



Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association



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Mr C R Goodman
R L Goodman & Son
Estate Office, Home Farm
Eastwell Park
Ashford, Kent
TN25 4HR

Dear Mr Goodman

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association represents the collective interests of the residents of Sandyhurst Lane and its adjoining roads. From time to time, issues arise which our members ask us to raise, with the aim of finding an amicable solution.

As you may be aware, a number of our members living in Sandyhurst Lane, opposite the farmland under your ownership, have been experiencing problems in recent years.

One of these is flooding. There has been significant flooding to properties in this part of the Lane. The farmland opposite these properties is now one large field instead of several fields. Formerly there was an earth bank on the opposite side of the road, which helped to control run-off from the farmland. This has been eroded and is no longer effective. Consequently, the land drain becomes rapidly clogged with silt and crop debris, resulting in flooding.

We should be most grateful if you could give some consideration to controlling the run-off of rainwater from the farmland on to the road. Ideally, this would be achieved by replanting the hedgerow on a raised bund and possibly a green 'buffer strip' between the farmland and the road.

The other issue is herbicide drift. There have been some serious incidents from spraying on the farm in windy conditions, resulting in damage to plants in both front and back gardens of properties in the vicinity. Last April, for example, yellow spots covered plants in these properties, caused by herbicide drift when spraying the winter turnip crop.

I know it is not always easy to control the crop spraying process, but in view of the damage experienced, we should very much appreciate it if you could ensure that spraying is always carried out in accordance with the NFU "Good Neighbour Initiative" best practice, with which I am sure you are familiar.

Again, replanting the hedgerow and creating a green 'buffer strip' would assist in mitigating this problem.

I hope that we can find an agreeable solution to these problems and I look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts in due course.

Yours sincerely

Antony Bartlett
Chair SLRA

