

02 SEP 2021

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Planning Department
Folkestone & Hythe District Council,
Civic Centre,
Castle Hill Avenue,
Folkestone,
Kent,
CT20 2QY

Mark Steeple

31st August 2021

Your ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Sir,

Please see below my reasons for objecting to the stopping up of an irregular shaped area of highway as leads off Princes Parade and the diversion of a length of Princes Parade at Folkestone in the District of Folkestone and Hythe in order to enable development to be carried as permitted by Folkestone and Hythe District Council, under reference Y17/1042/SH.

Destruction of habitat

The scrub land adjacent to Princes Parade is home not just to a badger sett, but to numerous other species.

Destruction of a rare suburban wilderness

The scrub land at Princes Parade forms a rare wilderness and a tangible separator of Hythe/Seabrook and Sandgate/Folkestone.

Vista

Many would argue that the area where the proposed new road would be constructed is attractive - beauty is, after all, in the eye of the beholder. There is currently no public access permitted on the land. However, you don't have to be able to walk on something in order to enjoy it. It is also arguably more attractive than a housing development.

Increased traffic

There shall inevitably be an increase in on already over-busy Twiss Road, Stade Street and St Leonards Road as residents travelling to and from it avoid Princes Parade and use the A259, putting excess pressure on two road junctions that are already inadequate and have no scope for improvement.

Danger to life

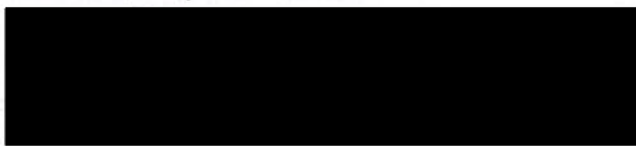
The resultant complication of the road system on Princes Parade may lead to a fatality or fatalities – Princes Parade provides a relief road to the A259 and the restriction of traffic flow may prevent emergency vehicles from getting back and forth, meaning that lives may be lost as the result. The “gridlock effect” was demonstrated two or three years ago when Princes Parade was closed temporarily for resurfacing work and during that time there was an accident on Seabrook Road the A259. Traffic backed up to Folkestone to the East and through Hythe to the West a mile or so along the A259 and North out of Hythe as far as Newingreen (A20). Anyone suffering a fire, accident or illness in the entire Hythe area would have had no hope of getting a prompt response.

Reduction of accidents on Princes Parade due to the traffic-calming effect of the new road.

I believe that accidents are rare on Princes Parade and serious accidents very rare, so that this argument simply does not hold water.

I strongly object to the proposed stopping up and, whilst planning permission for the proposed development has already been granted, I hope the development is halted and does not take place. There are plenty of alternative sites for a housing development and far better sites available for a leisure centre.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Mark Steeple