



# WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

[www.winchfield-pc.org.uk](http://www.winchfield-pc.org.uk)

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FAO: Mr Tim Lawton  
Assistant Director of Highways, Engineering and Transport  
Hampshire County Council

BY EMAIL TO: [tim.lawton@hants.gov.uk](mailto:tim.lawton@hants.gov.uk)

28 July 2023

Dear Mr Tim Lawton

## **Charrington Farm, Station Road, Winchfield**

Winchfield Parish Council is writing to request an urgent review of the traffic management approvals for a transportation business that is in the process of relocating to the parish. A new business is welcome but we are seriously concerned about the impact this business will have on the safety of other road users including cyclists and pedestrians given the location and the access down a narrow country lane. The grounds for our concerns are outlined below.

The company, PPC Group, <https://www.ppc.group/transport>, is relocating from Easthampstead Road, Wokingham and has acquired Charrington Farm, Station Road, Winchfield RG27 8Z. This site has been issued with a B8 planning approval since 1997 following an appeal hearing at the time. To date the level and size of traffic to the site under previous ownership has not caused any significant concern but the situation is about to change significantly.

PPC Group has an operating licence reference OH0210895 which is being transferred from their current operating base in Wokingham to the site in Winchfield. The date of transfer on the order was 25 May 23 and permits the company to operate 18 heavy goods vehicles and 16 trailers from Charrington Farm provided that appropriate evidence is provided to the Central Licensing Office by 25 August 23.

Winchfield Parish Council was approached by PPC in early July to discuss how to cut back the tree canopy on Station Road so they could have clear and unhindered access to the B3016 from Charrington Farm with vehicles and trailers up to 4.95 m in height. All the trees along this stretch of road are on private land and they had sent in a request for action to HCC Highways. HCC Highways we understand have recently issued each of the landowners with an appropriate notice under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 to trim back the canopy at their expense.

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 24th July the public expressed significant concerns and reservations about the safety aspects of operating a fleet of large vehicles and trailers on the narrow and unclassified country lane. Winchfield Parish Council support the residents concerns and requests that in your capacity as the Associate Director responsible for Highways you commission an urgent road safety and traffic management review of the

PPC Group operating licence based on the following considerations that may not necessarily have been available at the time of approving the transfer of the operating licence.

- PPC is authorised to operate vehicles and trailers with dimensions likely to be up to 18.75m in length, including trailers, and a width of 2.55m excluding wing mirrors. The Scania S650 Tractor Unit operated by PPC is 2.55m wide. Other vehicles in their fleet are 2.49m wide.
- Station Road narrows down to a lane width of 4.3m just past the Village Hall as shown in the attached diagram, Enclosure 1, and varies between 4.6m and 5m along that stretch.
- The average width of a family car is currently defined as 1.9m and delivery vehicles eg Mercedes Sprinter, as 1.99m. This therefore makes it impossible for any vehicle to be able to negotiate past a PPC Group vehicle on the stretch of Station Road from the Village Hall to Charrington Farm
- The approach along Station Road from the B3016 to Charrington Farm, immediately prior to the entrance, ends in a blind right-hand bend underneath the railway bridge.
- Any PPC Group vehicle backing up on Station Road at the entrance to Charrington Farm, waiting to enter, would completely block Station Road at the critical blind bend underneath the railway bridge. Note that in the attached diagram, Enclosure 1, the distance from the carriageway to the outer site gate of Charrington Farm is about 9.5m and the truck and trailer could be over 18m in length. The photograph, at Enclosure 2, was taken on 27 Jul 23 of a truck, smaller than those to be used by PPC, parked waiting for the access gate to the site to be opened.
- Any vehicle obliged to reverse all the way back from Charrington Farm to at least the Village Hall car park to enable clear passage would be a challenge for any driver, exacerbated should multiple vehicles need to reverse at the same time .
- Vehicles travelling along Station Road towards the station from The Hurst would not have any warning or site of vehicles exiting Charrington Farm and could encounter smaller vehicles reversing around the blind corner under the railway bridge to allow lorries to enter Charrington Farm.
- There is no footpath or street lighting along Station Road beyond the entrance to the railway station car park and Charrington Farm. Pedestrians use the highway to access the public footpath adjacent to Charrington Farm as well as to gain access to the Winchfield Inn Pub and Winchfield Village Hall.
- Access at key times to Winchfield Station could be prejudiced in both directions if heavy goods vehicles are transiting or creating a traffic jam should vehicles be unable to pass each other on Station Road.
- Commercial vehicles also regularly enter and exit the business located at Oak Farm Nursery on the narrowest section of Station Road, further complicating the traffic flow.
- A group of disabled cyclists who reside in Haigh Homes in Beauclerk Green regularly travel along Station Road on their tricycles which they operate by hand with the cyclist lying down close to the ground

