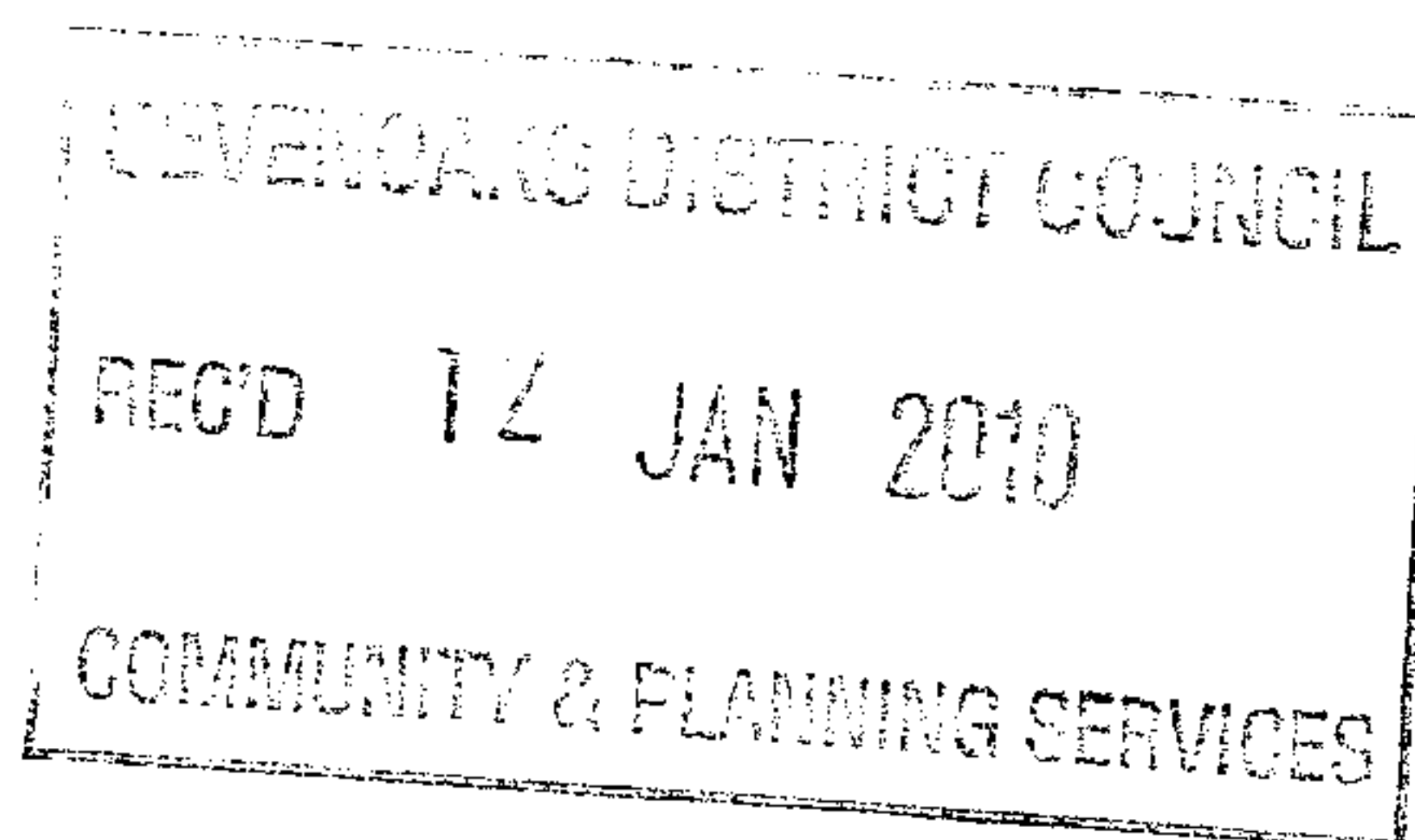


SEVENOAKS 10/15/10 \$ ST JOHNS
166190

WEALDEN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

99 St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 3PE
Tel: 01732 740047
Fax: 01732 740049



Our Ref: WJT/IT
Your Ref:

8 January 2010

Kristen Paterson
Director of Community & Planning Services
Sevenoaks District Council
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN131GN

Dear Sir

**re: The Kent County Council (Various Roads in the District of Sevenoaks)
Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting, Disabled Person Parking Places,
And On Street Parking Places (Amendment No. 7) Order 2009**

