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Our Ref YLL/BMBC/2017-11.01

08 November 2017

Ms Paula Tweed

Planning Policy Group Leader, Planning Policy
Economic Regeneration Service
Place Directorate
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 604
BARNSELY S70 9FE

Sent by email to
paulatweed@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Ms Tweed,

LOW BRIDGES - PENISTONE

We write further to the evidence which we submitted to the Local Plan Examination, regarding our concerns with low railway bridges around Penistone and the identification of the only Employment Land site for Penistone (Reference: P2) in a location constrained by these low bridges, which pose a Highway Safety issue for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV).

Please find enclosed at *Appendix 1* a photograph taken last Tuesday, 31 October 2017 illustrating a high sided HGV attempting to navigate under the railway bridge at Sheffield Road in Penistone, adjacent Penistone Railway Station. This low bridge has a height restriction of 14 feet 9 inches (4.5metres). The vehicle had just departed an existing employment site in Springvale.

As you can see from the photograph, in order for this HGV to pass under the bridge, the driver was required to undertake a dangerous manoeuvre by navigating the vehicle onto the opposite carriageway on a bend towards oncoming traffic. Furthermore, when passing under the bridge, as the photograph clearly demonstrates, there are only inches to spare between the stonework on the bridge and the vehicle, leaving little margin for error.

Attached at *Appendix 2* are further photographs, illustrating a HGV vehicle which collided with the same bridge whilst attempting to pass under it on the evening of Monday, 30 October 2017.

Thankfully, on this occasion no one was seriously injured. However, we believe this incident serves to reinforce the evidence we have previously submitted and demonstrates

how proper consideration must be provided by the Council to the presence of these low bridges in its selection of employment land and any resulting cumulative impacts on Highway Safety.

If site Reference P2 Is brought forward for development, it will inevitably attract further HGV movements through Penistone Town Centre which will likely result in additional Highway Safety issues. Notwithstanding this, we believe that potential investors/developers and Business Operators will consider the presence of these low bridges detrimental to the viability of site reference P2, thereby constraining its delivery.

The incident on Monday, 30 October 2017 resulted in the closure of Sheffield Road for a period from 5pm whilst the Emergency Services attended the scene to free the driver of the HGV and oversee the recovery of the vehicle. In addition, Rail services on the Penistone Line were halted whilst Network Rail Engineers carried out an inspection of the bridge.

A Network Rail spokesperson is quoted in a Barnsley Chronicle Article regarding the incident (Attached at *Appendix 3*) on Friday, 03 November:

"This incident comes less than a week after Network Rail launched a campaign urging HGV drivers to know the height of their vehicle and to plan their route ahead of time to avoid striking bridges."

"Not only do bridge strikes cost valuable time for road users and train passengers, they also cost the tax-payer money, with the average cost of a bridge strike being £13,500."

The bridge adjacent the Railway Station in Penistone is one of several bridges in the area with a history of collisions. As we set out in our letter of 31 May 2016 addressed to Councillor Roy Miller, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (available in the Documentation Section of the Blackmoor Business Park website: www.BlackmoorBusinessPark.co.uk) Network Rail records show that this particular bridge (ELR/Structure Number PEH/60) was struck by large vehicles no less than seven times in the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

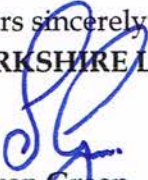
Currently, the only route for large HGV's to access existing Business Parks in Springvale and the Marrtree Business Park in Oxspring, is via the Town Centre of Penistone, which causes much disruption, particularly at peak times. This is because the bridge at Sheffield Road in Oxspring is only 13 feet 3 inches (4 metres) in height (1.5 feet/45cm lower than the bridge on Sheffield Road adjacent the Railway Station in Penistone) thus preventing access by the majority of high sided HGV vehicles from Sheffield Road in Oxspring, avoiding Penistone Town Centre.

As you are aware, we are promoting the 'Blackmoor Business Park' site, which is a previously developed brownfield site on the edge of the village of Oxspring, served directly from the B6462 'Sheffield Road' within 0.7 miles of the A629 road and only 10 minutes from

Junction 37 of the M1 motorway, where access **is not** restricted in any way by the low railway bridges in the area and where HGV traffic would not be required to gain access via Penistone Town Centre.

Yours sincerely

YORKSHIRE LAND Limited



Steven Green

Managing Director

Cc Mr Joe Jenkinson - Head of Planning, Barnsley MBC
 Mr Richard Gilbert - Programmer Officer, Barnsley Local Plan

Encs *Appendix 1: Photograph of HGV Vehicle Navigating Sheffield Road Bridge Penistone 31 October 2017;*
 Appendix 2: Photograph of HGV Crash at Sheffield Road Bridge, Penistone on 30 October 2017;
 Appendix 3: Barnsley Chronicle Article, Friday 03 November 2017







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lives.
this week?

PR

Truck flipped after hitting bridge

A DRIVER had to be freed from the cab of his truck after it struck a low bridge in Penistone and flipped onto its side.

The incident is the latest where lorries have clipped the arches of railway bridges which surround Penistone and was one of the more serious recent incidents.

Firefighters from the Penistone station were scrambled to assist following the incident, around 5pm on Monday, and the lorry driver needed their assistance to get out.

He escaped with minor injuries but the road was blocked and rail services were interrupted until engineers from Network Rail were able to examine the structure and confirm it remained safe.

A Network Rail spokeswoman said: "Shortly after 5pm on Monday, a member of the public reported that a lorry had struck Penistone viaduct in Barnsley. Network Rail workers attended

the incident along with the emergency services.

"Engineers from Network Rail carried out an inspection of the bridge and normal working was resumed shortly after 5.30pm.

"This incident comes less than a week after Network Rail launched a campaign urging HGV drivers to know the height of their vehicle and to plan their route ahead of time to avoid striking bridges.

"Not only do bridge strikes cost valuable time for road users and train passengers, they also cost the tax-payer money, with the average cost of a bridge strike being £13,500.

"Bridge strikes are completely preventable which is why Network Rail has teamed up with key transport industries on this campaign to raise awareness of the problem and look at ways in which we can work together to reduce these incidents."

The incident involved the



bridge at Springvale, which is one of several in the area with a history of collisions involving lorries.