



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

24 March 2021

Cllr Martin Cox
Leader, Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JQ

Dear Cllr Cox,

Over the past few days many residents in Watringbury have raised concerns and objections in relation to proposals included within planning application 19/504910/OUT at the former Syngenta Works in Yalding, on the basis that if this application is approved then it would include tens of thousands of pounds worth of contributions towards works at Watringbury crossroads.

Residents are concerned that this has been sought despite a scheme being rejected in late 2019, as it was considered it would not improve the quality of life for residents in the village. Watringbury crossroads suffers from traffic, speeding and pollution concerns and is indeed the most polluted part of Tonbridge and Malling. This is despite the wonderful work of so many local volunteers to address the issue, for example by installing the new living wall.

I would appreciate it if you could address why Maidstone Borough Council is seeking contributions for an already rejected scheme as part of this planning application, particularly when there are no alternative solutions which have been identified which would clearly benefit residents in Watringbury as well. While the issues in the village need to be resolved, there is significant concern that the approach by Maidstone Borough Council will revitalise a proposal that was widely opposed just a couple of years ago.

I would be grateful if you could answer these concerns and let me know how Maidstone Borough Council intends to resolve this.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best wishes,

Tom Tugendhat

TOM TUGENDHAT

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

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