

I am going to use this column to return to my pet hate – traffic. Particularly traffic on Hermitage Lane and the A20.

It drives me bonkers and it is only going to get worse. We use Hermitage Lane at least 3 times a day and I cannot remember a journey where we were not crawling along towards the numerous sets of lights that have now sprung up along the road.

Yes it is annoying for me and there is only so many farm animals you can think Old Macdonald had before your toddler gets irate stuck in his chair looking at the blinking red brake lights of the cars ahead but my worry is for those businesses that lose money day in and day out clocking up time in a queue.

The same is for the A20. Flooding outside Homebase means jams that cost time and therefore money, plus are dangerous for passing pedestrians. The Larkfield A20 corridor, New Hythe Lane and Lunsford Lane are car parks for most rush hours and it drives motorists mad and residents to worry about their health from the fumes.

So what can be done? Well the first thing is to consider whether we have the infrastructure, especially roads, can cope with anymore housebuilding. My view is it cannot. Reviews are constantly being done on the road infrastructure but nothing actually happens. The changes on Hermitage Lane have only provided a part solution to the flow of traffic and I challenge any highways officer to come sit with me in the car one afternoon and tell me it is working as it should.

When local authorities consider their housebuilding needs the roads and other infrastructure should be put front and centre of that decision and until that is done I am refusing to support any major housebuilding proposals in the local area.