- The approach to the B3016 on Station Road is up a gradient. Any large vehicle will exit Station Road at a very low speed and take considerable time to negotiate either a left turn or a right turn across on-coming southbound traffic. The PPC Group vehicles, comprising a lorry and a trailer measuring up to 18.75m in length, will be entering the B3016 which has a 50MPH speed limit. This junction has a formally registered accident history.
- Drainage outside South Lodge and opposite the Winchfield Inn could be damaged causing local flooding as has happened in the past when large vehicles stray from the carriageway.
- Potential damage to the road surface especially road edges would need constant attention given that vehicles will have no option but to use every inch of the lane to pass.
- The land owned by Oak Farm Nursery and Winchfield House is subject to a Tree Preservation Order No HDC 538 dated 9 Jul 99, copy attached at Enclosure 3, which covers all trees that runs alongside the northern side of Station Road from the B3016 to the entrance to Charrington Farm with the exception of South Lodge, the Winchfield Inn and the Village Hall.
- The Robert May School bus picks up and drops off of children from Beauclerk Green and other local properties outside South Lodge on Station Road each school day and then continues to the Village Hall to turn around. The schoolchildren cross Station Road to access the bus.
- Consideration should be given to any impact on the business of the Winchfield Inn which relies on their 20 rooms bed-and-breakfast as the mainstay of their income. This could be prejudiced by the sound of very large vehicles moving very early in the morning and damaging the enjoyment of their customers in the large pub garden in the summer months.
- The risk of accident when accessing or exiting the Village Hall car park, which is at the narrowest stretch of Station Road, will be significantly increased. Sightlines to the left are very poor which could discourage the use of the Village Hall which in turn could impact its business model and result in its eventual closure, which would be a significant loss to the community.
- The Brenda Parker Way, <https://brendaparkerway.northhampshiredownsrampers.org.uk> is a nationally designated footpath and runs along Station Road from the station car park exit until it enters Footpath 3 through a gate directly adjacent to the entrance to Charrington Farm as shown in the attached diagram, Enclosure 4. Safe access to a well-used footpath would be seriously compromised.

For your information, a request has been made and accepted by HDC Planning, also copied on this letter, to consider whether any approvals are required for the site which to date have not been requested by PPC Group.

WPC requests that HCC Highways review the operating licence from the viewpoint of traffic safety for both vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians as a matter of urgency so that clarity can be obtained before the business commences operation on 28 August 23.

WPC is eager to engage and will support HCC in providing any additional information that is required. WPC is not against a new business operating in the parish but it does want to ensure that its operating model brings a positive benefit to the community rather than creating traffic chaos and possible physical danger.

Yours sincerely

*O M Williams*

Meyrick Williams  
Chairman  
Winchfield Parish Council

Enclosures:

1. Diagram of Station Road carriageway widths and location of FP3
2. Photograph of truck waiting access to Charrington Farm 27 Jul 23
3. Copy of Tree Preservation Order no 538
4. Map showing Brenda Parker Way in relation to Charrington Farm

CC: Cllrs Davies and Forster (HCC) and Cllr Farmer and Mark Jaggard (HDC)