Cllr Dr Mark McClelland
Cabinet member for transport
Wiltshire Council
CC. Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Bill Parks, Dr. Andrew Murrison MP, Mr Parvis Khansari

Dear Cllr. McClelland,

The villages of Chapmanslade, Corsley and Maiden Bradley have been waiting for almost fifteen years for Wiltshire Council to implement weight restrictions proposed in a major survey undertaken in 2006 (*Proposed weight restrictions A362, A3098, B3092. Mouchel Parkman, October 2006*).

We are writing to you jointly because we share a common concern about the impacts of HGV traffic on our villages, and a common frustration with the lack of action from Wiltshire Council. Our individual requests for enforcement typically result in an ‘all or nothing’ response, suggesting that neither community can move forward, without a solution for all. Yet, no solution is being offered by Wiltshire Council, either individually, or jointly. The result is over a decade of inactivity and no prospect of change.

Instead, we have been advised that Wiltshire Council plans to re-run an impact analysis of the HGV situation. Such a process will take years, causing further delay and unnecessary cost to Wiltshire taxpayers and avoidance of any practical solution for at least another decade.

Meanwhile, we experience the reality of HGV impacts each day. HGV traffic at all hours of the day and night continues to negatively impact the physical infrastructure of our villages, the social fabric of our communities, our mental health, and pedestrian safety. HGVs deter families with children from settling in our villages, affecting our long-term sustainability, and they increase the isolation of the elderly who are unable to access local services. HGVs also discourage active travel to/from villages, thus undermining our local efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

We believe that rather than questioning the validity of the 2006 recommendations to limit HGV traffic through our villages, Wiltshire Council should focus its efforts on working with us to identify *how* to implement the appropriate weight limits for our three communities.

Addressing this issue must be a priority for Wiltshire Council.

**Our joint request**

**Develop action plans to implement weight limits for each community.**

* Develop solutions and action plans with each community individually, identifying how and when weight limits specific to each parish are enforced
* Identify mitigation actions to help reduce HGV impacts in transition periods where relevant
* Provide regular and transparent progress updates to each community

**Prioritise upgrades and improvements to strategic routes to carry HGV traffic:**

* Prioritise improving the A350/303 junction working with Highways England and Andrew Murrison MP to enable west-bound HGV traffic to use this strategic route. This could include separating the upgrading decision from the chronology of other works on the A303 so that it is dealt with in isolation and/or removing the weight limit on the section of the B3089 connecting the A350 traffic lights to the A303 junction, and improving the safety of the exit at Willoughby Hedge
* Complete the revision of strategic routes in Wiltshire so that HGV traffic has clear guidance on freight routes in our county – avoiding our villages.

**Coordinate with other relevant councils to facilitate enforcement**

* Coordinate with relevant councils, such as Somerset, on weight limit signage, enforcement, and strategic route planning
* Actively engage in planning applications in Somerset that have an impact on HGV traffic in Wiltshire and ensure that our villages are included in any relevant consultations.

**Attend a joint meeting of our three communities hosted by our local MP**

* We have spoken to our MP, Dr. Andrew Murrison, about hosting a meeting to discuss our concerns about HGVs and the weight limit issue. We invite Wiltshire Council to send representatives to this meeting to respond to our suggestions, and to discuss what steps you will be taking to implement the long-awaited and much needed weight restrictions.

Yours faithfully

**Chapmanslade Parish Council**

Signed on behalf of Chapmanslade Parish Council by Cllr Philip Holihead

**Corsley Parish Council**

Signed on behalf of Corsley Parish Council by Cllr David Ball

**Maiden Bradley Parish Council**

Signed on behalf of Maiden Bradley Parish Council by Cllr Simon Wager

**Maiden Bradley Weightwatchers**

Signed on behalf of MBWW by Dr. Alex Channer and Ian Ferguson