

Nailbourn Perfecta Society

3, Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury, CT4 6JG

The County Surveyor,
Highways Dept.,
K.C.C. Maidstone.

4th. August, 1983

Dear Sir,

re A2 SIGNS

On or about 16th. July 1983 two unsightly signs were erected on the A2, some four miles east of Canterbury and towards Dover. These signs advertise a future local radio station.

This Society is not particularly concerned with the merits or demerits of local radio, nor with advertising travel news, but these two signs, huge in construction, unnecessary in the information given, and ugly, are incongruous sited in a lovely Kent valley. Why has a beautiful Valley been spoilt by such unnecessary and unmeritorious signs? They should be removed promptly.

Can you please advise :

1. Was any Planning Permission required of Kent County Council for the erection of these signs?
2. If so, by whom was the Application made?
3. What is the proper procedure which should be followed by any organisation wishing to gain permission for the erection of such advertising signs on Kent trunk roads?
4. Can you please confirm or otherwise, that earlier this year K.C.C. required Canterbury City Council to remove similar signs, erected in the same vicinity on the A2, advertising the City of Canterbury?

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Ian D. Taylor,
Hon. Secretary.

3 Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury,
CT4 6JG.

4.8.83.

To: The County Surveyor
Highways Dept.
K.C.C. Maidstone.

Dear Sir,

Re: A2 SIGNS

On or about 16th July 1983 two unsightly signs were erected on the A2, some four miles east of Canterbury and towards Dover. These signs advertise a future local radio station.

This Society is not particularly concerned with the merits or demerits of local radio, nor with advertising travel news, but these two signs, huge in construction, unnecessary in the information given, and ugly, are incongruous sited in a lovely Kent valley. Why has a beautiful Valley been spoilt by such unnecessary and unmeritorious signs? *They should be removed promptly.*
Can you please advise:

1.

1. Was any Planning Permission required of Kent County Council for the erection of these signs?

2. If so, by whom was the Application made?

3. What is the ~~policy of your Department to the erection of advertising signs of this nature on trunk roads in Kent?~~

proper procedure which should be followed by any organisation wishing to gain permission for the erection of such signs on Kent trunk roads.

4. *advertising* Can you please confirm or otherwise, that earlier this year K.C.C. required Canterbury City Council to remove similar signs, erected in the same vicinity on the A2, advertising the City of Canterbury?

~~These signs should be removed promptly.~~

Yours faithfully,

MR Ian D. Taylor

Hon. Sec.

THE BRIDGE BY PASS

The Editor, The Kentish Gazette.

Dear Sir,

The proposed plan to by pass Bridge by a northern route has given rise to so much talk and correspondence that certain facts are being obscured.

The northern by pass has been on the drawing boards for some twenty years, and it is no sudden whim of bureaucracy. The planning staffs and our elected representatives at Kent County Council and Bridge Blean Rural District must be given some credit for technical expertise and for integrity.

Anyone who has built or bought a house in this area during recent years must have known about this northern route. It is rather late in the day to discover objections now.

From the present uproar it is evident that those who live south of the A.2. and many who live north, agree with the Kent County Council. EVERYONE agrees on the vital necessity of the by pass. However some who live on the north are now advocating a southern route, and agitating for a Public Enquiry, presumably with the aim of tearing to pieces the long drawn up plans of local authority. A Public Enquiry whatever the conclusion, can only lead to delay, and to considerable trouble and expense on the part of tax and rate payers, of amenity societies and any individuals concerned.

Surely two factors must have priority;

- (a) The effect on the environment, which will be everlasting.
- (b) The urgency of the matter, in the interest of Bridge and the many users of the A.2.

The case for the environment can be reduced to one simple equation; BIFFONS PARK versus BOURNE PARK. (Both Petrixbourne with the proposed Juct and Bishopsbourne with the spagnetti junction, will be effected to a certain extent by the northern route, the southern route would spare Petrixbourne but spoil Bishopsbourne.)

