



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

PLA(21)126.03

## SUFFOLK LORRY ROUTE REVIEW CONSULTATION

### Background and summary

On 22 October the Council received the communication set out below from Cllr Smith – Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy & Waste at Suffolk County Council. The key paragraph is highlighted in yellow.

Dear Clerk,

Suffolk County Council is undertaking a review of recommended lorry routes across the county. The review is formed of two parts: a technical review of routes and a community-led review of issues on lorry routes. It is the first meaningful review of the plan since 2011 and in the meantime various changes have been made to the local highway network.

The technical review is nearing completion and has considered a range of factors affecting the suitability of lorry routes including road safety data, restrictions to HGV movements on certain routes and the overall resilience of the network. The review has drawn on customer reports received from members of the public and local stakeholders as well as findings from Lorry Watch schemes to provide some local context.

The County Council is commencing a community-led review by inviting parish and town councils to use a survey link <https://forms.office.com/r/EXa8fHbhAr> to report the three most important issues associated with lorry movements in their community. Parish councils are then asked to liaise with their local County Councillor to endorse the issues for inclusion as part of the review.

The County Council will collate responses and review the feedback to ensure changes to the Lorry Network map are appropriate and to collate information about local issues. The review will help to inform future plans and proposals associated with lorry movements as part of any future developments.

The outcome of the technical and community review will be a newly published and more interactive Lorry Route Network map. It should be noted that we anticipate a small number of minor changes to the map as there are limitations to our highway network.

The community-led review will commence on 22nd October 2021 and responses are required by 17th December 2021.

The County Council would like to thank all participants in advance and all responses will be evaluated in due course, however, it will not be possible to respond to submissions on an individual basis.

Please see below a link to a more detailed briefing note that includes the questions on the survey:  
[https://mcusercontent.com/7e08469569c2cfa1901c585e2/files/7fc3904e-ef92-d1bf-8849-a04e043f39e3/Town and Parish Council Briefing Note v1.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/7e08469569c2cfa1901c585e2/files/7fc3904e-ef92-d1bf-8849-a04e043f39e3/Town_and_Parish_Council_Briefing_Note_v1.docx)

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/lorry-route-plan-review-in-suffolk/>

Yours faithfully

Councillor Richard Smith MVO

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy & Waste

Suffolk County Council

The deadline for responses to the survey is 17 December.

## **Report / recommendations**

**The meeting of Planning and Transport Committee now scheduled for 1 December will need to consider which 3 issues relating to lorry movements in Melton should be highlighted to the Review.** Once agreed they will need to be signed off by County Cllr Nicoll before being submitted by 17 December.

The Chair of Planning and Transport Committee, Cllr Nigel Brown, with a practical focus on things that might possibly get done, has suggested as initial thoughts the following 3 issues:

1. Concern that the volume of heavy vehicles using Woods Lane is damaging the road surface therefore that should be mended / improved more regularly.
2. Concern that the speed limit between the Sutton Hoo roundabout and the blind bend at the railway level crossing is too high therefore risking an accident. [ I don't think there is any prospect of finding the money to straighten the bend.]
3. Question whether a left-hand turn lane could be established near the school so that traffic flow from the Sutton Hoo direction to Woodbridge could be improved and thus waiting and pollution time near the school reduced. [Probably a long shot as it would cost money that no one has.]

Whilst its focus is more on the joint parish traffic initiatives that the peninsular villages, in conjunction with Melton, are undertaking as a separate project, the views of Bromeswell PC are also worth considering in this context:

1. Improve capacity on the A1152 between Bromeswell and the Woods Lane / A12 roundabout. This will involve improvements at the level crossing, the traffic lights in Melton and at the Woods

Lane A12 roundabout. There is seldom a traffic issue heading from the A12 towards Bromeswell (except at peak times) whereas there are increasingly tailbacks heading from Bromeswell towards the A12 outside peak times. This in turn will lead to drivers seeking alternative and unsuitable routes to the A12 - particularly if heading north on the A12.

2. To designate **mandatory** HGV routes (i.e. the A1152) with traffic calming on back roads to make them unattractive to large HGVs.
3. To reduce the speed limit on A1152 between Tunstall & Melton to 40mph (with exception of Eyke village).
4. To improve safety of pedestrians and other non-vehicle users where footpaths and bridleways intersect with the A1152.

**William Grosvenor**

**Clerk and Executive Officer to the Council**

**25 November 2021**