



Mr Graham Blew

Sent via secure email.

graham.blew@swanscombeandgreenhithetowncouncil.gov.uk

**Cabinet Member for
Highways & Transport**
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone Kent
ME14 1XQ

Date: 23 December 2024

Reference: 53550921

Dear Graham

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the temporary closure of the A226 Galley Hill Road Swanscombe.

I will discuss with our transportation team your request for new traffic surveys and modelling to be undertaken throughout the Town of Swanscombe and Greenhithe. I am aware that the team looked at the area when Galley Hill was first closed. Other than restrictions and signage, there was very little that could be done that would not have a detrimental knock on effect to other roads in the area.

I appreciate the impact that the closure has on the whole area and can assure you that the teams involved are doing all they can to remedy the situation. I am sure that you understand that this is a very complicated situation, both due to ownership and liability, and due to the structure of the chalk spine.

The results of the surveys are legally privileged, so whilst this remains a legal matter, they cannot be shared. I can confirm that following the initial surveys to assess the stabilisation of the chalk spine, one of Kent's consultants is continuing to develop options analysis to be shared with the Department for Transport for us to be able to build a case for government funding. I'm sure you appreciate that this is not a speedy process but we will keep local councillors updated as things progress

Yours sincerely

Neil Baker
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Member for Whitstable East and Herne Bay West
Kent County Council

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Graham Blew

From: Graham Blew
Sent: 19 December 2024 11:36
To: Neil.Baker@kent.gov.uk
Cc: KCC Member - Thomas Mallon - S&G ; DBC Member - Claire Pearce - Swanscombe; DBC Member - Emma Ben-Moussa - Swanscombe; DBC Member - Carol Gale - Greenhithe & Knockhall; DBC Member - David Mote - Greenhithe & Knockhall; DBC Member - Michael Brown - Greenhithe & Knockhall
Subject: Temporary Closure of A226 Galley Hill Road.
Importance: High

Dear Mr Neil Baker, Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

The Town Council are writing to you to respectfully request that consideration is given for new traffic surveys and modelling to be undertaken throughout the Town of Swanscombe and Greenhithe to better understand the challenges being faced by the area with the temporary closure of Galley Hill Road.

We would like to ask that any work undertaken includes engagement with residents/local representatives to collate the issues/experiences faced, and to understand the patterns with excessive traffic and oversized vehicles.

Traffic surveys were undertaken by KCC early on following the temporary closure of Galley Hill but, given the extension of 36 months (3 years) to the temporary closure notice, the Town Council feels that this must be readdressed to gauge the current and potential ongoing matters that desperately require attention.

Could you also please provide the results of the geo surveys and the initial summaries of the options report that were previously expected to be available by this point.

We have included the County Councillor for the Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Ebbsfleet Ward, along with the Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe and Greenhithe into this email as we would like to invite their collaborative support in taking this forward with an aim to finding better solutions to the traffic issues facing the area.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Blew
Town Clerk

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SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL



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19 December 2024

Dear Parish Council Representative of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB)

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council would like to ask that you submit this letter to the next available JTB for their attention/action.

The Town Council are aware that this board have previously discussed the ongoing matter of the temporary closure of Galley Hill Road at past meetings.

The Town Council wish to reiterate, and bring to the attention of the JTB, the issues that are being faced within the local community and some of the challenges being encountered with finding solutions.

Residents are frustrated with the ongoing traffic, heavy congestion and, at times, gridlock facing all areas of the Town on a regular basis. This includes the frequent incursions through the Town of HGV's that exceed the size and weight limit restrictions in place.

Following the announcement of the temporary closure being extended to 36 months (3 years) with no indication of what options are being considered and any timescales for resolution, this is becoming an intolerable situation.

The Town Council have contacted Kent Highways for both an update and support in relation to the traffic problems and have been told that signage is in place and that Kent Highways modelled everything very early on and that the issue sits with a lack of enforcement in the area.

When contacting Dartford Borough Council and Kent Police regarding enforcement levels for both HGV's breaching the weight limits and parking, we are presented with a response that there is a lack of resources.

To compound this every time the A2 or M25 is closed, or has large delays, the Town becomes completely gridlocked with no chance of emergency services vehicles getting through if they were needed.

We have tried to contact all the parties involved with this, Kent Highways, Highways England, Kent Police and Dartford Borough Council to formulate a collaborative approach to managing traffic in the Town, but with little to no effect.

The Joint Transportation Board was created, by definition, to facilitate a joint working approach to the challenges of travel within Dartford. We would like to ask that this Board co-

ordinates the assistance of DBC, KCC and the Police to take forward this major transportation concern facing not just our Parish, but others that have seen additional traffic affecting their roads because of this temporary closure along with the impact on public transport.

We would like to request that, with the support of the Borough and County Councillors within the affected wards, a plan is put in place to find a collaborative solution to the traffic congestion issues facing this area and to keep this item on the agenda for all future meetings of the JTB until such time as a resolution has been found.

The Town Council would like to thank the Board for taking the time to consider our request and we look forward to receiving a response.

Yours sincerely

Graham Blew
Town Clerk