Whilst admitting the manifest attractions of Biffons Park, it cannot be said with honesty that it surpasses Bourne Park. Bourne Park is a national asset. The well preserved Georgian mansion stands in a lavishly landscaped park, with an ornamental lake and a bridge over the Millbourne an

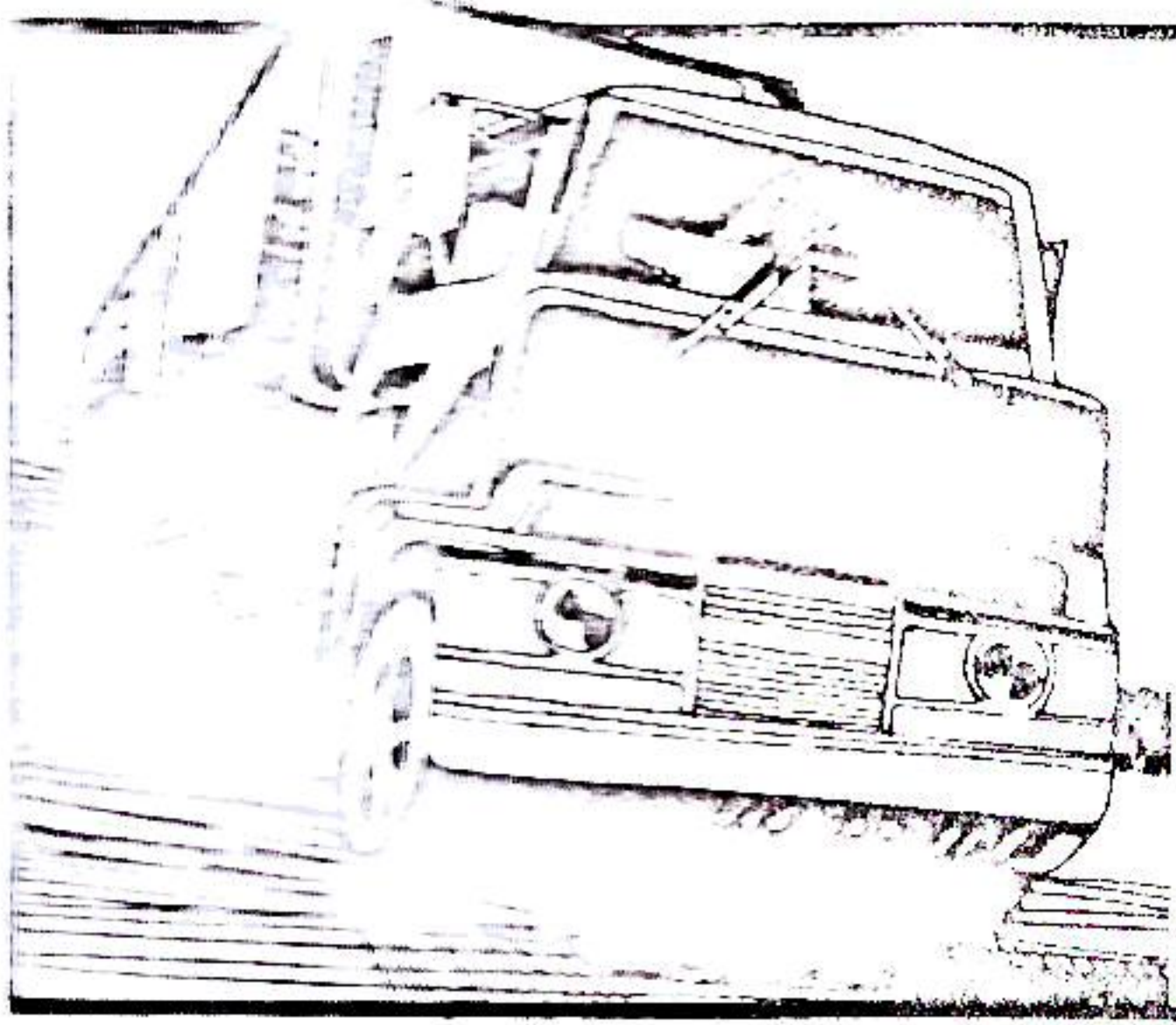
and ... and copse of mature beeches and other fine trees. Oswalds,
once ... of Joseph Conrad, Bishopsbourne Church and other histor.
buildings stand on the perimeter. This complete and peaceful scene *is enjoyed*
by ... than local visitors and any attempt to ruin Bourne Park would
be ... most strongly, not only by many individuals who care for
country ... but amenity societies concerned with the preservation of
Kent.