I wish to lodge a formal complaint in the manner Mr A Bracey a Senior Engineer for traffic and parking in your Department has conducted an 'Informal' consultation in respect of the above Order utilised to implement additional on street waiting and parking restrictions on St Johns Hill and in Hospital Road and Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks. My understanding of the word 'consultation' is to take advice from, in this instance shopkeepers and local residents, for due consideration for the greater good of the community. In my judgement, this cannot be done at 'arms length', which is the practice of this Local Government Officer. By the gravity of the proposals, Mr Bracey should, at the very least, visit the community and speak to those who will be affected by the imposition of double yellow lines. He has demonstrably failed in this exercise. This was more than demonstrated by the last debacle he was involved with, namely, the implementation of the linage on upper St Johns Hill and the Dartford Road which still rancours with the traders in this secondary/tertiary shopping area that is not serviced by a nearby public car park and relies solely on customers finding on street parking. I would remind you that a Local Authority has a duty to foster local business but patently it has failed in its responsibility by a fetish to paint unnecessary yellow lines around our roads. It is more than apparent that Mr Bracey seeks to justify his status by introducing yellow linage in these instances against the interest and wishes of the local populace. In spite of all the objective representation that were made regarding the introduction of more yellow linage to restrain parking in the surrounding area of upper St Johns Hill, Dartford Road and Vine Court Road, these were ignored by Mr Bracey and the Council's Transport Committee. What consultation took place: precisely none !

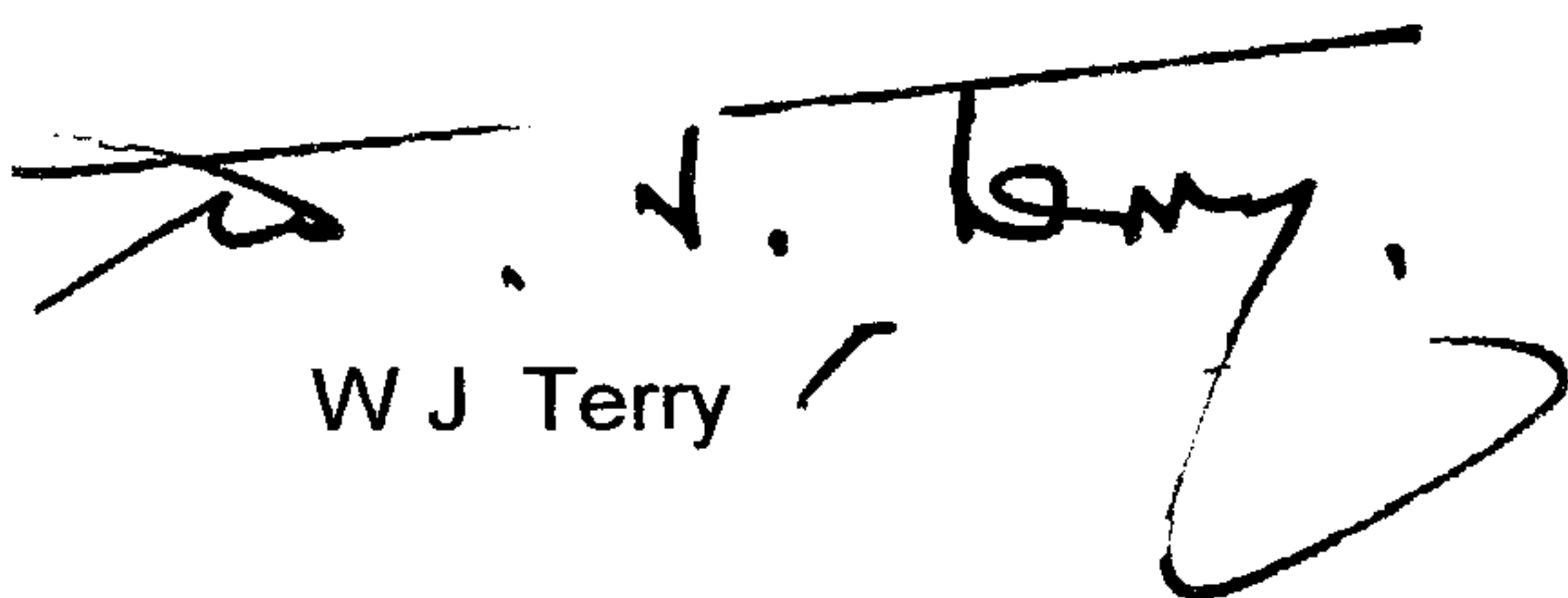
What I personally found frustrating to the point of annoyance was the so called consultation period which was initiated to take place over the Christmas and New Year holidays with an end time not for Monday 11th January but of all things on Sunday the 10th January ! Was it Mr Bracey's intention to push through the introduction of more road restrictions by default ? It would certainly appear to be so by closing a consultation time over an extended Public Bank Holiday. As far as traders in upper and lower St Johns Hill are concerned all credibility in the Sevenoaks District Council as represented by Mr Bracey has been lost. The conduct of the Council's policy towards the implementation of waiting and parking restrictions is arbitrary and dictatorial. The current exercise of 'consultation' is solely a misnomer for the forced introduction of unwarranted restraints on vehicular parking and waiting.

