

Tom Tugendhat MP

MP for Tonbridge and Malling



Operation Stack has made headlines nationally, as the closure of Calais spreads chaos across our roads and inconvenience to our communities, businesses and tourists.

But Operation Stack is, we hope, only temporary. Kent's motorways have a more enduring problem – east facing slip roads off the M25.

In my first speech in Parliament I highlighted the misery of traffic in Borough Green and the damage to business in the High Weald caused

by the missing slip roads.

The case for slip roads at Junction 5 is overwhelming. The 18 miles between the M26 Junction 2a and M25 Junction 6 is the longest distance between motorway exits in the country.

But this isn't just about convenience. Villages near Borough Green are suffering unnecessary pollution while in the west, near Edenbridge, communities are harder to reach.

That's why I'm supporting the

Kent Association of Local Councils. They're studying the benefits of building the Junction 5 slip road and will report shortly. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has taken a lead, as usual, in making west Kent better connected.

While others, including Kent County Council have also contributed, a project like this needs local champions, and in Cllr Steve Perry Borough Green and Long Mill has one. Having campaigned with Steve I know

how hard he works and his passion for improving our community. Getting the eastern facing slips built would be a great coup for him and everyone in Borough Green, St Mary's Platt and surrounding villages. I will be doing what I can to help.

Working with all parties, for everyone living in and travelling through West Kent, we must deliver better roads – both solving Operation Stack, and the building of eastern facing slips on the M25.