The urgency needs no explanation, Bridge has suffered for years.
Any further delay increases the damage and danger to property and to
life. The chances of a minority, however vociferous, in persuading
government from changing the northern route must be minimal. The
consequent delay if these individuals force an enquiry, is certain.
Surely this is a case for commonsense and objectivity, and for leaving
the experts and our elected representatives to get on with the job in
a way which has the least adverse effect on the environment and on the
majority.

The Paddock
Bishopsbourne.

G.G. Abbott.

51755



Bridge-Canterbury Traffic Group

Campaign to keep Motel traffic out of Bridge and Canterbury

Chairman:
Alan Howland, 'White Gates',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs Pat Wilmshurst, 'Deanley',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Committee:
Dr Stuart Field, 'Bourne's Corner',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Norman Fowler, 'River House',
High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA
Mrs Pleasance Kirk, 'Wych Elm',
High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ
John Purchase, 'Mill Cottage',
Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5HD
Mrs Margaret Reed, 87 New Dover
Road, Canterbury CT1 3ED
Ian Taylor, 3 Whitelocks Close,
Kingston, Canterbury CT4 6JG

27th October, 1983.

Mr. I. Taylor,
3 Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury CT4 6JG.

Dear Ian,

You may recall that at the time the Group was formed the Nailbourne Protection Society very kindly donated £100. towards our funds on the understanding that in the event of any money remaining at the end of the campaign we would repay their kindness.

I feel the time has come to decide whether or not to disband the Group and if so what to do with the £76. still in the Building Society.

Although a second 'Motel' scheme has been proposed, little seems to have progressed in physical terms. From the proposals put forward at the public meeting last winter it would not appear to pose anywhere near such a threat to Bridge as the original scheme.

I am, therefore, proposing we either maintain a status quo situation or disband the Group and return the £76. to the Nailbourne Protection Society.

Please let me know your views on the above proposal plus any other suggestion you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Howland

APE/CB

HEAVY LORRY SURVEY

The Faversham Society is conducting this survey to find out people's views about heavy traffic near their homes. We are distributing this form to 1,000 homes on the main heavy traffic routes.

To help us complete the survey please could you fill in the questions below, and return the completed form to: "Fleur de Lis", Preston Street, Faversham.

Your answers are very important to us as we want to make sure our final report represents a true cross section of opinion. Everything you write will be completely confidential, and need not put your name and address on the form.

Copies of the final report will be sent to newspapers, M.P.'s, Kent County Council, Swale Council, Councillors etc.

Please put a tick in the boxes provided.

Name of your street

(1) Would you say that traffic near your home is a problem to your family in any way?

YES NO

(2) Which kind of vehicles cause most of the problems:

Cars, Vans etc. Heavy Lorries (T.I.R.)

Other Traffic

.....
.....
.....

(3) Do any of the following problems from heavy lorries bother you or your family:

Noise YES NO

Vibration YES NO

Exhaust Pollution YES NO

Blocking of Daylight YES NO

(4) Have heavy lorries caused any damage to your home in the past 12 months?

YES NO

If YES please give details

.....
.....

(5) Do you find the heavy lorries intimidating:

As a pedestrian As a driver

Or both

(6) Has the number of heavy lorries passing your home increased in the last 12 months?

YES NO

(7) Have heavy lorries caused any damage to pavements, bollards, street signs etc., near your home in the last 12 months?

YES NO

(8) Have heavy lorries caused you or your family any of the following problems during the last 12 months:

Difficulty sleeping YES NO

Difficulty hearing radio/T.V./telephone YES NO

Personal Stress/worry YES NO

Forced change of room use in your home YES NO

(9) Is there a time of the day or night when the lorries are particularly disturbing?

YES NO

(10) The government is considering allowing even heavier lorries in the near future. Would you say this is:

A good idea A bad idea

Don't Know

(11) Is your home double-glazed?

YES NO

(12) If YES, was it installed to:

reduce heat loss reduce traffic noise

Thank you very much for your help.

If possible could you count the number of heavy lorries passing your home in one hour:

Hour Date

Number of Lorries

Any additional comments would be welcome:

Name

Address

(supplied only if you wish)

Published by: The Faversham Society Planning Committee, "Fleur de Lis", Preston Street, Faversham.

1982

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPRING CONFERENCE

To be held at

Staplehurst Village Hall, Staplehurst

On Saturday, 28 April 1984

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

P R O G R A M M E

- 10.00 a.m. Coffee.
10.30 a.m. Welcome by the Chairman of the Staplehurst Society.

