**THE NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL** **(NEEDHAM, U76146 MILL LANE)**

 **(3.5T ENVIRONMENTAL WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2023** .

**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR MAKING THE ORDER**

Norfolk County Council in conjunction with Suffolk County Council is proposing the above Traffic Order to prohibit vehicles weighing over 3.5 tonnes from entering Mill Lane, Needham and Needham Road, Weybread. There are currently advisory signs at the junctions of Needham Road and Mill Lane, but these are not fully effective. The proposed Traffic Regulation Orders will include an exemption ‘except for loading’ so lorries can still deliver to properties on Mill Lane and Needham Road, agricultural and refuse vehicles will also be exempt. The 18t structural weight limit for the bridge over the River Waveney will remain in operation.

A 3.5t environmental limit will remove heavy goods vehicles from using a road which is completely unsuitable as a cut-through. Needham Road/Mill Lane is a narrow unclassified road with ditches along parts of the carriageway, there are few passing places, and any passing places are unsuitable for large vehicles. The road is popular with walkers and cyclists, but there are no footpaths and a number of blind bends.

The bend at ‘The Old Mill’ is blind and can be a tight manoeuvre even for a small vehicle. The adjacent buildings and highways infrastructure have been repeatedly damaged by large vehicles attempting to negotiate the bend, especially the overhanging roof to ‘The Granary’. The Police have previously been called out to assist with large vehicles reversing back from the bend, however they are unable to enforce any restriction as there is no existing traffic regulation order in place for vehicles below 18 tonnes, hence the need for this proposal.

If the 3.5t environmental weight limit is implemented, the alternative route will be the C506, B1116, Wells Lane (C361), A143, High Road (C571) and vice versa.

Please note that this Order is intended to come into effect alongside and in conjunction with an Order being an order being made for Needham Road, Weybread (Suffolk side of the border) known as Suffolk County Council (Parish of Weybread) (U5702 Needham Road) (Weybread) (3.5 Tonnes Weight Restriction) Order 202-.

*HKS/8960548(Needham(Weybread)PJ1301SoR)23*