

Living locally means shopping locally. I, like thousands of residents, use our local supermarkets for weekly groceries and like many other working people do the shopping at the weekends. For the past few months the traffic issues getting in and out of the Quarry Wood retail estate in Aylesford have been getting worse. I have seen it for myself. One Saturday the traffic was so bad we actually re-parked and went back to the shops for a coffee – it was no better when we returned to the car. A recent Sunday saw us sitting in the car for 45 minutes just to get to the roundabout. And while doing the Poppy Appeal a lady told me her friend had been in standstill traffic for 2 hours.

I thought a few months ago that perhaps the traffic problems were related to a change in timings for the lights. Then I put it down to some flooding on the A20 following a heavy downpour. I think in hindsight it was generous of me to find alternative reasons for this chaos, when actually it is just poor traffic management.

It is fantastic that we have new retail sites opening across Quarry Wood. I'd be lying if I said I didn't use the new shops but more importantly than my selfish needs are that they are employing lots of new people and bringing money into the local economy. However, it appears that the infrastructure needs haven't been taken into account alongside the openings. And with more retail development off Hermitage Lane it can only get worse.

Comments on my recent Facebook post confirm not just the current problem but concerns about the future. I have written to KCC raising these issues and certainly when I meet I will suggest the need to review the direction and flow of the estate. In the meantime please keep your comments coming with your views on the estate.