

## **Hever Residents Association**

### **Regarding the notice issued by DPL**

Like me you may feel the Documents Plus Ltd (DPL) notice is rather vague with regard to when the forecourt and approach road will reopened after the resurfacing works have been carried out, allowing courtesy parking to resume.

Residents currently using the car park should manage their expectations with regard to when this facility will reopen, as it is not a foregone conclusion that this will take place after the works are completed.

What we know for sure is that DPL have complete control over the use of the forecourt and approach road regarding parking, despite recent assurances from Southern Railway (SR) that “the car park will be available for customers once the resurfacing works are complete”; this may be an inaccurate statement.

It will not have escaped your notice that “DPL are in discussion with Network Rail (NR) and SR to explore the possibility of reinstating car parking facilities and agree a formal car parking arrangement on site for rail users”. I understand this will involve converting the old goods yard into a pay-to-use car park.

I am advised that such a proposal will require a formal planning application, on which residents will have an opportunity to comment, followed by the usual planning process and construction programme. I have no idea how long the discussions between DPL, NR and SR will take or how long the planning process and construction programme will take.

This matter will be discussed at the HRA committee meeting to be held next week, but in the meantime you may wish to write to DPL seeking clarification as to when car parking will resume after the completion of the resurfacing works; please copy me in on any correspondence. DPL can be contacted by writing to:

Mr. A. Cree, DPL, The Old Station, Hever, Kent. TN8 7ER.

From a HRA perspective we have a number of concerns including safety issues regarding rail users parking in the surrounding narrow lanes, thereby blocking emergency services, farm machinery, etc. Also the effect that any prolonged closure of the car park may have on local residents who have come to rely on using Hever Station to get to work.

Alan Townsend  
Chair HRA

17<sup>th</sup> August 2009.