

## Conclusions

North Somerset has to make some challenging decisions in the near future. Quite apart from rising volumes of traffic generally across the area, predicted housing development in and around Locking will only increase the congestion on the already crowded roads.

The Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) currently declared in Banwell represents a further challenge. It is possible that traffic management measures alone could bring some relief to this hard-pressed village in the near term. However there are no simple solutions to the high volumes of HGV traffic in the BATS area.

The **TMTV** proposal, to introduce weight restrictions for HGVs, will not resolve all the difficulties overnight. However the idea does present NSC with a tailor-made, win-win response. It should be emphasised that the plan:

- already has widespread support throughout the area,
- would be inexpensive to implement,
- has been tried and proven in other Local Authorities,
- reinforces NSC's environmental strategy.

It seems incontrovertible that some kind of experimental traffic order that involved a 7.5t weight restriction for out-of-area HGVs would represent a popular, effective and appropriate response to the challenge of shortcutting through this part of the AONB with its villages and acclaimed beauty spot of Burrington Combe.

Indeed, those who live at the heart of the worst affected areas have come to believe that weight restrictions are one of the few possible traffic management measures that would actually have a real impact on the congestion and pollution that blight Banwell and cast a long shadow over this attractive part of North Somerset.