

## Press Release Manston Lorry Park

As a result of the French ban on UK arrivals imposed last Sunday, Manston Airport was brought into use yesterday as a temporary HGV car park. Many lorry drivers arrived at Manston disorientated, hungry and sorely missing their families where they were expecting to be for Christmas.

Car Parks are not designed to accommodate aeroplanes and airports are not built to welcome thousands of lorries on their runway.

Although the phases of Operation Fennel were implemented relatively smoothly as planned, it was clear on Tuesday evening that there was considerable stress and anxiety suffered by lorry drivers stranded in Dover, on the M20 and at Manston.



*Hungry, dispirited lorry drivers arriving at Manston*

We have been much heartened by the many offers of support and assistance from local companies keen to assist others in our back yard. As always, we advise every contact to work in cooperation with the relevant authorities to ensure a harmonious approach that helps and not hinders.



*Ramsgate FC giving free pizzas to lorry drivers*

Ramsgate Football Club was one of the first to come forward to request our aid in distributing freshly made pizzas to the drivers queuing to enter Manston Airport. Mindful of the need to maintain the highest level of safety and coronavirus security, we were pleased to assist. Despite the cold drizzle and biting wind, James Lawson and his support team from Ramsgate FC were greeted with unfettered delight and warm thanks from the drivers.

Czech television was on site to cover the visit of the Czech Ambassador. Chamber Chief Executive David Foley was pleased to assure viewers in Prague and central Europe that their business links with the UK will always be welcome. He emphasised that East Kent is the closest part of mainland Britain to the EU and any commercial arrangements with local companies and inward investment in our corner of the Garden of England would bring obvious commercial advantages and energy savings.



*Czech TV at Manston*

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## **Information**

Thanet & East Kent and Dover District Chambers of Commerce provide professional business support to the East Kent coastal business community.

## **Contact**

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