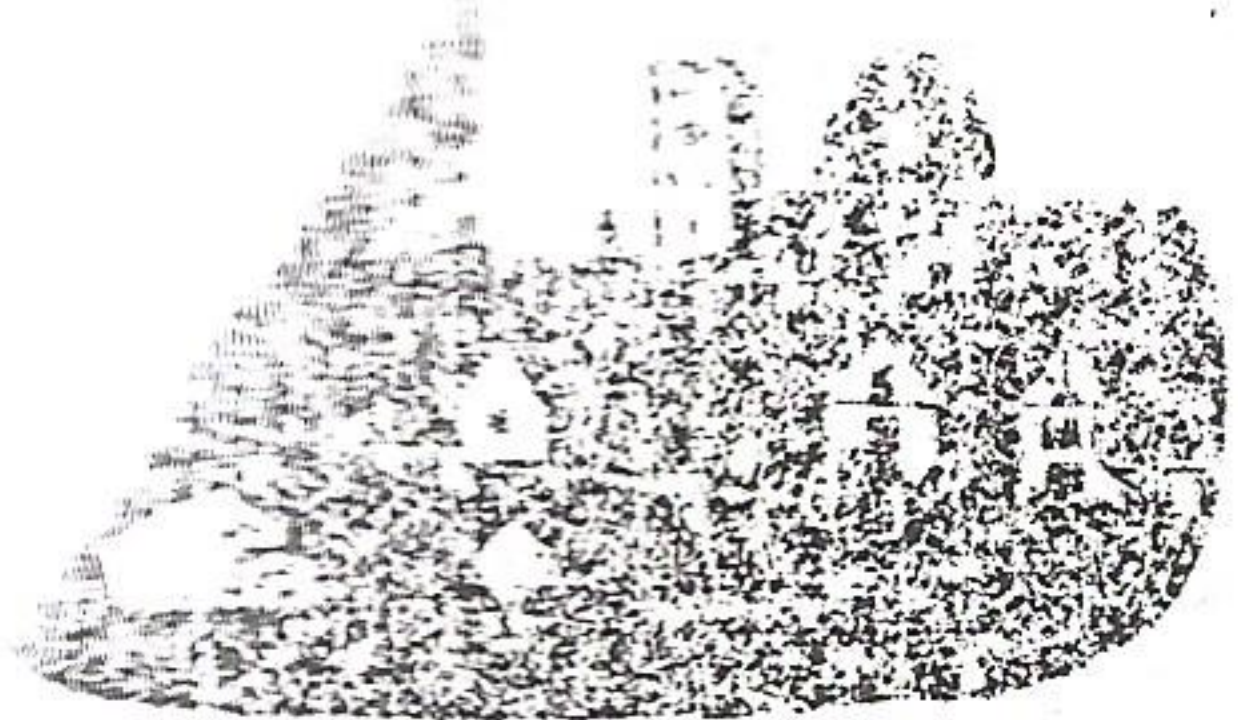
Address by the President of the Federation:
The Lady Prudence Loudon.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 April 1983.
2. Matters arising from the Minutes.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Election of Officers: (a) Chairman
(b) Vice Chairman
(c) Treasurer
(d) Secretary
(e) Membership Secretary
(f) Assistant Secretary
6. Election of Committee Members.
7. Any other business.

SPRING CONFERENCE - JUGGERNAUTS IN THE GARDEN -
Heavy Lorries in Kent (Chairman: Jack Woolford)

- 11.15 a.m. BULLS IN CHINA SHOPS: The Costs of Road Transport,
Arthur Percival, Civic Trust.
- 11.40 a.m. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE.
Derek Witcher, Road Haulage Association Ltd.
- 12.05 p.m. WHAT THE EEC CAN DO.
Ben Patterson, MEP, Member for West Kent.
- 12.25 p.m. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO.
Kent MP (to be announced)
- 12.45 p.m. LUNCH.
- 14.00 p.m. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE.
Supt. Mosley, Kent County Constabulary.
- 14.20 p.m. THE ROLE OF RAIL.
Paul Abbott, Freight Manager, Southern British Rail.
- 14.40 p.m. OVERLOADING.
Major Thomas, KCC Fire and Public Protection Committee.
- 15.00 p.m. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.
Tony Hart, Chairman, Planning and Transportation Committee.
- 15.20 p.m. QUESTION TIME.
Panel of all Speakers.
Written questions and contributions from the floor.
- 16.15 p.m. RESOLUTIONS.
- 16.30 p.m. TEA AND DISPERSAL.



