

Rusthall Parish Council

Report of meeting held on 9th February at Freight Transport Association offices

Present: Nathalie Chapman, Head of Policy for Londong & South East

Jennifer Blackburn, Chair Rusthall Parish Council
Neil Barrington-Johnson, Speldhurst Parish Council
Sheridan Bowie, Southborough Town Council

We met to discuss the increasing use of certain rural lanes by large freight vehicles whci cause blockages and concern to local residents.

This was a useful meeting that clarified several issues:

1. FTA members do not use personal satnavs but commercial versions which recommended for the specific vehicle.
2. Foreign vehicles do not appear to be a huge problem but Police can help
3. There is a website called Freight Gateway which helps to ensure that correct information gets into large fleet systems.
4. Lorry Watch might help to collect data and information about companies abusing our rural lanes

We did not come up with any solutions but there things that we can do:

1. Contact Spa Garage about car transporters using Broomhill Road.
2. Consider 3 signs at strategic locations. NC felt that too many signs would be counter productive and expensive.
3. Engage with KCC Highways about updating of county data upon which Satnav suppliers rely for information.
4. Engage with KCC Highways about large vehicles using unsuitable roads possibly as a topic for their next seminar to generate a wider discussion.
5. Contact Kent Police Commercial Vehicle Unit who have 2 dedicated officers who deal with this area.

6. The 3 councils to consider Lorry Watch in specific sites ie. Church Rd in S'boro; Coach Rd in Rusthall and Speldhurst Rd or Barden Rd in Speldhurst. Councillors to discuss with their councils and seek more information about it.

There is no easy solution but we can all do something to raise the issue and also demonstrate to local residents that we are trying...

JB to contact Kent Police about Commercial Vehicle Unit and Lorry Watch.

SB to talk to S'boro Town Council chairman who is also a KCC councillor.

All 3 to report to their councils.