

Dear Mr Hind

With reference to your letter dated 30th September which disappointingly has only recently come to our attention despite this Parish Council being on the list of consultees, we wish to set out our response to these proposals in as far as they directly affect this Parish.

Specifically, the lifting of existing weight restriction along Wide Howe Lane starting from Wards Corner, through Baldersby St James and eventually to either Topcliffe or Asenby is undesirable and unnecessary for the following reasons:

1. The road referred to is unsuitable to allow large commercial vehicles to use in an unrestricted way. When two such vehicles meet each other along this road there will inevitably be damage to the grass verges and in the case of Baldersby St James where there are cars parked outside residences, it will be completely impractical for such large vehicles to negotiate their way through without probable damage to the pavements or occasionally even to parked vehicles. It is worth bearing in mind with so many of the properties in this village being listed, the opportunities open to residents to create garaging facilities to allow them to park their cars off the road are limited. Wide Howe Lane is popular with cyclists and walkers being a relatively quiet Lane and therefore if this restriction was to be lifted some provision would surely need to be made such as by the creation of a designated cycle/foot path. Has this been factored into the proposed plan?
2. This Parish Council understood that a promise was made at the time that the A1(M) was built and Junction 50 was created, that weight restrictions would remain in place to protect the residents of Baldersby St James from the misery of living in a rat run for commercial vehicles. There can be no doubt that if large vehicles are allowed to pass in an unrestricted way through this small village, which is frequently visited in respect of its school and church, the quality of life and indeed the value of property for its residents will be adversely affected and that is without taking into account the extra pollution that will be brought to their location. Residents of this village have expressed their anger to us about this proposed change and they have pointed out that it is particularly distressing to them as they can see it is so unnecessary – see point 3 below.
3. This Parish Council considers the existing major arterial roads (A1(M) and A168) to be more than adequate to allow large vehicles to access Dalton Industrial Estate or to link up to the A19 if travelling to Teesside. Large vehicles using the A168 do not travel through any built-up areas nor cause any distress to local residents; purpose built access from it to locations such as the Dalton Industrial Estate was created for good reasons and to lift the existing weight restriction to enable such vehicles to save a couple of miles by using rural lanes, in our opinion, is nothing short of irresponsible.

In summary, our three points above refer to the impact of these proposals to (1) the local infrastructure (2) the local residents and (3) the existence of a viable alternative for large vehicles and therefore we are firmly of the view that the existing restriction which applies to Wide Howe Lane must remain.

We believe that this proposal should be abandoned and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Please note that all correspondence should be addressed to baldersbyclerk@gmail.com for the attention of our Parish Clerk – Keith Pettitt.

Yours sincerely



John B Hart [Chairman of Baldersby & Baldersby St James Parish Council]