

MPs: 'A2 **must** be upgraded if we want growth'



BLACKSPOT: The A2 roundabout at Whitfield



SUMMIT: Kent MPs, including Dover's Charlie Elphicke (front centre), meeting Chancellor Philip Hammond (front, second from left) to discuss transport improvements

Government predicts traffic using Port of Dover will double over next 14 years

By **Jordan Bluer**
jordan.bluer@KRNmedia.co.uk

IN THE face of rapidly building traffic at the Port of Dover, MP Charlie Elphicke is making the case for dualling the A2.

Mr Elphicke and other Kent MPs met with Chancellor Philip Hammond this week to discuss having the road widened.

Project

The project has been a hot topic for decades with politicians and residents hoping it will solve the districts traffic woes.

Mr Elphicke said: "The upgrading of the A2 at Dover is long overdue. It should have been done years ago but Labour axed it.

"The Chancellor listened carefully to our case and said he would take it into account, but we should be under no illusion of how tough this is.

"To have real growth in the local economy without gridlock on our roads, it's vital we look at dualling the A2."

The MP is calling for the A2 to be dualled in order to ease the bottlenecks caused by the road narrowing to a single carriage-way at Lydden and Whitfield.

His call followed the Government's predictions that the amount of traffic at the Port of Dover will increase by 101 per cent by 2030.

The number of vehicles travelling through the Port of Dover

has already rocketed - from 1.6million cars and 730,000 lorries in 1985 to 2.3million cars and 2.5 million HGVs in 2015.

At the meeting with the Chancellor, the Kent MPs also called for junction 7 of the M2 at Brenley Corner to be upgraded to deal with capacity issues.

Crossing

They also made the case for the Lower Thames Crossing joining the M11 as a corridor to the North rather than to the M25 as presently proposed.

Prime Minister Theresa May has said that Dover will be considered as part of the planning for the next road investment strategy.

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