



Cllrs. Crozer, Pearce and Sands
The Independent Group
on Medway Council
Hoo & High Halstow Ward

C/O 17 Grandsire Gardens,
Hoo,
Hoo Peninsula,
Rochester,
Kent,
ME3 9LH

Sunday 25th February 2024

Richard Hicks (Chief Executive)
Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4TR

CC: Adam Bryan (Director of Place), Ruth Du-Lieu (Assistant Director of Frontline Services & Deputy Director), Cllr. Vince Maple (Leader of the Council), Cllr. Teresa Murray (Deputy Leader of the Council), Cllr. Simon Curry (Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration) and Medway Councillors.

Re: Frindsbury Hill Road Closure.

Dear Medway Council,

We write to you as the three Independent Councillors for Hoo and High Halstow Ward on Medway Council - representing the communities of Chattenden, High Halstow and Hoo on the Hoo Peninsula. This letter concerns the Frindsbury Hill Road Closure, taking place from 11th March to 21st June.

We are deeply concerned about this road closure and how it will affect local residents not just in our ward but across the Hoo Peninsula - particularly those who need to travel to work, to hospital appointments and children who will be sitting exams. Frindsbury Hill is used by over 20,000 vehicles a day (24-hour period) and these vehicles will need to be accommodated by the remaining Local Road Network (LRN) - which is already congested at times and vulnerable to gridlock. We understand Medway Council initiated and was planning for the lane/road closure as early as October last year (2023).

We have a couple of questions and some reasonable concerns listed below. **In the meantime, we believe Medway Council, as Highways Authority, should cancel the three-month Frindsbury Hill road closure until further notice.**

On 31st January, a local resident submitted Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) and South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAS) asking for copies of all communications between these services and Medway Council concerning the road closure, including any risk assessments that have been carried out.

A response from Kent Police was received on Wednesday 7th February confirming (at the time) that the requested information did not exist. A response from KFRS was received on Wednesday 21st February confirming (at the time) that Medway Council has only sent a traffic report to KFRS concerning the road closure on Monday 29th January. A response is awaited from SECAS at the time of writing this letter.

The resident has suggested the emergency services haven't been consulted properly about the road closure. **Could Medway Council demonstrate it has sufficiently consulted with Kent Police, KFRS and SECAS and provide copies of any risk assessments and any feedback received?**

Despite planning for and being aware of the lane/road closure as early as last October, Medway Council's first official public statement on the works (via social media and their website) was made on Thursday 22nd February - just a few weeks before the significant and unprecedented three-month closure is planned to take place. **We're not convinced sufficient formal notice (predominantly letters) has been given to local residents, bus companies, businesses, schools and services. Could Medway Council demonstrate it has provided sufficient formal notice to these and provide copies of any feedback received?**

Thank you and yours faithfully,

George Crozer

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