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Open Letter to the Residents of Crick

Dear Residents of Crick

I wanted to write to you to acknowledge the increasingly difficult parking issues in and around the Eldon Industrial Estate and the adjoining road into the village and to keep you informed about the measures we are taking as a business to alleviate this.

By way of background, our Plumbing and Heating business has been growing substantially in the last 18 months and with that so have our colleague numbers which has contributed to the parking issues we currently have. I want to take this opportunity to reassure you all that we are looking at every possible solution and have been for a while, unfortunately the wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly from a legal, contractual and planning perspective. Let me expand on what we have been doing on this subject.

I personally walked around the whole estate in the summer to see where the potential opportunities might be.

Our property and facilities team has been and continues to be in talks with other landlords/owners on the industrial estate to enquire about leasing or buying plots of land to use as additional parking, just like the arrangement we currently have with XPO logistics who have kindly leased us 50 spaces in their car park. We are also in talks with your Parish Councillor Brian Hughes and keeping him updated with our plans and indeed exploring the possibility of using Parish Council land on the industrial estate.

We have also taken a look at our own plot of land and have drawn up plans to reconfigure our car park to make the best use of the space and to remove some of the landscaping to create additional spaces.

In March, we introduced a Car Share scheme for our colleagues but this hasn't proved as popular as we'd hoped due to different working hours and colleagues coming from a widely dispersed geographical area.

As a business, we take the health and safety of our colleagues and the communities in which we operate very seriously and we want to find workable solutions to this issue. We have regularly sent out communications to our colleagues reminding them to park safely and with consideration.

And in the next week, as a short term remedy, we will place traffic cones along the kerb (in the absence of yellow lines) on the left hand side going into the village to prevent cars parking inconsiderately.

As a growing business, providing local employment opportunities and contributing to the local economy in a positive way is important to us, so we are sorry for the inconvenience caused by this issue but we would like to ask you to bear with us for a couple of months whilst we continue to search for long term sustainable solutions. Indeed if anyone has any alternative ideas with regards to parking, we would be only too pleased to hear them.

Yours faithfully



Tony Buffin

Group Chief Operating Officer