Kent Federation of Amenity Societies

President: The Lady Prudence Loudon, Chairman: K.P. Whitney C.V.O. M.A., Secretary: P. Graham Harvey

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SPRING CONFERENCE

JUGGERNAUTS IN THE GARDEN - Heavy Lorries in Kent

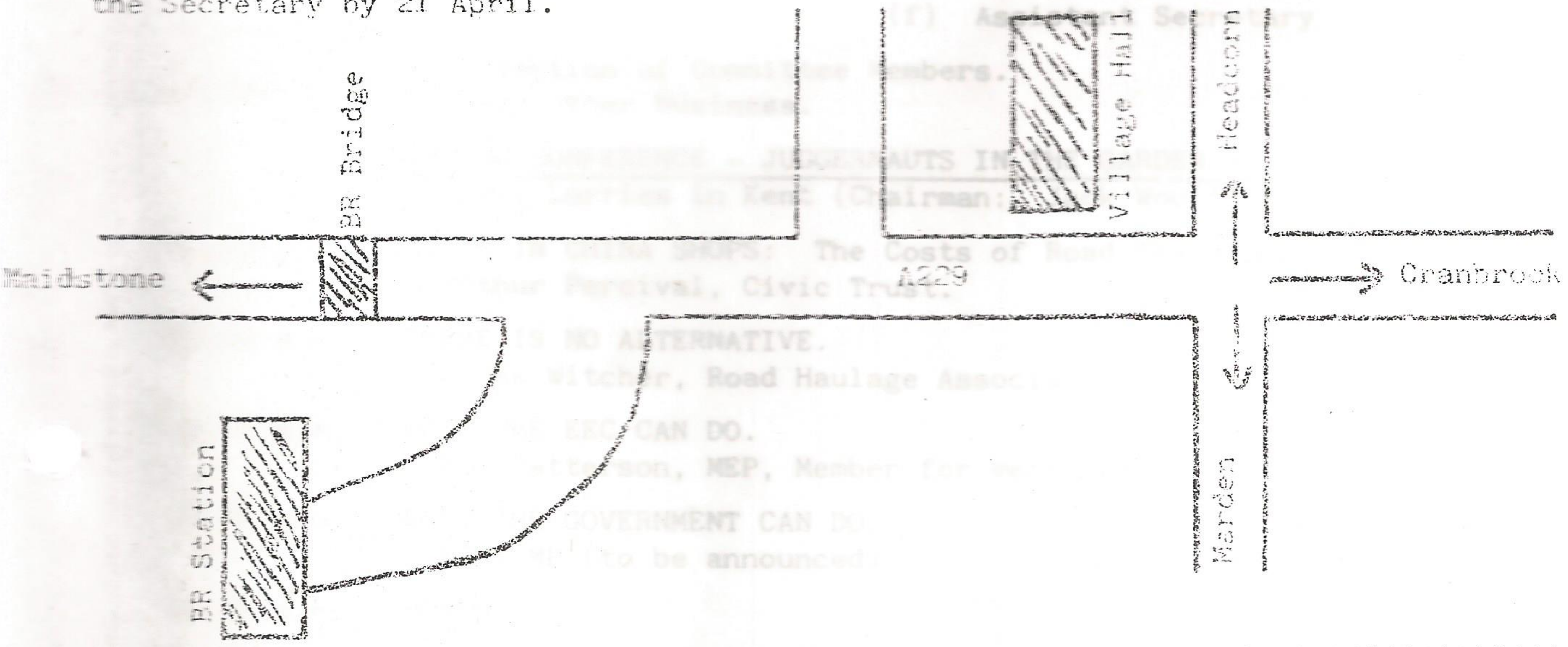
STAPLEHURST VILLAGE HALL

28 APRIL 1984

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting and Spring Conference is attached. Staplehurst Village Hall is situated on the A229 midway between the Railway Bridge and the Marden-Headcorn Cross Roads and has a Car Park. Trains arrive from London via Sevenoaks and Tonbridge at five minutes past the hour and from Ashford at forty-four minutes past each hour.

