



# Fradley Parish Council

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## NOTES

### Meeting with UPN

**Date: 23rd March 2026**

**Time: 1.00pm**

**Location: UPN Depot, Common Lane, Fradley**

### PRESENT

Cllr Derick Cross, District and Ward Councillor  
Cllr Richard Stephenson, District and Ward Councillor  
Cllr Richard Holland, County Councillor  
David Leytham, Chair, Fradley Parish Council  
PCSO Maggie Griffiths  
Marcus Munton, UPN  
Andrew Lowe, UPN  
Claire Crompton, Clerk to Fradley Parish Council

### Purpose of Meeting

The meeting was convened in response to ongoing concerns raised by residents via social media, email correspondence to the Parish Council, District Council, County Council and the Police. Residents have expressed strong views that the issues require prompt resolution.

### Summary of Discussions

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Issues

Andrew Lowe confirmed that UPN recognises there have been issues, and that at times these have worsened. UPN acknowledged the concerns raised by residents and stakeholders.

#### 2. Lorry Fire Incident

The recent lorry fire was discussed. It was agreed by all present that this was an isolated incident, with no similar events recalled. The primary concern at the time was the safety of those involved, and it was noted that fortunately no injuries were sustained. However, the burnt vehicle remained on site for approximately seven days, causing significant disruption. The obstruction impacted access to the depot and resulted in congestion, with knock on effects lasting around one week after removal. It was agreed that while serious, this incident is not the primary cause of the ongoing issues.

#### 3. Nature of the HGV Issue

UPN clarified that:

HGV drivers are not directly employed by UPN, but by companies using the pallet network service



UPN communicates expectations to these companies, however their ability to enforce compliance is limited

The main issue is not overnight parking, but delays in processing vehicles entering the depot.

Drivers are allocated time slots, however:

Some arrive early due to favourable travel conditions  
Others arrive late due to delays

Early arrivals are currently joining the queue, which increases the number of vehicles waiting at any one time and contributes to congestion on Common Lane.

#### 4. Contributing Factors

UPN identified several contributing factors:

Significant growth in online shopping and next day delivery services  
Staff shortages due to illness and turnover  
Increased operational demand

UPN reported that a recent recruitment campaign has been successful, with staffing levels expected to return to preferred levels shortly. Once new staff are trained and settled, improvements in vehicle processing times are anticipated.

#### 5. Potential Mitigation Measures

##### Use of Gorse Lane Site

It was suggested that drivers could be directed to the Gorse Lane site to wait until they are called forward for processing, particularly when queues extend onto Common Lane.

##### Road Markings and Parking Restrictions

Concerns were raised regarding the stretch of road between the Common Lane island, Halifax Avenue and the Stirling Centre, where the absence of double yellow lines allows HGV parking after 6.00 pm.

Cllr Holland was asked to explore the possibility of introducing double yellow lines to improve traffic flow.

##### Freight Redistribution

UPN has introduced preferential pricing incentives to encourage more daytime deliveries, with the aim of reducing night time congestion.

#### 6. Site Capacity and Layout

UPN confirmed that although approximately 50 vehicles can be accommodated on site, a one way system is required for operational reasons, meaning it is not feasible to hold all vehicles on site before processing.

#### 7. IT System Improvements

UPN is upgrading its IT systems, which will:

Provide real time visibility of vehicle locations  
Enable dynamic communication with drivers via an app

Allow diversion of vehicles to Gorse Lane where necessary  
Facilitate controlled release of vehicles to the main depot

This is expected to improve traffic management and reduce queuing on public highways.

The system is anticipated to go live within the next couple of months.

#### 8. Driver Welfare

It was confirmed that driver welfare facilities are available at both Common Lane and Gorse Lane sites, in response to concerns raised.

#### 9. Planning Context

Cllr Cross noted that UPN did not require a Traffic Management Plan at the time of its original planning application. However, such plans are now required for new developments.

UPN confirmed its commitment to improving traffic management voluntarily.

#### 10. Police Enforcement

PCSO Griffiths confirmed that the matter has been raised with her Sergeant and the Road Harm Team. Officers will attend at varying times to monitor the situation and take enforcement action where necessary to ensure lawful use of the highway.

#### 11. A38 Closures

Upcoming A38 closures were discussed:

Overnight closures during the current week  
Full closure from 27 March to 7 April

These are likely to exacerbate traffic issues.

UPN has informed its members and drivers, advising them to allow additional journey time and to follow official diversion routes.

UPN agreed to report any significant issues arising from the closures to Council representatives so that they can be escalated promptly where appropriate.

#### Conclusion

The meeting was considered constructive and productive. All parties expressed a shared commitment to working collaboratively to resolve the issues over time.

UPN outlined several measures that are expected to improve the situation, including increased staffing, enhanced IT systems and greater use of the Gorse Lane facility.

#### Next Steps

UPN to continue implementing operational improvements  
Cllr Holland to explore road marking options  
Police to monitor and enforce as necessary  
UPN to report any significant issues during A38 closures  
Follow Up

It was agreed that a follow up meeting will be arranged in approximately 2 to 3 months to review progress and assess whether improvements have been achieved.