



Tim Prater
Shepway Liberal Democrats
82A Sandgate High Street, Folkestone CT20 3BX
tim@shepwaylibdems.org.uk
01303 851251



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RE: Truck Off Campaign to stop Lorry Parking on Cheriton High Street Slip Road

Dear Resident,

As you may already know, a couple of weeks ago I and the local Lib Dem team helped launch the "Truck Off" campaign to try to get positive action to reduce the lorry parking in the Cheriton High Street slip road. Although there is a KCC plan proposed to deal with the problem permanently, this plan has been awaited for many months, with no sign of action to date.

I'm delighted to say that the campaign seems to be improving the situation - and it's entirely thanks to local residents. The increased car parking in the layby has made lorry parking there less easy, and the temporary signs we erected requesting lorry drivers not to park there also seem to have had an impact.

Thank You. Please do continue to park where possible in the slip road - if the spaces are taken by cars, they cannot be used by lorries, which will make the area better for all local residents, and especially those who are immediately by the slip road.

You can learn more about the Truck Off Campaign from www.truckoff.org.uk. As a result of some significant publicity we have received for the campaign on local television and the lorry trade press, we have had a lot of comment and questions from lorry drivers from across the country.

I've been happy to reassure them that we are not "anti-lorry" and would support proper appropriate parking facilities for drivers - but that we are certainly against parking of HGVs in residential areas, and in that location in particular. Many lorry drivers understand the issue - for example as one said:

"Knowing the particular lay-by, it is a right mess. The verges are chewed to hell because for some reason drivers insist on pulling onto the grass, no idea why the layby is plenty wide enough."

Having seen the success of the campaign so far, I have now written to Shepway Council that asking them to replace the temporary plastic signs with permanent signs. I have also requested a verge bollard at the approach to the slip road and the reinstatement of the verges and kerb stones along the slip road. I will update you on any reply.

I hope this is of help - please do contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

Tim Prater
Campaigner for Cheriton