

BORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



13 March 2024

Subject: Concerns Regarding 3-Month Road Closure of Wises Lane, Borden

I am writing on behalf of Borden Parish Council to express their deep concerns regarding the proposed 3-month road closure of Wises Lane, between Maylam Gardens and Cryalls Lane, whilst Coinford Construction installs new apparatus and S278 development works are undertaken. The Parish Council understands that this closure is scheduled to commence on 18th March with estimated completion by 30th June 2024.

1. Legality of Traffic Regulation Order (TRO):

They have noted that the TRO related to the road closure does not appear to be dated or signed, raising concerns about its lawfulness, and kindly request clarification on the status of the TRO to seek assurance that all legal requirements have been met.

2. Unreasonable Disruption and Diversion:

The road closure completely shuts the connection between lower and upper Borden for an unreasonable period. The suggested diversion route is extremely time-consuming due to heavy volumes of traffic. This may also put additional traffic on Cryalls Lane which is already suffering as a result of recent diversions and poses a potential safety risk to the public, other drivers, and wildlife.

3. Developer Benefits vs. Community Impact:

While the benefits to the developer in joining two separate sites, for the movement of materials and machinery are understood, emphasis is needed for a balanced approach that considers the significant impact on the local community.

4. Alternative Traffic Management:

What is the reason the work cannot be operated under a 2-way traffic control system, to mitigate disruption. Alternative traffic management options may help alleviate concerns about prolonged closures and traffic congestion.

5. Coordination with Utility Companies:

Considering recent closures on other parts of Wises Lane, and to minimise the likelihood of further road closures, could there be a direct liaison with other utility companies so that the road is not closed again at a later date, as has been seen on other parts of Wises Lane. Collaborative planning will help reduce inconvenience for residents and businesses.

We trust that Kent County Council will address these concerns promptly and provide transparent information to the Parish Council and the affected community. Open communication and collaboration are crucial to finding solutions that balance the needs of developers and the well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and a constructive dialogue to address the concerns raised.