



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23rd October 2024

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Cimla and Pelenna

(B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen, Efail Fach) (Revocation of 7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction) Order 2024

Purpose of the Report:

To consider the correspondence received following the advertisement of the (B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen, Efail Fach) (Revocation of 7.5 tonne weight restriction) Order 2024, as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the revocation of a traffic regulation order which was formally advertised resulting in objections being received.

Background:

The scheme was prioritised following representations concerning the existing diversionary route for freight transport. It was reported that the diversionary route for heavy goods vehicles is excessive due to the 7.5 tonne weight restriction being in place along the B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen, Efail Fach.

The proposal is to revoke the existing 7.5 tonne weight restriction to allow vehicles greater than 7.5 tonne to traverse the aforementioned route and minimise the diversion.

The proposed scheme is indicated in Appendix A.

Financial Impacts:

The scheme is to be funded by the Council's Capital Works Programme.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix B, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below: -

A full impact assessment is not required as the revocation of the traffic regulation order will provide a safe environment for all highway users.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

The proposal was advertised for a 21-day period from 5th August 2024 and 26th August 2024.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

A consultation exercise was undertaken between 5th August 2024 and 26th August 2024.

There were 25 letters and plans delivered to the properties on B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen, Efail Fach.

Following a three-week consultation exercise, 5 statements of objection were received on the proposals.

A summary of the objections received are given below: -

Objections: - *Any officer observations / comments are illustrated in italics in response to the points raised.*

- a) A resident is objecting to the proposal and suggests it is crazy, they see on a regular basis how extremely busy and grid locked that road can be. The small village roads are clearly not substantial for huge vehicles.
- b) A resident is objecting to the proposal and thinks that the weight limit should be extended from the top of Cimla right through Efail Fach and Pontrhydyfen. The road is already falling away and any extra weight load will speed this up tenfold.
- c) A member of the public has been verbally informed that the weight restriction was imposed because heavy traffic was causing structural damage to domestic property nearby.

d.) Residents are concerned that traffic in the village is already a nightmare. The sheer volume of traffic passing through is intense. Imagine the chaos with regular heavy loads passing through the village. Please do not allow more traffic to come through an already extremely busy village.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

e.) A resident has stated that the village is at bursting point with traffic at present. Refuse vehicles and school buses going through the village adds on 45 minutes to daily commutes. A resident was told that the roads and bridges could not hold this weight so suddenly how is it possible?

The Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

The Local Members have been consulted on the feedback received and support that the objections are upheld in full.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are upheld in full to the (B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen, Efail Fach) (Revocation of 7.5 tonne weight restriction) Order 2024 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report).

The objectors will be notified of the decision of the board accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The restriction shall remain in place; however, the Council will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan – B4287 Efail Fach to Pontrhydyfen – Revocation of Existing 7.5 tonne weight restriction – Traffic Regulation Order – Efail Fach

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

Mr Hasan Hasan
Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686463
Email h.hasan@npt.gov.uk

Mr Martin Brumby,
Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686013
Email m.brumby@npt.gov.uk

Mr Ryan L. Jones
Engineering & Transport
Tel. No. 01639 686771
Email r.jones15@npt.gov.uk