

Notes of a meeting with John Pateman, Highways Engineer, Buckingham Council.

15 July 2026.

Present David Foster (Little Horwood PC) and Rob Fletcher (Mursley PC).

1. Mursley PC very concerned about the HGV traffic that will be generated by the rail depot construction on EW rail near Newton Longville. They anticipate around 1m tonnes of soil to be moved by road.
2. John spoke at length about all the difficulties in setting up an HGV restriction. One established in the Ivinghoe area took four years to set up and cost several £100k. There is no evidence it has had any effect in reducing the number HGVs using the roads. It now needs enforcement cameras which is another huge expense (£50k each) and rigmarole and unlikely to go ahead.
3. If we were to seek to get a weight limit on the route past the Shoulder alternative routes would have to be identified, a full signage review carried out to work out the number of signs and locations required warning of the up-coming weight limit. And before it would be considered by BC they would need to consult with all neighbouring parishes and businesses.
4. It would be likely that the whole area south of the A421 (Gt Horwood, Little Horwood, Mursley, would need an area wide zone.
5. DfT have a lot of data points where they record traffic numbers and type of vehicle. There's one such point in Little Horwood on the green, two in Gt Horwood. The data is freely available. A quick look shows there are very few HGVs across the green in Little Horwood. A large number of light goods vehicles though – but these could not be restricted.
6. In a nutshell it is a non-starter. BC have no budget and no staff for such work. Consultants could do some of it but the sign review alone would cost £25k.
7. We could get residents to do a survey of the number of HGVs using the roads in our area, log incidents and build a case, but John was not at all encouraging that this would lead to any action from BC.
8. He was similarly negative about the prospect of 20mph restrictions in the villages, although he was supportive of Mursley's speed watch initiative and the various SIDs around the villages.
9. The advisory 20mph signs that Mursley have had made anecdotally have had an impact on speeding. They are green and white but look very much like official signs. John has pointed out to Mursley PC the rules regarding signs on the highway. Summarised as "it's a grey area, low risk to your PC and road safety and in small numbers probably tolerated by Highways inspectors but not technically legal."