



**David Porter, Secretary
6 Hoads Wood Gardens
Ashford, Kent
TN25 4QB**

19 June 2014

Cllr Jim Wedgbury
KCC Councillor
27 Primrose Drive
Park Farm, Kingsnorth
Ashford, Kent
TN23 3NP

Dear Jim

KCC Order to prohibit westbound traffic on Sandyhurst Lane

For many months, our members have endured delays and frustration caused by traffic lights and single lane traffic whilst gas main work has been taking place along the entire length of Sandyhurst Lane, preceded by similar work in Westwell Lane.

To make matters worse, in the last few days residents have received a letter from Southern Gas Networks about further works to be carried out in the Sandyhurst Lane/A20 area. We are told that KCC has made an Order closing Sandyhurst Lane to westbound traffic at the junction with the A20, so that traffic will be unable to join the A20. This is proposed to last from 30th June until 11th August, a period of six weeks! Furthermore, it is proposed to have no respite overnight or at weekends, when no work will be taking place.

This Order will cause enormous disruption, inconvenience and expense to hundreds of residents living in Sandyhurst Lane and its adjoining roads, and to those visiting them for business or pleasure.

Closing off the road for such a long period is completely unacceptable, so could I ask you to look into this issue as a matter of urgency and see what can be done? We offer the following solution:

Control the traffic entering and leaving Sandyhurst Lane by traffic lights in both directions, rather than closing it in one direction. To avoid traffic queuing on the A20 westbound, prohibit right turns into Sandyhurst Lane and direct traffic further along the A20 to turn right into the large layby, so that any queuing occurs there, away from the main road, and traffic then turns left into Sandyhurst Lane.

I have to say that this Order has all the hallmarks of being designed for the convenience of the contractors, with no regard for the enormous disruption to hundreds of road users. Please help us to achieve a more reasonable balance.

I have sent a similar letter to Charlie Simkins.

Yours sincerely

(On behalf of the Chairman, Committee and Members of SLRA)