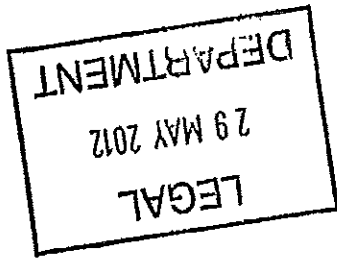


Annex D(ii) - additional
letter received



Conon Raraty-Squires
Squires Antiques
57-59
Preston street
Faversham

22 May 2012

Dear Pete,

as promised I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the proposed closing of Faversham town centre to traffic on market days. Although the idea has been vetoed as impractical by Swale Borough Council many times before, we seem to find ourselves facing the threat yet again, which leads me to ask what circumstances have changed to now make it viable. It is being called a 'trial', but it is clear that once the measures are in place, there is little chance of them being removed. Besides,

how will we know whether the 'trial' was successful? Will it be whether there are any businesses left in Preston street or not? And who would decide? Is it the people who have tried unsuccessfully in the past to have the road closed, or a separate unbiased body?

The issue that concerns me the most is building & development works. If the road is closed, no-one will be able to do any physical building, refitting or re-furbishing works on a Friday. No workmen who need to have their tools & equipment with them would be able to work in properties within the town centre. No building materials would be able to be delivered. No scaffolding could be erected or dismantled. Also, no rubbish or recycling could be collected, leaving it all piled up over the weekend. I am also worried that should the 'trial' be approved, there will be a push to have the road closed on Tuesday market days as well,

thus rendering the town centre a no go area to these services + trades on two working days a week.

Another concern is traffic flow. What will happen if + when present road + Court street become gridlocked as market traders, delivery lorries, cash vans, disabled drivers + people waiting to collect purchases try to gain entrance to the town centre at 3 or 4 pm (whichever it is). You need to bear in mind it will be the school run time, + this is the most congested part of Faversham at the best of times, what with deliveries to Tesco often causing problems at Quay lane, traffic entering + exiting Abbey street for the Queen Elizabeth school, the Tesco entrance itself always being a nightmare + being a stones throw away from the towns only traffic lights. Also, when the gate is opened + the market traders all jostle to get near their stalls,

blocking the initial part of the road, what will happen to the rest of the traffic that requires access to the town centre. Plus, at this time the town is full of school-children swarming the streets which must be a matter of concern.

I have also noted that residents who have parking within the town centre will be allowed access. How will this work? It is either pedestrianised or it is not. And why would residents needs be catered for, but not people trying to make a living?

I feel there are all valid concerns from someone who has traded in the town for decades, having managed to survive the road closure on our main trading day (Saturday), although we were promised years before that there would be no closure until everyone had rear or alternative access. ~~It~~ It would now appear we are facing two consecutive days of restricted trading.

You told me recently that the closure was for regeneration purposes, but in the past it was claimed it was for safety reasons on market days. Proper regulation of the market could solve the safety issue by market traders stalling out so as they trade onto the pavements & not directly into the road as they do now. The flower man for example is supposed to have his stall under the Guildhall, but puts most of his stock on ~~in the road~~ the pavement & in the road forcing customers & pedestrians into the middle of the road at the narrowest point. Even one of our councillors has his produce stall placed so his customers have to stand in the road when he could easily trade to the side or rear where no traffic goes. I don't see why business rate paying shop traders who are no-where near the market place should suffer because of a lack of

Consideration + organisation
by market traders + organisers.

As I mentioned to you a while back, it would appear that these measures are being forced through regardless of merit or fairness + seem to have become a matter of ego to some local officials. Affected traders have had to battle for years against this attack on our livelihoods + to be honest we've had enough, + would like to concentrate on making a living instead of having to fight our corner every year or so.

Well, there you go. I've had my say + I'm sorry to have gone on. I would love to discuss these matters with you in person before it's too late, so should you have the time please contact me to arrange a meeting or give me a call. I know you're a busy man, but I would appreciate it.

All the best

Conan