Member Societies may make nominations for the posts of Federation Officers and/or Committee Members, such nominations to be received by the Secretary (P.G. Harvey, Orchard, High Street, Staplehurst, TN12 0BL) by 14 April 1984.

A "Ploughman's Lunch" will be available at the Village Hall, but must be ordered in advance. Lunch will cost 90p and wine will be available by the glass. Payment should be made on the day. Please complete and return the slip to the Secretary by 21 April.



STAPLEHURST VILLAGE HALL LUNCH

Name of Society:

Please reserve lunches for:

Names
.....

Signed

* If Substitutes attend, please advise on the day

(Please return to P.G. Harvey, Orchard, High Street, Staplehurst, TN12 0BL)



Department of Transport

Room C16/04

2 Marsham Street London SW1P 3EB

Telex 22221

Direct line 01-212 3106
Switchboard 01-212 3434
GTN 212

I D Taylor Esq
Mailbourne Protection Society
3 Whitelocks Close
Kingston
CANTERBURY
Kent

Your reference

Our reference

GT 15/6/001

Date

19 July 1984

Dear Mr Taylor

LOCAL RADIO TRAVEL NEWS SIGNS

1. Thank you for your letter of 24 June.
2. I am sorry that you feel the signs at Bridge have been sited indiscriminately. I am not familiar with that particular site and have therefore copied your letter to our regional office at Guildford, which deals with the practical application of our signing policy. I hope I may reassure you that, in general terms, we are very mindful of the impact signs can have on the environment and our guidelines on the siting of signs clearly illustrate the desirability of avoiding intrusion on the landscape or skyline wherever possible. It is inevitable, however, that there will be occasions where the road layout and the need to ensure a sign is safely readable will outweigh purely environmental considerations.
3. The experimental local radio signs do not represent blatant advertising as you assume. They are part of a carefully researched experiment to evaluate whether local radio stations offer an effective means of communicating with motorists to advise them of traffic conditions. (You may know that other experimental work on a sophisticated system of traffic information broadcasting known as "carfax" has encountered difficulties and we are, therefore, simply trying to establish whether conventional local radio offers a workable alternative).
4. The results of the experiment so far have shown a significant increase in listeners after erection of the signs, but the proportion of motorists overall tuning-in remains fairly small. A potential deficiency in the information carried on the sign was revealed and our Minister has asked for some modifications to be made and a further survey conducted. In order to ensure compatibility with the previous survey and to avoid wasting the money spent on the project hitherto, I hope you will understand it may not be practicable to re-site the existing signs at the moment (assuming that in other respects it is feasible to do so). We will, however, review the matter on completion of the experiment.

Yours sincerely

A R CARPENTER
Road Safety Division

Nail Reflection Soc.

3, Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury,
CT4 6JG

Department of Transport,
LONDON.

24th. June, 1984

Dear Sir,

re: Local Radio Traffic News Signs

In July 1983 a number of large unsightly signs were erected along various major roads in Kent advertising a local radio station which periodically broadcasts news of traffic conditions. I understand from the Highways Department of the Kent County Council that these signs were erected at the request of the Department of Transport.

One pair of signs seems to have been sited with regrettable indifference to the environment. I refer to the two signs located on the A2 about 3 miles from Canterbury towards Dover. At this location the signs impose upon a delightful valley vista (towards Patricxbourne), and stand out like incongruous commercial eyesores in an otherwise beautiful rural scene. Surely they can be resited or removed altogether?

During the last year (which I understand has been experimental) I have asked many, but not yet found anybody who as a result of driving past these signs, has actually tuned to the particular radio station to learn anything of road conditions. Indeed the only news which might be beneficial to motorists would concern ferry movements - motorists are heading away from all other parts of Kent as they drive only the 12 miles to Dover or Folkestone!

Ferry information would be of little value, even if heard by motorists, when between the signs and the ferry ports, as there are no towns at which to stop in the event of ferry problems or delays. The siting of these signs along the A2 is more sensible to the London side of Canterbury.

This Society is concerned to protect the environment and preserve its beauty. We see no purpose in these signs so illogically located in the Parish of Bridge (Map ref. 175550), and fulfilling little purpose but intruding to the detriment of the countryside.

It is difficult to understand how a local radio station (whatever other valuable purpose it may serve) could manipulate a Government Department into causing such blatant advertising without any realistic return in terms of traffic news, and spoiling a lovely valley in the Kent countryside.

