

From: Christopher Aston [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 09 September 2021 11:41
To: Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

For the attention of the Inspector, Mr O. S. Woodworms, The National Casework Team (dfT) and Folkestone and Hythe District Council:

I am writing to object to the proposal to stop up the road along Princes Parade, Hythe, Kent.

As a local resident, I am extremely concerned that the traffic along the A259 will significantly increase due to the realignment of the road, as a result of drivers not being able to use the current straight road along the seafront. Those wishing to park will also use the A259, something that is already happening due to people not wishing to pay parking charges (although this has been denied by Folkestone and Hythe District Council), because changes will create the loss of many parking places. This will particularly affect the western end of the proposed development and realignment of the road. Further increases in traffic will be caused by the fact that Princes Parade will not be able to be used for a considerable time while the proposed changes are made, there being no alternative route other than the A259.

Once the road has been completed, and the development along the front has been finished, there would be even more traffic disruption from those wishing to use the new sports facility, who live in other new developments nearby, such as Shorncliffe Heights.

Safety of motorists and pedestrians would be compromised due to the bends in the new road, and presumably speed restrictions would be needed. The loss of the current straight road will be extremely sad for many residents and visitors to Hythe, which currently offers excellent sea views, and easy access to the beach for all, including the disabled.

The other aspect of stopping up the road which is of significant concern, is the effect that it will have on the wildlife in the area. On my daily walks along the front and the Royal Military Canal, which is of course an ancient scheduled monument, I have seen foxes, badgers, pheasant, grass snakes, slow worms and a variety of birds including kestrels, and bats are regularly seen in the evening. The habitats of many of these and other species will be significantly affected or destroyed. The tranquility and peacefulness of the canal will also be destroyed by the realignment of the new road, causing traffic noise, light pollution, and affecting the general setting of the canal. I see that the new road is planned to run within 13.32 metres of the canal in contravention of the environment agency's recommendations. This distance is within the recommended 16 metre buffer zone from a river or canal which is not advised.

I trust that notice will be taken of my objections to the proposal and that the Public Enquiry finds it inappropriate to proceed with the stopping up of Princes Parade.

Kind regards,
Chris Aston
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