



# Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association



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Antony C Bartlett MSc MIBA  
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Ashford, TN26 1JA  
Tel: 01233 611639

Rt Hon Damian Green MP  
Hardy House  
The Street  
Bethersden  
Ashford  
TN26 3AG

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Damian

For over 25 years residents in this locality have been blighted by very high levels of traffic noise generated by the concrete surfacing of the M20 motorway north of Junction 9. In the area of Sandyhurst Lane alone there are almost 200 domestic dwellings within 500 metres of the motorway, housing around 600 individuals.

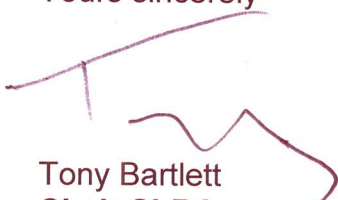
I'm sure you recall my Association has contacted you on a number of occasions about vehicle noise abatement on this stretch of the M20. Following our last correspondence in October 2017 you kindly contacted Highways England on our behalf and extracted a commitment from them that this would be addressed in 2021/22 (correspondence attached for reference).

We have now become aware of an extension of the Quieter Motorways initiative (Press Release attached) which Highways England is funding. By spring 2020 they intend to spend a £39 million special fund to install new, award-winning, quiet road surfaces, noise barriers and double glazing at over 1,000 locations on motorways and major A roads, specifically to reduce noise for residents living near those roads. Already recognised as one of the busiest, and noisiest, stretches of motorway in the UK from its outdated surface and high volumes of HGV traffic, we believe we are well qualified for inclusion in this initiative.

With the massive M20 road works on both sides of J9 and J10 that we are all enduring this appears to be an ideal (and currently funded) opportunity for Highways England to bring forward their promise to address this long standing M20 noise problem.

Once again we would be most grateful if you would intercede with Highways England and persuade them that this is an area deserving of their earliest attention to become "quieter".

Yours sincerely



Tony Bartlett  
Chair SLRA

cc: Cllr. Charlie Simkins, KCC  
Cllr. Larry Krause, ABC  
Westwell PC

RT HON DAMIAN GREEN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear David,

I have now received a reply from Highways England about the M20.

I enclose a copy of the reply which suggests work will take place in 2021/22. This is not great, but at least we now have a date we can try to hold them to.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Damian'.

Mr David Porter  
Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association  
6 Hoads Wood Gardens  
Ashford  
Kent TN25 4QB

Our ref: CEO 18532651

Rt Hon Damian Green MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Nick Harris**  
**Operations Executive Director**  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 4LZ

13 October 2017

Dear Mr Green

### **M20 north of junction 9**

Thank you for your letter of 28 September to Jim O'Sullivan on behalf of the Sandyhurst Residents Association concerning the traffic noise from this section of the M20. I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my area of responsibility.

I do appreciate that the noise from the motorway is an issue for your constituents and I am aware of the campaign to have this section of road resurfaced using a quieter surface.

This part of the M20 is currently in a safe and serviceable condition and therefore no major maintenance is needed at this time. In the longer term we have applied for funding to carry out major works at this location. This will involve overlaying the concrete carriageway with a quieter surface. We will also upgrade the drainage systems, safety barriers, signs and other equipment. At this stage, work is expected to take place in the financial year 2021/22.

As always these works will be subject to the availability of funds. In the meantime we will continue monitoring the condition of the road through our weekly safety inspections.

If you would like any further information please contact the Asset Manager for Kent, Olga Gilevska, on 0300 470 1439, or via email at [Olga.Gilevska@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Olga.Gilevska@highwaysengland.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



Nick Harris  
Operations Executive Director



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Transport (<https://www.gov.uk/transport>)
3. Driving and road transport (<https://www.gov.uk/transport/driving-and-road-transport>)
4. Road transport and the environment (<https://www.gov.uk/transport/road-transport-and-the-environment>)

Press release

## Newark residents among 40,000 benefitting from quieter roads

People living near the busy A1 in Nottinghamshire are among 40,000 roadside residents enjoying a quieter life thanks to a major noise reduction initiative.

Published 9 January 2019

From:

Highways England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england>)



Highways England has pledged to reduce noise levels for people living in over 1,000 areas close to motorways and major A roads by spring 2020 by installing noise barriers, providing free double glazing and laying new quieter road surfaces.

A 600-metre-long noise barrier close to the village of North Muskham, near Newark, is the latest structure to be installed as part of the scheme. The three-metre-high barrier has been adopted by the local community after villagers decided to plant 150 shrubs in front of it.

North Muskham Parish Council Chair, Ian Harrison said:

The residents in North Muskham have been pressing for this for some years. The completion provides a real difference to the volume of A1 traffic noise experienced especially by nearby residents.

Some residents also requested that foliage be replanted to provide better aesthetic views and an environment for birds and other wildlife so the parish council made the request and we are grateful for the positive response.





Highways England has a £39 million special fund to reduce noise levels for people living close to motorways and major A roads, which includes installing noise barriers in areas where they are likely to have a significant benefit for local communities.

The organisation has also installed free double glazing at more than 600 homes, and laid quieter surfacing on over 6,000 miles of lanes on motorways and major A roads since 2015 – equivalent to resurfacing the entire M6 three times over.

Quieter surfacing is now installed as standard wherever possible on the roads managed by Highways England. The smoother and thinner top layer can help make roads significantly quieter than traditional road surfaces.

Ian Holmes, Principal Noise Advisor at Highways England, said:

Around four million drivers travel on our roads every day but they impact many millions more – whether that's businesses relying on long-distance deliveries or families in opposite ends of the country being able to get together for special occasions.

Our roads also have an impact on the people who live near them and I'm pleased we've been able to reduce traffic noise levels for over 40,000 roadside residents since 2015 as part of our noise reduction schemes.

It's great to see that the new noise barrier we've installed in North Muskham in Nottinghamshire is proving popular with residents, and I'm sure the new shrubs they've planted will help make it pretty as well as practical.

Last year Highways England won the 'Silent Approach' category at the Noise Abatement Society's annual awards ceremony in London for its work to reduce noise levels for over 40,000 roadside residents since 2015.

The awards recognise organisations which are judged to have been outstanding in their efforts to both reduce the impact of noise and seek to pioneer practical and innovative solutions.

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Published 9 January 2019

### **Explore the topic**

- Road transport and the environment (<https://www.gov.uk/transport/road-transport-and-the-environment>)