

COMMENT

...promised. Since November last year, the French government has promised to improve the situation at Fretton regarding...

...six months down the line, there is no visible difference at the moment. Her promise has been broken. There have been signed and renegotiated...

...time more asylum seekers flow through the Channel Tunnel into Britain, their lives and burdening the stretched system of immigration...

...freight operator has to walk on wheels being funded.

...has frequently written of an unacceptable situation in the company which operates the link with Europe.

...as frustrated as EWS about the lack of action despite, we are sure, the efforts of the British government and our friends across the Channel.

...will force the French to reduce the flow of migrants from their side.

...by EWS is to highlight these breaches to the European Commission. In a bid to stop the private company from breaking the Treaty of London stone of the EU.

...SNCF is pledging to introduce security guards at the site. A spokesman is reporting them to the Commission in the event of Europe?

...will not be.

...with authority, respect, and courtesy, to ensure that the Channel Tunnel remains open and secure.

...than words and agreements and take action, and soon.

Action on illegals

By BRYAN RYLANDS

CHANNEL Tunnel freight firm EWS has lodged an official complaint with the European Commission against France over the continuing problem of illegals entering the UK from Fretton.

EWS has seen its freight operations severely restricted for six months because of a lack of security in France.

Despite assurances by governments on both sides of the Channel in March of a "rapid return to normal service", cancellations and losses have continued. There is no sign of increased security at Fretton.

from where, this week alone, nearly 100 illegal immigrants entered the UK on trains coming to Dollands Moor at Cheriton.

EWS, frustrated by the lack of action, has lodged an official complaint with the European Commission claiming that France is in breach of the Treaty of Rome which was the foundation on which the European Union was established.

EWS says France has broken the treaty by failing to take all necessary and proportionate measures to prevent the free movement of goods being obstructed by actions of private individuals. EWS chief operat-

ing officer Allen Johnson said: "They (the French government) have consistently failed to provide resources to secure the running of Channel Tunnel rail freight services."

He continued: "Such inadequate resolve on the French government's behalf is crippling and will end up destroying the international rail freight business."

The likelihood of a rapid resolution to the problem is slim while the French elections continue.

EWS fears nothing will happen till the end of June. Even then a new French minister may need to be briefed, while EWS continues to lose £50,000 a day - a total of £10 million since November.

A spokesman for the French government said leaders were being sought for security and better fences at Fretton.

But he admitted that it would be up to three months before any work starts or any further security measures are put in place.

Since November only an average of 40 per cent of normal services have operated. More than 2,000 international rail freight services have been cancelled, forcing 90,000 tonnes on to the UK's roads.

As the Herald went to press it was reported that SNCF pledged to introduce extra security staff by the end of this week.

Charity plants sale aims to beat previous best

ANOTHER sale of unusual and specialist plants will be held in the grounds of Saltwood House next week.

Last year's sale raised more than £1,000 towards The Pilgrims Hospice in Kent, and Saltwood parish church. The sale is now a popular annual event and will once again be held in the grounds of Saltwood House next week. The sale is now a popular annual event and will once again be held in the grounds of Saltwood House next week. The sale is now a popular annual event and will once again be held in the grounds of Saltwood House next week.

counted the late King Edward the Eighth and Mrs Simpson among its many colourful guests.

The grounds of more than two and a half acres have been extensively cultivated with a rich variety of plants, shrubs and trees making an ideal backdrop for the sale. The sale is now a popular annual event and will once again be held in the grounds of Saltwood House next week.

Cheaper home scheme backed

ATTEMPTS to provide land in Hythe for much-needed affordable housing are still being considered.

The plans committee says the town council should encourage low-cost housing for locals by releasing some of its own land. Planning members are expected to look at the proposals in the next few weeks. The plans committee says the town council should encourage low-cost housing for locals by releasing some of its own land. Planning members are expected to look at the proposals in the next few weeks.

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AMATEUR TALENT: Cllr Pat Waddell with two of her paintings outside The Old School

SCENES local and scenes from around the Hythe Town Council to provide a "best village" for local residents.

The town council's plans committee referred the matter to Hythe Safety Action Group before discussing the proposal. It is thought to set down a guide to help people understand the council provides a 10 advice when people who do not want to take part in organized activities and public safety.

But Cllr John Simpson said: "We are spending almost thousands of pounds on public and I am not reluctant to contribute."

"The standard was very high and it was enjoyable chatting with people as they came through to have a look."

"There were a slightly fewer people than last year, which I think was due to the cold weather, but those who did come had 10 paintings to exhibit."

A leisure partner close to town in Hythe Park in Lytham was recently built every Thursday between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. For more information call 01323 219911.

...will be more talks about police requests for Hythe Town Council to provide a "best village" for local residents.

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