Perhaps the experiment has been successful elsewhere, but this particular pair of signs are inappropriate and their removal would enhance the countryside to nobody's detriment.

Yours faithfully,

Tan D. Taylor, Hon. Sec.

3, Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury,
CT4 6JG

Mr. Alan Howland,
'White Gates',
Bekesbourne Road,
BRIDGE,
CT4 5AE

29th. November, 1983

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter, and I apologise for the delay in writing back to you. After consultation it would seem appropriate to disband the 'Bridge-Canterbury Traffic Group' as the threat, which arose from the earlier Planning Application, no longer applies. I think the successful campaign is a credit to those who worked so hard.

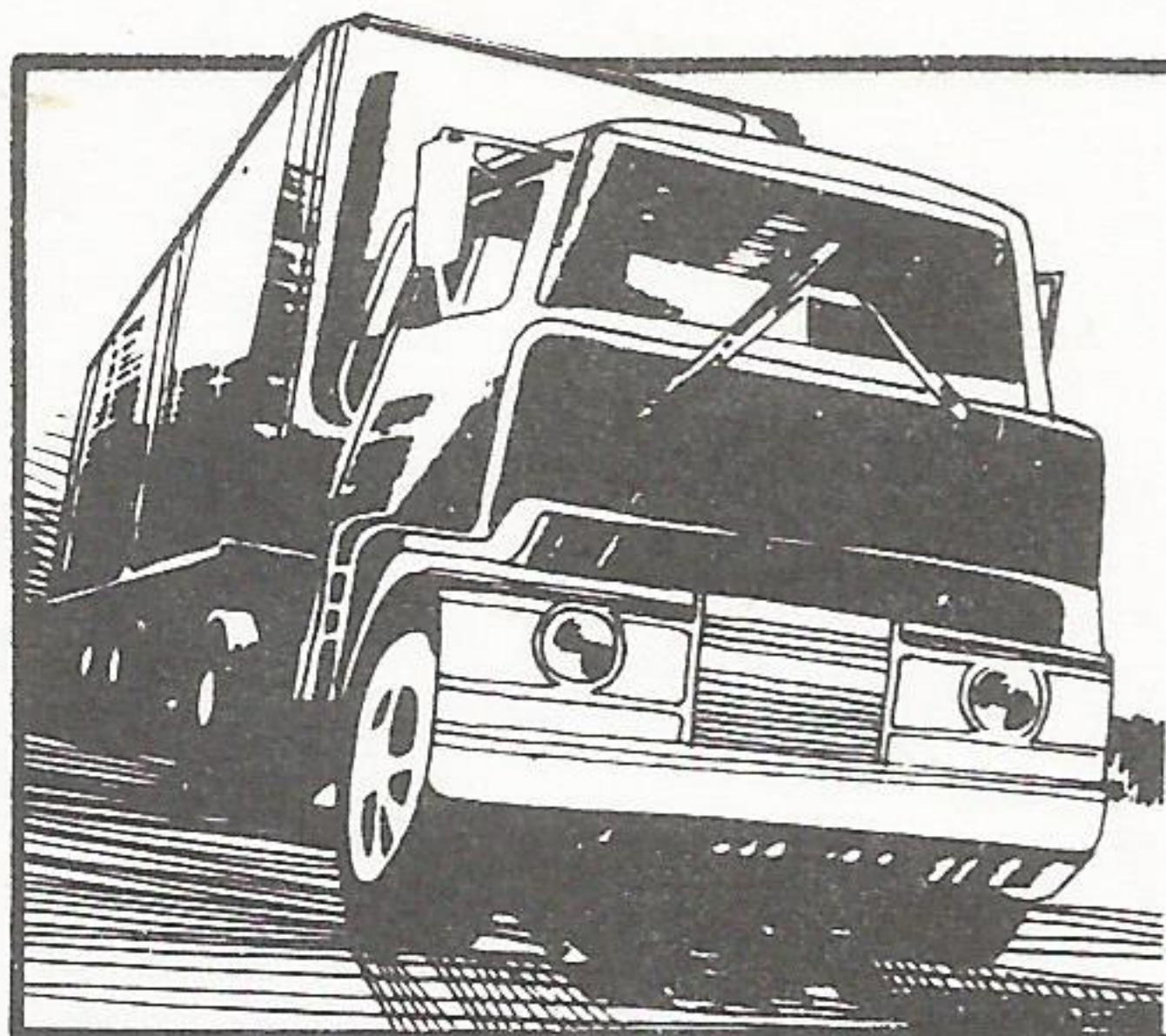
The second proposal does not appear, as you suggest, to present any real threat

In all the circumstances this Society will be pleased to receive the balance left from the £100. Should the need arise the Bailbourne Protection Society will give support against any threat, and I am sure assist financially.

