

20240607

I am writing to object to application no. 20240607, Walnut Hill Nurseries.

Whilst I do not live on Walnut Tree Road, I regularly visit my partner who lives here. I have encountered these FIRST4DRAINS lorries on two consecutive occasions, on the nights of the 30th and 31st July, both of which occurred at around 10:30 pm.

On the first night, I was nearing the bottom of the hill, where the road joins Downs Road. I met the lorry here who, with no other vehicles behind him, refused to move. I attempted to reverse up the hill until I found a passing place. The driver was unhappy, and I could see him yelling and gesturing from his vehicle. In a panic, I attempted to move further into the passing place, scratching my left side on the bushes in the process. The driver was still unhappy, but soon proceeded to continue up the road, scratching my right wing mirror and right door handle in the process. The driver's shouting was quite intimidating. In the dark and panic, I wasn't able to retrieve his licence plate details, but did note that the lorry was a FIRST4DRAINS lorry.

The next night, I was nervous to drive down the road in case I encountered another lorry. Unfortunately, I did, and at approximately the same point in the hill (a point at which he could feasibly reverse onto Downs Road with little difficulty). This driver was obstinate, and nudged closer to my car. He kept doing so, and when I stopped at passing places, gestured on. Because of the drivers actions, I was forced to end up reversing almost the entire way back to my partners house- uphill, as a new driver, on a dark country lane. I kept stalling my vehicle in the process which only made the driver angrier and caused me more upset.

I am now nervous and apprehensive about driving along walnut hill road. My partner has also told me that they have encountered the FIRST4DRAINS lorries while walking up the road one evening and has told me that when they encountered the lorry, the driver drove with no intention of stopping or slowing for a pedestrian, causing him to 'jump into a bush', rather than having time to seek out a suitable waiting place. Despite the darkness, he would've been visible to the driver as he was using a torch and the driver's headlights would've shown a pedestrian. I find their driving to pose danger to both drivers and pedestrians who use this road and object to the application.

