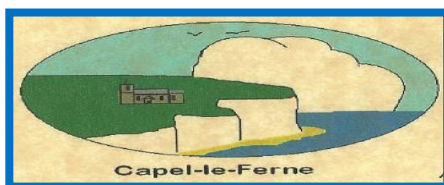


# CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council  
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24 July 2016

Matthew Scott  
 Kent Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Kent Police Headquarters,  
 Sutton Road,  
 Maidstone,  
 Kent,  
 ME15 9BZ

Dear Mr Scott and all other agencies

## Access to Dover Town and Port of Dover – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

On behalf of Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council, I have been requested to contact you with our grave concerns of the experiences this weekend, on accessing the Dover Town and Port of Dover. This can only be described as, “complete chaos” on the roads surrounding Dover, especially on the B2011 through Capel-le-Ferne (from Folkestone to Dover) and Capel Street (a very small rural country lane that leads into the back of Dover).

From our village point of view, we appear to have suffered complete lockdown from Friday evening, through to late Saturday afternoon. This Parish Council find this totally unacceptable, as many of our residents were unable to leave their properties and/or travel out of the village for fear of not being able to return home. Those that did, suffered unbearable lengths of time on the road to get back. Our residents had to drive on pavements or the other side of the highway to get anywhere.

One of the main concerns in our rural area was the total lack of Police presence, or anyone in Authority from other Agencies, to tell people what was going on, or to reassure the drivers caught up in the chaos. There were HGVs, coaches and holiday makers in their cars combined on the B2011. Some HGVs were trying to by-pass the B2011 and shortcut to Dover via Capel Street and getting stuck in this very narrow rural road. This resulted in several residents assisting the drivers to manoeuvre vehicles out of trouble and back on to the main road.

We had some lovely villagers out Saturday morning offering cold drinks and toilet facilities to families caught up in this, one resident reporting they had about 30 people in to use their facilities. They were also checking the Internet and Social Media for information and passing on what could be gathered. We think this is called “the Community Spirit”, something this Parish Council believe in, but was lacking from all other Agencies during Saturday and we are feeling “let-down” accordingly.

Capel-le-Ferne was obviously not a priority on Saturday, even our own PCSO, (who was due to attend our Village Fete being held the same day), was instructed to remain in Dover Town. No buses or taxis operated, so the village was effectively “gridlocked” because of lack of foresight by all agencies concerned. The combination of extra security checks by French Customs and the expected holiday traffic must have been foreseen, therefore, why was Operation Stack not put into force immediately (as we endured last year)? This would at least of helped the situation by keeping the HGVs isolated on the M20 and off the rural country roads.

TAP (Traffic Assessment Phase) on the A20, was supposed to be a temporary assessment, but has now been in force for well over one year and still no conclusion of an outcome. TAP is considered by many to NOT be a success! A variable speed limit is required on the A20 and would make a considerable difference and stop local traffic, replacement rail buses and emergency services (using their sirens at all hours due to high volumes of traffic), from using the B2011 through our village as a short cut.

We would urge you all to convene another urgent multi-agency meeting, when you and the Kent Police, Charlie Elphicke MP, and/or any other representative of agencies concerned can further discuss the problems in Dover Town and Port of Dover. We would also urge you all too, PLEASE remember the outlying villages of Dover suffering because of all this traffic chaos. This has been on-going now for a considerable length of time with talks of lorry parks and with promise after promise of sorting out by other ways and means, and NOW, we believe, this is long overdue.

This Parish Council welcomes all your responses to this, from whatever Agency you represent, in order to pass on to our Electorate. Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council would like to give our residents the assurance this constant outlandish situation we are all enduring, will not continue. Therefore, to comply with the Department for Communities and Local Government Transparency Code for Small Authorities, we will be publishing this letter and any replies received.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Maureen Leppard  
Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council Clerk

Copy to:

*Charlie Elphicke MP,*

*Port of Dover – Anthony Greenwood,*

*Kent Police – Inspector Nick Sparkes,*

*Highway England – Kevin Bown,*

*Kent County Council – Paul Carter, Cllr: Matthew Balfour, Cllr: Geoff Lymer,*

*Dover District Council – Paul Watkins, Cllr: Frederick Scales and Cllr: Nigel Collor  
and*

*Chief Executive Kent Association of Local Councils – Terry Martin.*