The problem of congestion in St Johns arises from the inadequacy of the Bat & Ball traffic lights to control traffic in its movement northwards along the A225. This will be further exacerbated should Sainsbury gain planning permission to extend its existing store where it seeks to double its size. So serious has the build up of traffic become at peak times in recent years it has become impossible for windows to be opened during the day onto St Johns Hill because of the noise and pollution being generated. It becomes virtually impracticable to operate from my office at 99 St Johns Hill after 3pm during a weekday by the fumes that emanate from the vehicles slowly moving down the hill. Would you like carbon monoxide to be pumped into your office? Has this factor been taken into consideration by your Senior Engineer ?

The Kent County Council's Order 2009 is not being applied democratically and should the SDC persist in its enforcements then it will be unreservedly challenged in the High Court.

Finally, I enclose a self evident petition that you may wish to discuss with Mr Bracey.

Yours faithfully,


W J Terry

**The Kent County Council (Various Roads in the District of Sevenoaks)
Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting, Disabled Person Parking Places
And On Street Parking Places (Amendment No. 7) Order 2009**

We the undersigned hereby declare that we object to the Sevenoaks District Council's latest proposals to introduce additional on-street vehicular or waiting and parking restrictions in St Johns, Sevenoaks, and its surrounding roads

NAME	BUSINESS/ADDRESS
K. GEMMILL	THE PAUGH DECI 117 ST. JOHNS HILL DOUBLE YELLOW LINES NOT NEEDED
M STRATTON	IVC SIGNS 121 ST JOHNS HILL LEAVE SINGLE LINE FOR LOADING & UNLOADING. Priority - Trying to make it more difficult for proprietors in a poor market
Yusuf	SEVENOAKS KEBAB
K. GEMMILL	HAT & HALL Pharmacy 135 ST JOHNS HILL / ENGLM. ST. JOHNS.
A. SRIZOV	CORAL 131 ST JOHNS HILL
F. SALES	CORAL 11
W. MILLER	DOMINO'S PIZZA - WE NEED WAITING IN THE EVENING TIME FOR OUR CUSTOMERS
PETER WILSON	JULLEY FISH & CHIPS - 93 ST JOHNS HILL 89 ST JOHNS HILL SEVENOAKS
93-Fish & Chips shop.	13 ST JAMES RD SEVENOAK TN13 3UH
EDWARD STALEY	TOTALY UNNECESSARY.
NICK LAWRENCE	Baguette Me Not's! would be crippling for already hard business 114 St Johns Hill. - PLEASE SEE MY ETTAK.
Bahadır Koca	Sevenoaks Flourish 122 St Johns Hill Serv.
Bahadır Koca	Blockbuster - sevenoaks 142 St Johns Hill
A. COODER	PAPRIKA 91 ST. JOHNS HILL TN13 3PE
Sandra Calks.	The Lantern 3 Carlton Parade TN13 3WZ
YVETTE EVEREST	Coop St Johns Hill - Rely on customer parking especially evening time.
ABDUL KADIR	Puddleducks - 116 St Johns Hill Need area outside for customer & deliveries to unload
CHII KAN	Jonathan Stratten Jon Paul Hairdressers 118 St Johns Hill
A. HAYNES - Manager	PASO VECE CAPTAIN'S CABIN - 561 SHOP 112/111 ST. JOHNS HILL WE REQUIRE PARKING/WAITING OUTSIDE, ON ST BUSINESS HOURS Peter
J. BADDELEY	
Jonathan Stratten	
PASO VECE	

Deputy Chief Executive and
Director of Community and Planning Services:
Kristen Paterson



Mr W J Terry
Wealden Property Management
99 St Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 3PE

Tel No: 01732 227262
Ask for: Richard Wilson
Email: richard.wilson@sevenoaks.gov.uk
My Ref: 2339/166190/GC/RW/ds
Your Ref: WJT/IT
Date: 27 January 2010

Dear Mr Terry

**Re: Complaint to the Council (Parking and Amenities)
Proposed Waiting Restrictions – St Johns Hill, Sevenoaks**

Further to your letter received on 8th January 2010 concerning the Council's proposals to amend various waiting restrictions in St Johns Hill and adjoining roads. I have now had the opportunity to review your complaint at Stage 1 of the District Council's complaints procedure.

