are found on or near the bridge where the road narrows (which they often are), it would be extremely dangerous for a large HGV to try and squeeze past them.
* Increases air pollution in the school and its playground which is adjacent to the road, and to residents the length of Sway Road and other road users.
1. **Allowing HGVs to travel through the centre of our village is undermining all our efforts to protect the special character of our village and to make it a tourist destination of choice**
2. **There are alternative solutions that may not have been fully considered**Hampshire Highways have advised that no risk assessment has been undertaken, therefore we assume that no alternative solutions have been considered. We believe it is not logical to permit any HGV to cut through our village 24/7 solely to accommodate a single business for a few hours a week. Instead that business should be encouraged to become part of the solution.

Yours faithfully

**'cc Brockenhurst Parish Council'**