It may be too early yet, but as I collect all manner of local history I will be pleased if later when you wish to discard any relevant documents (which are not confidential), then rather than have them destroyed, I would be delighted to add such papers to our local archives.

With every good wish,
Sincerely,

Ian D. Taylor.



Bridge-Canterbury Traffic Group

Campaign to keep Motel traffic out of Bridge and Canterbury

Chairman:
Alan Howland, 'White Gates',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs Pat Wilmshurst, 'Dearnley',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Committee:
Dr Stuart Field, 'Bourne's Corner',
Bekesbourne Rd., Bridge CT4 5AE
Norman Fowler, 'River House',
High Street, Bridge CT4 5LA
Mrs Pleasance Kirk, 'Wych Elm',
High Street, Bridge CT4 5JZ
John Purchase, 'Mill Cottage',
Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5HD
Mrs Margaret Reed, 87 New Dover
Road, Canterbury CT1 3ED
Ian Taylor, 3 Whitelocks Close,
Kingston, Canterbury CT4 6JG

14th December, 1983.

Mr. A. Taylor,
3 Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury,
Kent. CT4 6JG.

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your reply to my letter of 27th October, 1983, requesting your views on the future of the Group.

Of the six Committee members (Chairman & Hon. Treasurer not voting) the consensus was as follows:-

1. Retain Group (Status Quo) - 4
Disband Group - 2
2. On the question of what to do with the current funds the replies were not quite so specific: 3 indicated their agreement to the funds being returned to the Nailbourne Protection Society, 2 did not specifically mention funds but by voting for status quo possibly implied retaining the funds and 1 specifically wanted funds to be retained.

As a rider to (2) Ian Taylor in his reply has indicated the willingness of N.P.S. to assist against any future threat including, he feels sure, financial support.

It would therefore appear that our course of action is Status Quo in terms of the Group. In view of the wide spread of views on the question of funds I propose that the following is an equitable arrangement:

On February 1st, 1984, the sum of £50. be repaid to N.P.S. thus leaving approx. £26. in our funds. This should be sufficient to "prime the pumps" if quick action is required, bearing in mind the expressed support of N.P.S. in the event of further threat.

I do hope this course of action will meet your approval but should this not be the case I am sure you will contact me. On this basis I will assume that if I have not received any adverse comments by end of January 1984 the transfer of funds will take place.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families every happiness for Christmas and thank you for your unflagging support without which we might now be living in a much less peaceful environment.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Howland



County Surveyor: A. D. W. SMITH, B.Sc.(Eng.), C.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.Mun.E., F.I.H.E., M.I.W.M.

Mr. I.D. Taylor,
Hon. Secretary,
Nailbourne Protection Society,
5, Whitelocks Close,
Kingston,
Canterbury, CT4 6 JG

Tel: Maidstone 671411 (STD 0622)

Extension:

Ask for: Mr. R.S. Hulks

Our ref: 52 RH.S3

Your ref:

Date: 19th August, 1983.

Chief Executive
of the County Council
W. U. Jackson

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Local Radio Traffic News Signs.

I refer to your letter of the 4th August, 1983 regarding the local radio traffic news signs erected on the A2 Bridge By-Pass for eastbound traffic.

The County Council is the Department of Transport's agent for the A2 trunk road, and was asked by the Department of Transport to erect those signs as part of an experiment to enable **useful** motoring information to be obtained from local radio stations. Planning permission is not required for authorised traffic signs. These signs were designed by the Department of Transport and have been authorised for a one year experimental period.

With regard to the erection of advertising signs, no unauthorised signs are permitted within the highway and it is for this reason that the Department of Transport requested the removal of the unauthorised signs erected by the Canterbury City Council.

I have passed a copy of your letter to the Department of Transport for comment.

Yours sincerely,

for County Surveyor,

FR.