

Ludford Bridge, Ludlow

Further to the requests to implement a limit on the length of vehicles accessing Ludford Bridge, the LJC should be aware that there is a recent historical context at this location.

In 2005-6 Shropshire County Council consulted on a number of parking & traffic movements through Ludlow, including weight limit proposals for Ludford Bridge & its approaches. There was a wide ranging public consultation including a public exhibition in the summer of 2005.

There were objections to the proposed weight limit on Ludford bridge from the Highways Agency, the Road Haulage Association and from the Police. The main objection was the impact of extra lorry movements on the northern junction of the A49 and its approaches to and from Ludlow.

Amending the scheme from a weight limit to a length limit would not change the proposed diversion route, so it is likely that there would be similar objections. Objections from any of these bodies or agencies will result in a full scale public enquiry for the scheme to proceed.

Officers of the Council have consulted informally with the Police; the Police have indicated that they do not have the resources to enforce a weight or length limit on Ludford Bridge. According to our records, Ludford Bridge has been struck by HGV's 5 times in the past 5 years the cost of these minor repairs is minimal compared to the estimated £800,000 to build a roundabout to provide access to the A49 at the northern junction. The only other suitable route for HGV's is via Henley Rd and Gravel Hill; this is unacceptable due to the number of residential properties and routes used by school children.

We have commissioned our term consultant to carry out surveys of the HGV movements on Ludford Bridge and the northern slip roads of the A49 to obtain up to date traffic figures. Armed with these responses Shropshire Council will contact the Highways Agency, the Road Haulage Association & the Police before deciding upon the next action, to ascertain if the view of the bodies and agencies has been revised.

Harp Lane, Ludlow

Shropshire Council consulted locally in 2010 on a possible pedestrian zone for Harp lane and surrounding streets in order to stop obstructions taking place. Even with special authorisation from DfT the Council would have to erect a number of highly obtrusive zone entry signs. Having given the scheme lengthy consideration, Ludlow Town Council, supported by local elected Members and the Council's Conservation Officer, were of the opinion that this was not acceptable in the town square.

There is nothing to indicate that this view has altered, indeed this proposal would be in conflict with the initiative to reduce signage, the signs would have to be illuminated which is not appropriate in this particularly sensitive area of the town.

Obstructions of this nature can currently only be dealt with by the Police or the Community Support Officers, this matter has been brought to their attention previously; Officers from Shropshire Council will remind them of the obstruction.