

**HGV's on the A4**

I am writing to highlight to you, the worsening situation surrounding the matter of HGVs using the A4 through Thatcham and their subsequent negative impacts on the local community.

A Freedom of Information request that I undertook revealed an average (in September 2016 over 5 week days) of nearly 1,900 HGVs travelling on the A4 through Thatcham every day. This figure is over a 24 hour period and is particularly disturbing to residents at night. As an example, on the 21/9/16, there was a high of 75 in 1 hour (between 03:00-04:00) and unfortunately, this is common place.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the sheer volume of freight traffic now blighting the town, and in particular residents of the A4, is having serious detrimental effects including - Noise pollution / Structural vibrations / Air quality. As such, resident's welfare and overall quality of life is being seriously undermined.

I have a young Baby who is being constantly disturbed throughout the night by the sound and vibrations caused by the relentless stream of HGVs. This is being exacerbated by the poor state of repair on my particular section of road.

Living on a main thoroughfare, busy traffic (cars) is to be expected and accepted, however, the amount of freight traffic is unprecedented and this section of road was simply not built to support the volumes we are now seeing. Thatcham can be a pleasant place to live but is turning into a polluted, noisy town all resulting from too much freight traffic. Something must be done to mitigate their impact.

Is it not about time that residents took precedent over commercial interests and this matter is dealt with in a robust manner?

I should point out that I have already engaged with West Berkshire Council on this matter and Mark Edwards (Head of Highways) and his team (including the Air Quality Team) took the time to meet with me and discuss this. However, they are limited through shrinking budgets to be able to sufficiently tackle this and so I feel it necessary to highlight this issue to you and appeal for your assistance in solving this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,  
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