

FANT LABOUR HART STREET SPECIAL - MARCH 2021



Councillors Paul Harper, Keith Adkinson
and Margaret Rose

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Lockmeadow & Hart Street

The Council has announced plans to improve Lockmeadow. There will be a new 8 station food hall, improved outdoor seating and a new playground. **Cllr Keith Adkinson** said "I am looking forward to the new food hall with the opportunity to taste different types of food, with the opportunity to either sit outside on the new terrace watching the world and Medway flow by or indoors."



Margaret Rose

Cllr Margaret Rose said "the playground will be great for the children who live in Barker and Hart Street as far as Clifford Way as currently there are no easily accessible playgrounds for the children, except for going to Clare or Cornwallis Parks and this one will be on the Medway Towpath."

We know as do all residents of the area that grid lock frequently occurs, especially when McDonalds is busy and when events or films in Lockmeadow start and finish. The



Looking down Hart Street

fundamental problem is as **Patrick Coates** (Fant Labour Team member) said "The developments along Hart Street should never have been allowed with just one entry/ exit point. To have a Leisure Complex, Take Away's, DIY Stores, the Law Courts and over 700 residential homes all with only one way in and out is bad planning."



Patrick Coates

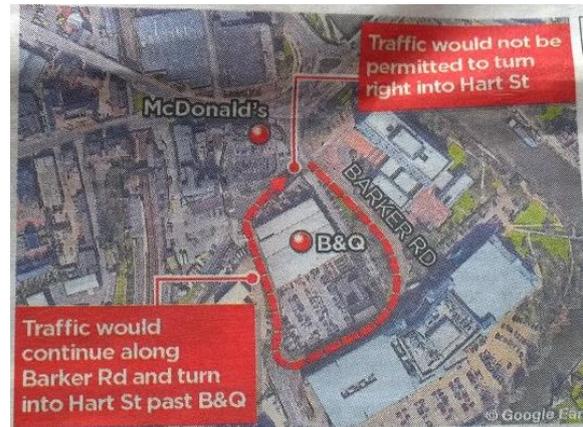


Paul Harper

Over the years options have been looked at and discounted for example exiting via the Maidstone West Railway Station Car Park, **Cllr Paul Harper** said "This option was looked into but would only move the problem further along Tonbridge Road and create worse traffic conditions on Tonbridge Road and so was ruled out."

It is only through your Labour Councillors raising the issue continually over 2019 and 2020, that some action now seems to be coming forward.

Cllrs Margaret Rose & Paul Harper have been working on the fact that Hart Street residents for years have struggled with the traffic congestion, & periodic gridlock. There now seems to be a partial solution. This involves putting in intelligent traffic lights at the Hart Street/ Broadway junction, which hopefully will give greater priority to Hart Street Traffic trying to get out. It will also involve reversing the current one way part of Hart Street to create a one-way flow into & out of McDonalds. It will be supported by improved walking and cycling facilities, and should help reduce congestion. It is worth giving it a go as there are few other practicable solutions we can see. This is shown in the attached outline map.



Paul Harper & Patrick Coates

Cllr Margaret Rose and Paul Harper said "We hope that when tested this helps alleviates some of the current problems. By making access and exit to McDonalds more of a gyratory, it should provide that extra bit of capacity to reduce the number of times the area gridlocks."



Entrance to one way road to be reversed

Patrick Coates said "we would welcome your feedback on these or any other issues affecting the Hart Street neighbourhood, so that we can continue to work with you to make your area of Fant a better place to live and work. Our contact details are on this newsletter"



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