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Rt Hon Damian Green MP
Hardy House
The Street
Bethersden
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14th June 2017

Dear Damian,

On behalf of Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association, may I offer you our warm congratulations on your appointment as First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office. We wish you every success in the challenging times which lie ahead.

I am sure that, despite your new duties, you will continue to take the same keen interest in constituency matters as you have for the past 20 years. In this context, may I take the opportunity of reminding you of a couple of issues we have raised with you in the past?

Firstly, many of our residents are very adversely affected by the very high level of traffic noise from the concrete surface of the M20 motorway, which passes within 500 metres of around 200 dwellings in Sandyhurst Lane and its adjacent roads. If the draft Ashford Local Plan is confirmed, this number could rise by at least 75 dwellings with up to another 100 more distant but similarly affected. Traffic volumes are increasing inexorably and it is very frustrating to see some other stretches of the M20 being resurfaced with "quiet tarmac" which provides a spectacular reduction in noise. We are currently gathering evidence and will shortly be writing to Highways England seeking mitigating action. Anything you can do to assist would be greatly welcomed.

Secondly, as you are well aware, Ashford suffers from a severe overnight HGV lorry parking problem. This is particularly acute around the junction of the A20 with Sandyhurst Lane and Godinton Lane where, every night, over 40 HGVs are parked, many close to domestic dwellings. The resulting noise pollution, litter (including human excrement) and the consequent road safety hazard make life difficult, and at times almost intolerable, for many of our residents. At the moment there are also several abandoned, unsightly trailers, full of used tyres, parked there as well creating a serious fire and health risk. Through Westwell Parish Council we are in discussion with KCC and ABC to seek a solution in advance of the completion of the permanent Lorry Park at Sandford North proposed in the 2015 Autumn Statement, but again anything you can do to expedite an early solution would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Bartlett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tony Bartlett
Chair SLRA