I note your comments and dissatisfaction regarding the way we have conducted the consultation for these proposals.

Consultation is undertaken in two stages. Firstly, informal consultation is carried out which involves consulting those properties in the immediate vicinity of the proposals to gauge the level of feeling one way or the other as to the likely success of the proposals and to establish whether any adjustments, where possible, may be required. Secondly, formal consultation is carried out which involves publication of the proposals to give any person the opportunity to comment or to raise an objection. As part of this process, we also write to each property adjacent the proposals to notify of the formal consultation and to invite comments.

The proposals for the St Johns Hill area, which includes adjoining roads such as Wickenden Road and St. James Road, are in response to parking issues raised with the Council and follow-on from subsequent investigation of the situation by the Council's Senior Engineer. The aim of the proposals is to improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion by preventing parking at and near junctions and along the main road on the approach to the Bat and Ball junction.



Whilst I note your understanding of the meaning of "consultation", from the Council's point of view, I would consider this to involve informing people of the proposals and giving them an opportunity to make their views known so that these may then be taken into account in our on-going consideration of the matter. A point of contact is given should further information be required. This is our normal process in relation to Traffic Regulation Order proposals and complies with the requirements of the Kent County Council as Highway Authority, to which we have to adhere.

I do not accept your inference that we have not undertaken adequate consultation in this instance. In writing to the businesses and properties in the areas adjacent to the proposals, we have, indeed, contacted the very people who are likely to be affected and given the opportunity to comment.

With regard to the timing of the consultation over the Christmas period, I acknowledge that, perhaps, it would have been better to have avoided this particular time of year. In this case, however, the proposals are not at all involved but straightforward and, therefore, the amount of time needed for their consideration should not be unduly high. Therefore, although the fact that the consultation period extended over the Christmas period is regrettable, I do not believe this would have materially prevented people from submitting comments to us should they have wished so to do.

You mention congestion caused by the Bat and Ball traffic light junction and the related effects of pollution from queuing traffic. Due to the high level of pollution being experienced, this junction is one of the sites within the District which was designated as an Air Quality Management Area. This places an obligation upon the Council, in conjunction with Kent County Council as highway authority, to try and identify suitable traffic congestion reduction proposals to reduce the impact of traffic pollution. We are currently working closely with the County Council to identify ways to achieve this. By deterring the stopping and parking of cars on the approach to the junction, the proposal to amend the yellow line restrictions would tend to support the aims of improving air quality in the area.

In summary, I do not consider the Council to be at fault in the way the consultation has been undertaken with, perhaps, the exception that the Christmas period could have been avoided. In respect to Mr Bracey, I feel that the level of criticism directed at him is unjustified. Mr Bracey undertakes an often difficult role in difficult circumstances and he has the support of the Council in the work he undertakes and the manner in which it is carried out.

We will, of course, take your comments fully into account along with all others received in determining whether, and the extent to which, the proposals should be amended.

In respect to the petition, I have discussed this with our Democratic Services team and it will now be put before the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, rather than Full Council. The Joint Board is the relevant committee for the consideration of on-street parking issues and objections and is the committee which will be considering our report on objections received as part of the recent consultation. I hope, therefore, that you will accept that this would be a more appropriate way to draw the petition to the attention of Members. However, should you still wish it to be brought to Full

Council as originally intended, then please contact me to confirm and I will make the necessary arrangements. The next meeting of the Joint Transportation Board will be on 16th March.

Having completed a thorough investigation the Council now considers this complaint closed. You may however request to have this reply reviewed by the Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Community & Planning on behalf of the Chief Executive. If you wish to do so, please list the reasons for your request and provide copies of any supplementary evidence to support this.

Should you decide to move to Stage 2 of the complaints procedure, please contact the Complaints Coordinator by email at feedback@sevenoaks.gov.uk or by letter to:

Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1HG

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Wilson
Head of Environmental and Operational Services