

Appendix C

9 Higham Road
Wainscott
Rochester
Kent
ME3 8BE

Julie Keith
Head of Democratic Services
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
Kent
ME4 4TR

18th August 2009

To the Head of Democratic Services,

Re: Request for Traffic Calming Measures in Higham Road

I write regarding the letter dated 12th August 2009 that I received from the Director's Office, Regeneration, Community and Culture, on 15th August 2009.

I am dissatisfied with the response for the following reasons:

- There are 70 houses in Higham Road. 86% of these households signed the Petition. This represents a substantial proportion of households who believe there is a significant problem with speeding traffic and the careless behaviour of motorists who use the road.
- Whilst there are no records of any personal injury accidents in Higham Road, during the collection of Petition signatures I was made aware of several damage only accidents. These included vehicles hit as they tried to exit their driveways along with accident damage to parked vehicles. In view of the recent double fatality in Station Road, Strood, it is astounding that Medway Council continues to decline implementation of traffic calming measures until personal injury/fatality has occurred regardless of any advice this may happen unless prevention is carried out.
- Since their installation (see covering letter to the Petition) at least five of the recently installed pavement bollards have been damaged or knocked over. This is just a small indication of the careless behaviour of motorists who use the road.
- On Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April 2003 an exhibition regarding new traffic proposals was held at Wainscott Memorial Hall. The Medway Council news release stated:

'It is being organised by Medway Council following representations about problems after the opening of the Wainscott by-pass.'

*'The aim of the exhibition is to seek the public's views on the work carried out by consultants; proposals to re-open the junction of Benenden Road with Frindsbury Hill with a new layout and **traffic calming measures in Wainscott Road and Higham Road.**'*

This demonstrates how Medway Council was aware of the traffic problems caused by the opening of the Wainscott Bypass but although Higham Road residents attended the exhibition with some offering suggestions, six years on the problem still exists. Higham Road has been particularly affected by the bypass as the non-inclusion of appropriate slip roads at the B2000 means that traffic wise, Higham Road (a residential road) takes the place of these slip roads and therefore supports the associated volumes of traffic. Furthermore, this exhibition shows that Medway Council were prepared to consider traffic calming without the need for personal injury/fatality as a prerequisite.

- With the advent of the Liberty Park housing development the character of Wainscott and in particular, Higham Road has been spoiled. Also, at the Frindsbury Extra Parish Council Meeting dated 23rd October 2008, it was recorded:

'Cllr Coomber's written report was tabled:

*I met with David Warner (Medway Council, Highways) last Friday regarding **the £20k (Wainscott Road & Higham Road)** and £70k (Brompton Farm Road & Hollywood Lane) S106 traffic calming monies due from the Liberty Park developments. I made a few suggestions, and he and his colleagues will look at how best to spend these sums, and revert with proposals.'*

What has happened to the £20,000 Section 106 agreement money allocated to Wainscott and Higham Road for traffic calming?

Aside from the above, the residents welcome the suggested implementation of a traffic survey on Higham Road. However, the timing and positioning of any survey is crucial and in order to facilitate this initiative, the residents of numbers 9, 32 and 50 are pleased to offer their driveways for appropriate use.

Yours faithfully,

Debbie Hughes (On behalf of Mrs Mel Hughes).

cc: Councillor Hicks, Frindsbury Extra Parish Council
Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture
Caroline Salisbury, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Democratic Services
Bob Marshall Andrews QC, MP