



Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council

Old Town, Moreton in Marsh,
Gloucestershire, GL56 0LW
clerk@moretoninmarshtowncouncil.co.uk
Tel. 01608 651448

By email to [REDACTED]@gloucestershire.gov.uk

8th June 2020

A429/A44 INTERSECTIONS MORETON IN MARSH – TOWN COUNCIL CONCERNS

Dear [REDACTED]

The sending of this letter has been delayed owing to the COVID 19 emergency however the concerns raised in the letter will be more apparent once road usage returns to a more normal state. Whilst the new normal is difficult to anticipate, we can be sure that the impact of a number of proposed changes will affect traffic flow through Moreton in Marsh.

Noting the presentation to the Gloucestershire Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting 15th January 2020 the A429 Task Group Update, the Moreton in Marsh Town Council are interested in the update given in respect of Recommendation 8.

For some time Councillors have been concerned about the increasing traffic coming into the Town via the A44 from Oxfordshire, especially HGVs and the Burford Bridge weight restriction. During July 2019 Moreton Town Council responded to Chris Townley in the GCC TRO team to express our concern about increased traffic on the A44 and the impact on Moreton in Marsh of the proposed ETRO for the Adlestrop Bridge near Stowe on the Wold.

It is apparent that Oxfordshire County Council and the residents of Chipping Norton have a very clear view that traffic passing through Chipping Norton is significant and has a detrimental effect on air quality and health in the following examples:

- *Chipping Norton element of the Oxfordshire Local Plan (section 9.4.1) makes specific reference to traffic going to Evesham as well as heading south.*
- *Oxfordshire County Council Minutes 5 November 2019 ‘...route HGVs away from the town Centre, warning that the Tank Farm development could increase traffic by 50%. ...This Council requests the Cabinet to face up to the health and safety issues of residents of Chipping Norton and act on the previous LTP2 and LTP3 recommendations for a weight limit or indeed a lorry route.’ Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously (45 votes to 0)*

Whilst Oxfordshire County Council is seeking to actively address the concern of its residents can the same be said of Gloucestershire County Council in respect of the residents of Moreton in Marsh?

Point 9 of Task Group update in respect of Recommendation 8 suggests that GCC Officers and Councillors ‘...ensure that there is early discussion about proposals which might affect both authorities.’ In the Progress Update a further ETRO for a weight restriction on the A361 is acknowledged and reference to ‘...has the potential to route HGV traffic through Gloucestershire including on the A429’ is made. It is interesting to read that GCC and Oxfordshire have an ‘...aligned proposal for an ETRO for a weight restriction on the A436 in Adlestrop to protect Stowe on the Wold from HGV traffic.’ It is reasonable to think that when the ETRO is implemented the route for traffic will be to come through Moreton to join the A429 and so where is the protection for Moreton in Marsh from HGV traffic?

It is possible that GCC, working with Oxfordshire County Council, could be viewed as exacerbating traffic congestion and endangering the population of Moreton in Marsh by enabling increased traffic flows throughout the day and night, including HGVs, to pass directly through the centre of the Town onto the two mini roundabouts that are at capacity.

The introduction of a 20 MPH zone in the centre of Moreton in Marsh will also have the potential to adversely impact air quality if through- traffic increases.

Given the Town Councils previously raised concerns, including the capacity of the two intersecting mini roundabouts with the A44, and congestion on the A429 we request GCC to actively engage with the Moreton Town Council to:

1. Discuss/Notify the detail of any proposals to alter or regulate traffic flow on the intersecting mini roundabouts on the A44/A429 in Moreton in Marsh.
2. Discuss mitigation proposals which would impact on the traffic flow on the A429 and A44
3. Prove the two intersecting A44 mini roundabouts have the capacity for increased traffic flow when Oxfordshire County Council places a weight restriction on the Burford Bridge
4. Update Moreton in Marsh Town Council on the details of any road discussions and aligned proposals with Oxfordshire County Council and other authorities which have the potential to increase traffic through Moreton on the A429 and A44
5. Prove the width of the A429/A44 junction onto the London Road by the White Hart is wide enough for an HGV and tractor unit/trailer to navigate safely around the mini roundabout
6. Demonstrate to the Town Council the traffic modelling that supports ETROs being put into place on the A361 and A436 are viable and the impact on Moreton assessed before such orders are made. If the orders have been made please may we see the initial impact assessment for Moreton?
7. Provide traffic monitoring evidence from the A44 and A429 traffic flows
8. Discuss bridge weight restriction options for Moreton in Marsh
9. Discuss the introduction of AQMS in the Centre of Moreton on the A429 on the High Street.
10. Discuss the introduction of HGV length restrictions/restrictions on HGVs and Tractor Unit/Trailers on the mini roundabouts in Moreton in Marsh

Whilst GCC seeks to improve Lorry Advisory Route systems, this is not a solution to the immediate problems faced by Moreton residents today. It would be unthinkable to expose Town residents to any additional harm not impact assessed prior to ETRO implementation and so we seek the evidence as assurance for the residents of Moreton that this has been undertaken in respect of traffic flow, mini roundabout capacity, pedestrian safety and air quality.

There is a need for GCC to be accountable and transparent in its dealings with Oxfordshire County Council and residents in respect of our continuing concerns. Would it be helpful to try to meet to understand the GCC high level strategy for this area? If the Town had the means to support some of the plans we may have funding options from development that can be discussed and used efficiently and effectively.

We would be grateful for a response to the concerns raised in this letter and, as previously stated in the ETRO response copied with this letter, Councillors are willing to speak to you other Officers, possibly remotely, to understand the issues in depth. We look forward to hearing from you with a view to reaching an understanding and where possible resolution to some of these difficult issues.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Doran,

Clerk to Moreton in Marsh Town Council

Enclosure : Response to GCC ETRO Adlestrop Bridge