

I'm in no doubt that throughout this paper there are multiple stories about chaos caused by the weather this week. The sink hole in Barming has moved yet more traffic on to Hermitage Lane and through the back lanes of Ditton and East Malling. Yet again the A20 was severely flooded outside Homebase causing tailbacks while vehicles, large and small, teetered on to the raised central reservation to pass by. Homes and businesses were damaged due to flash flooding, because our drainage system was unable to cope with the level of water. The motorway turned into a canal and trains were given another reason not to run stranding passengers for hours with no information about when they'd get home.

Maybe the angry tone of my opening paragraph is unfair. We can't legislate for poor weather or storms so great that they made headlines abroad. But my issue is that this happens all too often and the impact is getting greater because our whole system is creaking at the seams and progress is way too slow to resolve it. Take the A20 flooding for example, I have given up counting how many times this has been raised with Highways. The Council conducted an A20 corridor review which among other things looked into this problem but nothing has been done and instead my latest set of letters blame others for the delay. I am sure I join many residents who fear their car conking out in the middle of the flooded road by saying I don't care, just fix it. Hermitage Lane, my favourite thing to hate, is obviously the main alternative route so why plan to build another thousand houses on it?

Our roads, drains, trains and waterways cannot already cope. More house building without supporting the infrastructure is only going to make things worse.