

**Subject: Urgent Concerns regarding the cumulative impact of Construction Traffic on Badgers Mount A224**

**To:** Laura Trott MP

**From:** Badgers Mount Parish Council

**Date:** May 16, 2025

Dear Laura,

On behalf of Badgers Mount Parish Council, I am writing to request your urgent assistance in ensuring that the approved Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for Fort Halstead does not result in the significant disruption to the residents of Badgers Mount that we currently foresee.

The cumulative impact of concurrent developments at Fort Halstead and the Chevening Estate has not been adequately assessed. Without appropriate mitigation, residents—particularly those living along the Orpington Bypass (A224)—face years of severe congestion, safety risks, and environmental decline.

Since the closure of the A21 into Old London Road, traffic volumes on the A224 have increased substantially, making it progressively more dangerous for residents to enter or exit their properties. The added burden of HGV traffic from Fort Halstead, alongside ongoing works at Chevening Estate, poses an unacceptable risk to our community.

**Key Concerns:**

**Traffic Congestion & Safety Risks**

- The A224 is already severely congested during peak hours (7:30 AM – 9:00 AM), endangering residents attempting to merge onto the road. This gets worse when there are incidents on the M25.
- *School children crossing the A224 to reach bus stops are at increased risk due to heightened high speed HGV movements.*
- The current 50 mph speed limit is incompatible with increased HGV traffic through a residential area.

**Environmental & Public Health**

- A marked increase in HGV activity will exacerbate existing air and noise pollution, adding to the environmental stress already imposed by the A224 and the M25.

## Noise Pollution

- The road surface along the A224 has led to excessive noise levels, particularly where vehicles transition between newer, smoother patches and the older, rougher sections. For residents whose homes face the road, the resulting noise—exacerbated by the increased volume of HGVs—has become intolerable, significantly impacting their quality of life and health.

### **Urgent Mitigation Measures Requested:**

To protect residents and promote responsible development, we urge that the following measures are discussed & implemented immediately:

#### **1. Pedestrian Safety Enhancements**

Install Puffin crossings at the junctions of Badgers Road and Highland Road with the A224 to safeguard schoolchildren, elderly residents, and other pedestrians.

#### **2. Speed Limit Reduction**

Reduce the speed limit on the Orpington Bypass (A224) from slightly before Nesbit House (the care home) to the Badgers Mount roundabout from 50 mph to 40 mph—or lower—to safeguard pedestrians, particularly school children and elderly residents.

#### **3. Noise Reduction Measures**

Resurface the A224, particularly in the residential sections, with low-noise road surfacing to significantly reduce excessive traffic noise caused by the uneven and degraded road surface.

The Parish Council is deeply concerned that each development is being reviewed in isolation, with no comprehensive assessment of the cumulative impact on Badgers Mount. This fragmented approach has left residents under-informed and excluded from meaningful consultation, despite the major disruptions they face.

We make a passionate plea on behalf of the community, especially for the safety of our children. Many need to cross the A224 to catch their school buses each morning, and parents are increasingly choosing to drive them instead—simply because they are too afraid to let their children cross the road alone. Similarly, many residents who used to walk to Knockholt Railway Station to commute to London now use their cars, which is adding to traffic and pollution. The time it takes to wait for a gap in traffic to cross the road could cause pedestrians to take risks to avoid missing their bus or train. This is not a sustainable or acceptable situation. The fear and anxiety felt by families every day is real and growing.



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We urge you to raise these urgent concerns with the relevant authorities (we have already represented it to the senior levels at SDC & they have in turn represented these concerns to Kent Highways) and advocate for the immediate inclusion of the proposed safeguards. The well-being, safety, and future of our residents—particularly our youngest—must not be compromised by poor planning oversight. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would be grateful for your support and are happy to provide further information if required.

Yours sincerely,

**On behalf of Badgers Mount Parish Council**

Clerk-Badgers Mount Parish Council

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