

Yet again I feel compelled to write about transport related issues in my weekly column because in most parts of my constituency it is becoming an increasingly bad problem. Traffic has always been an issue at certain pinch points, such as the Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade roundabouts, New Hythe Lane, Quarry Wood and Junction 4. However of late it just seems to be getting worse. The pinch points still exist yet the problem is spreading and not to the extent of a minor inconvenience but to major gridlock causing people to be late for school, work and health appointments.

Earlier this week I wrote on my Facebook page a post about the chaos in Aylesford Village caused yet again by the railway barriers coming down for too long. The problem has been there for a while but with the new timetable in place and late running freight trains, the gridlock either side of the crossing has got worse and is fast becoming a safety issue.

When you add into the mix the traffic delays at Hermitage Lane, Quarry Wood, the A20 Ditton crossroads, Larkfield lights and Junction 4 tailbacks it is clear that we have a major problem around the area which needs serious attention from the authorities with responsibility for this. Authorities blaming each other for creating the problem in the first place is a waste of time and not helping improve the situation.

We have major routes of education, healthcare and employment at a standstill most mornings and evenings and it needs to be sorted now. Until this is done and there is near enough a free flowing traffic system most of the time, real consideration needs to be given as to whether we can actually cope with more housing development, and from residents comments to my Facebook post I am thinking that is someway off yet.