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MP's anger over 'not good enough' A2 traffic lights

Temporary traffic lights at a known accident spot on a dual carriageway have failed again, this time because they have fallen on the ground.

The area of the A2 at Lydden Hill has been in the headlines in recent weeks amid claims that permanent traffic lights malfunctioned and caused a crash in December.

Both the permanent and temporary lights control the flow of traffic at a busy interchange connecting the A2 with two country roads, one leading to Lydden via Lydden Hill and the other to Shepherdswell via Coxhill Road.

On Thursday Cllr Marjorie (Mog) Ovenden said they were "on the floor" and that the red lamp in the lights has hardly worked since the temporary lights were installed, most notably in the last two weeks.

After sending an engineer to the area a Highways England spokesman said: "Safety is our top priority at Highways England and we are aware that a collision has damaged some of the lights at the Lydden junction.

"Our engineers are assessing the damage and will repair these lights as soon as possible."

Two weeks ago, we reported that Charlotte Byrom and her family were injured in a smash which she alleges was caused because the signals were faulty.

Green lights indicated she could cross the busy junction, heading right towards Lydden from the coast bound carriageway.

She told us: "I had no reason not to take my cue from the lights and make my right turn. I never for a moment could imagine the horror that happened."

As she moved forward, her Chevrolet Spark, carrying her partner Luke and two children, was struck by a car heading London-bound.

The incident is being investigated and MP Charlie Elphicke is pushing for action.



The broken lights at Lydden on the A2

Motorists have reported that sequencing issues with the lights have caused traffic chaos in recent weeks.

MP for Dover Charlie Elphicke said: "Yet again drivers will be left fuming at another Highways England blunder in Lydden.

"First the lights didn't work - now they are falling down. It's just not good enough.

"Highways chiefs have got to get on top of these issues and make this road safe.

"There needs to be urgent investment to build a proper

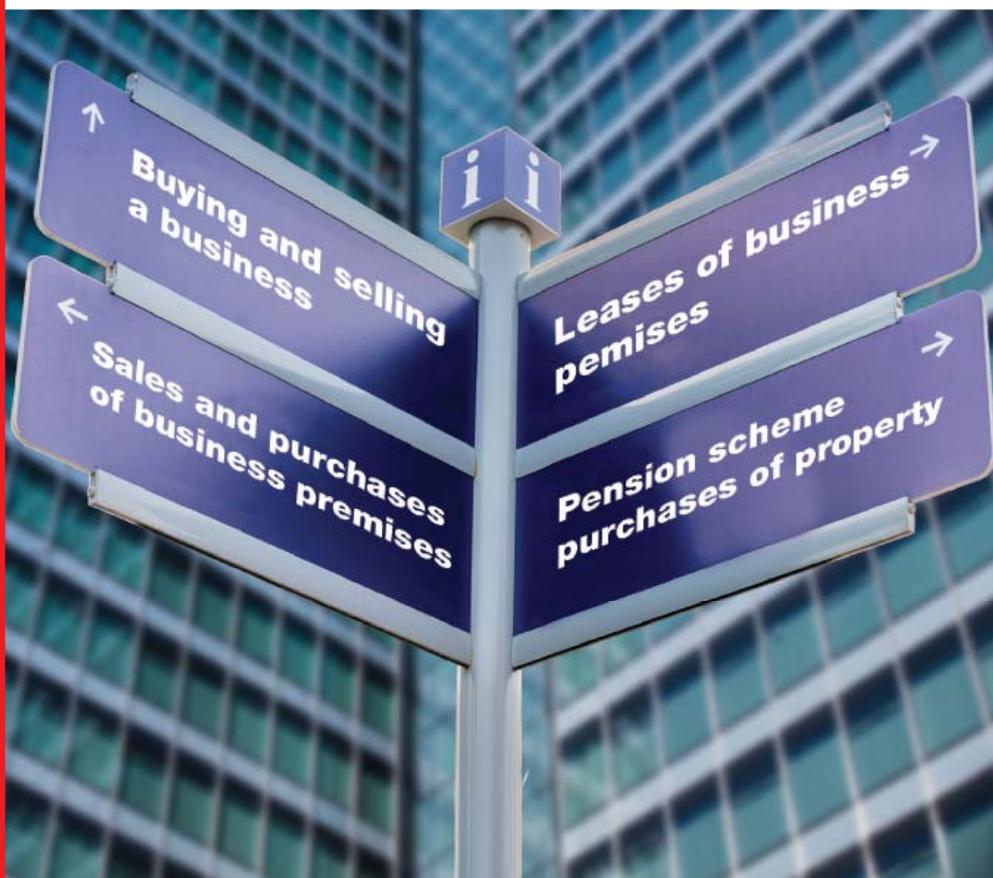
junction and get rid of these lights once and for all."

The Highways England spokesman said he expected repairs to the permanent set of lights would be made by 6am on Sunday.

By the time we went to press on Wednesday he could not confirm whether the repairs had been made.

■ **Keep us informed.** If you notice the lights at this busy junction are not working, contact us on 01304 365526 and call Highways England on 0300 123 5000

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Fairway at golf club vandalised

Police are appealing for witnesses after a report of criminal damage to the fairway at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal.

The incident was reported to have taken place in Golf Road between 5pm on Saturday and 4am on Sunday.

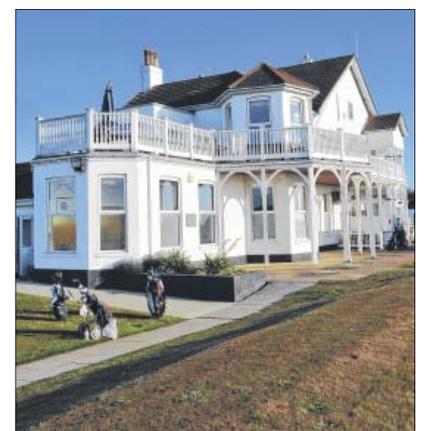
It appears a vehicle has been driven around the fairway causing damage to the grass.

Inspector Ian Swallow said: "This is extremely frustrating for those associated with the golf course and we are taking steps to identify any offenders.

"We would like to hear from anyone who saw anything or who might have more information and can help us with our enquiries."

It comes in the same week it is announced The Open Championship will return to Sandwich in 2020. Royal Cinque Ports' course was used for regional qualifying for The Open in June 2015.

Anyone with information is asked to call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting reference number ZY/006636/17. Alternatively contact Kent Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club