LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL

HGV UPDATE – 9/7/2020

On the 6th July 2020, a meeting took place between County Councillor Keith Iddon, Cabinet member for Highways & Transport, and Mr Phil Durnell, Director of Highways & Transport at Lancashire County Council at which County Cllr Gooch was present.

A discussion took place concerning the issue of LGVs transiting through New Longton since the opening of the Penwortham bypass. Consideration was given to the matters put forward by Longton Parish Council and the correspondence received from villagers.

It was noted that people who have written in and attended the Parish Council meeting seem to have the view that a 7.5 tonne weight limit for goods vehicles through the village should be introduced. A request for this was submitted by the Parish Council.

In order to introduce such a restriction a Traffic Regulation Order has to be approved. This requires a strict consultation process which includes statutory consultees. One of those consultees is the Constabulary and its current position is that it will not support such an order. This would involve a very lengthy consultation process with letters going out to everyone who lives or works or has a business in the affected area. This would take several months to complete as there is a statutory time for consultation and at the end could be overturned by the police veto, having wasted much time and effort.

The attendees at the meeting considered where to  go from here to actually get something done. It was agreed that LCC will forthwith make and display advisory boards at the A582 junction with Chain House Lane and A59 junction with Chapel Lane, telling drivers to follow the indicated route and ignore their satnavs. This, together with the calls to transport firms, was felt to be the best hope of at least reducing the problem.

It was also agreed that once the above has been tried a review would be carried out to see what has happened. If it has not solved the problem, then LCC would be in a much stronger position to go back to the Constabulary and ask for their co-operation.