



John Faulkner
382 Sandyhurst Lane
Ashford, TN25 4PF
Tel: 01233 628583

Public Consultation on Operation Stack

As you are aware, Highways England is currently holding a public consultation on proposals to create a permanent lorry park adjacent to the M20 at Stanford. Whilst we welcome the Government's commitment to find a solution to Operation Stack, we believe this is a great opportunity to provide a solution to several additional problems caused by random and uncontrolled truck parking throughout Kent.

We are therefore contacting MPs and Councillors to request that, in their own responses to the consultation, they press for a permanent 24 hour parking facility as a minimum (Alternative 3) and preferably for a fully equipped Truckstop (Alternative 4).

The A20 between Folkestone and Maidstone is beset by trucks parked in laybys, at the side of the road, on motorway slip roads and numerous industrial estates. We have every sympathy for these truck drivers, who are obliged to obey the tachograph rules now enforced by electronic technology. However, they create a nuisance of noise and garbage and represent a significant source of annoyance to local residents.

We therefore ask that once a truck parking facility is established, local parking restrictions are both introduced and enforced, to ensure that trucks parking overnight or for a weekend are directed to the new facility.

We are not suggesting a total prohibition on truck parking in laybys but a time limitation of, say 2 hours, which will enable drivers to take their obligatory break (45 minutes) in a local facility but avoid the problems caused by longer term parking.

The end product would be happier residents, less work for the Police, lower cleansing costs for the local authorities and trucks properly parked in a secure facility, fully equipped with facilities for the comfort of drivers.

We hope that, in your response to the current consultation, you will reflect these views, held by a large number of local residents.

Yours sincerely

Before his retirement, SLRA committee member John Faulkner spent over 40 years running an Anglo/Continental trucking company and for 5 years was Chairman of the International Group of the Road Haulage Association.