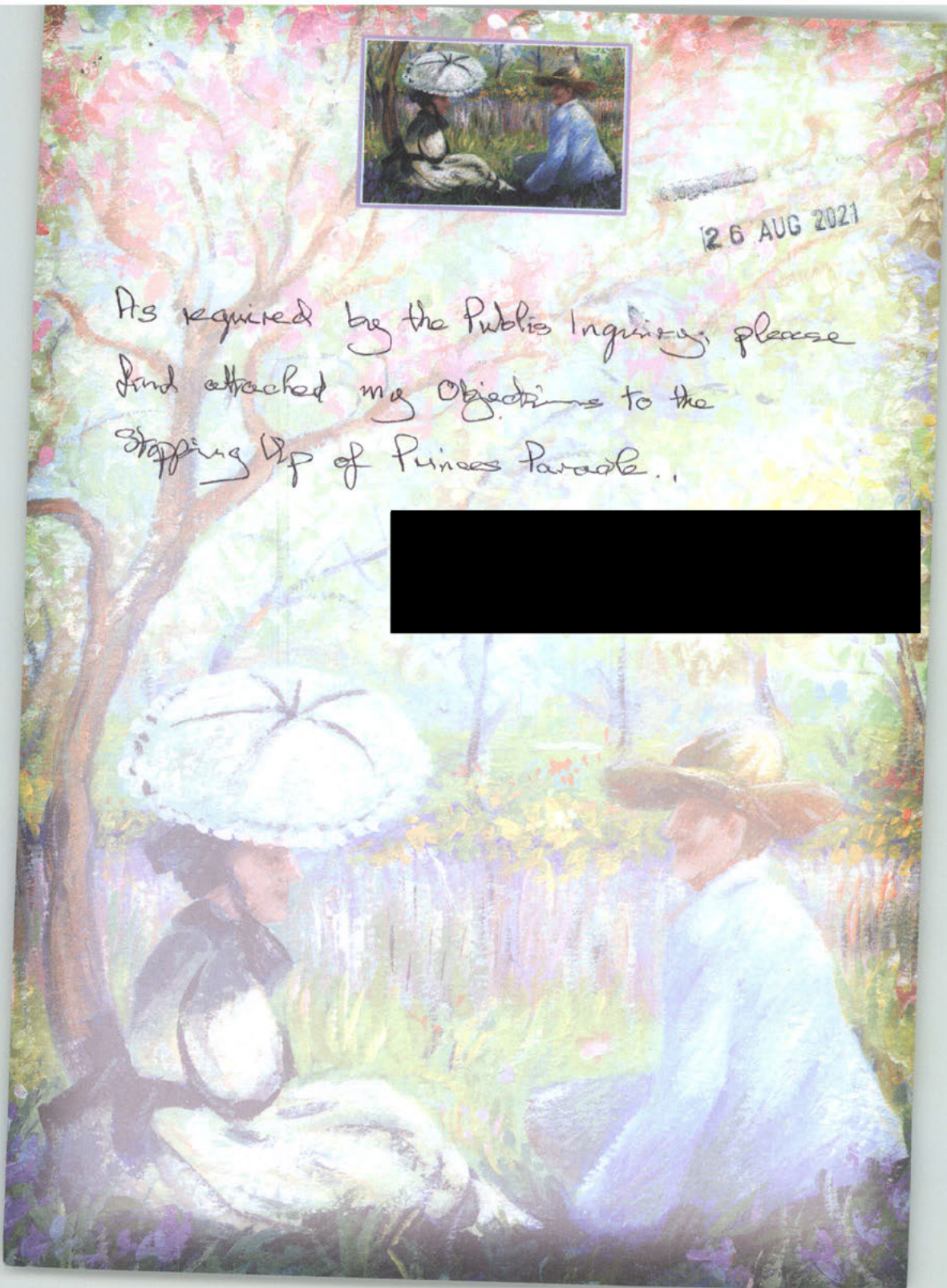




26 AUG 2021

As required by the Public Inquiry, please find attached my objections to the stopping up of Pines Parade.



COPY

National Transport Casework Team,
Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle Business Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE4 7AR

26th August, 2021

Dear Sirs,

Your Ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

**Proposed Stopping Up of Highway at Princes Parade, Folkestone CT21 6AQ
OS Grid Reference E:618281, N:134781**

I wish to object to the Stopping Up of Princes Parade and respectfully ask that your inspector consider my objections during the Public Enquiry, commencing on 19th October 2021 at FHDC, Folkestone, Kent .

The direct significant disadvantages, permanent losses and inconvenience which will be suffered as a direct consequence of the stopping up of Princes Parade to the heavily populated areas of Twiss Road; Stade Street; St Leonards Rd; South Road; West Parade; Marine Parade; Fishermans Beach; Pitt Gardens; Twiss Ave; Field Walk; Turner Ave; Napier Gardens; Tower Gardens; Lynton Road; Windmill St; Albert Lane; Albert Gardens; Park Road; Victoria Road; Ormande Road; Albert Road; Cobden Road; Theresa Road; Parkfield Way; Range Road; Cinque Ports Ave; New Road; Hilda Road; The Avenue; Parkway; Corbay; Earlsfield Way; Imperial Gardens and Moncrieff Gardens, most of which narrow roads lined by Victorian terrace houses with no off-street parking and have 20 mph speed limits.

Since the introduction of Parking Meters on Princes Parade, visitors to Hythe have taken to parking in the above *locations*, making life very difficult and inconvenient for the residents and making it impossible (especially at weekends) to park within one mile of their homes and forcing them to block the road in order to unload shopping, elderly family etc. Similarly, for any delivery vehicles which have no choice but to block the roads in order to make deliveries.

The stopping up of Princes Parade and the loss of at least 60 parking spaces, will make the problem even worse.

All Emergency vehicles will be forced to negotiate the narrow, heavily parked 20 mph, Twiss Road, Stade Street or St Leonards Road or negotiate the chicanes of the proposed new road, in order to attend properties in the above *locations*, thus delaying attendance, risking lives and will be an accident waiting to happen.

Fire Engines leaving the Fire Station, located in Parkfield Way, to attend 999 emergency calls would be forced to use Twiss Road, Stade Street, St Leonards Road or negotiate the chicanes of the proposed new road, thus delaying attendance, risking lives and will be an accident waiting to happen.

HGV's, Car Transporters, Refuse vehicles etc, accessing/delivering to businesses, the Industrial Estate or homes in the above *locations*, tradesmen working and/or having deliveries in the above *locations* will all be forced to use Twiss Road, Stade Street, St Leonards Road or negotiate the chicanes of the proposed new road, which will be an accident waiting to happen.

Located in/near to the above roads are housing specifically for the elderly, Age UK Day Centre, a GP Surgery and Medical Hub, Chemist, Primary School, many of which require adapted vehicle access and parking. The thought of large heavy articulated or emergency vehicles trying to negotiate these roads whilst a child, someone elderly or in a wheelchair is attempting to cross the road, is something **which nightmares are made of** .

copy

With the proposed new road not becoming operational until many months after the Stopping Up of Princes Parade, life will become intolerably dangerous both physically and to health for all the residents of the above *locations*.

Access To The Beach

Access to the beach will be less convenient and/or impossible if Princes Parade is Stopped Up, especially for those with equipment like, surf boards; paddle boards; windsurfers; beach fishermen etc.. They will be forced to carry their gear some distance along footpaths, next to what will be a heavily trafficked road, where as at the moment they can park by the seawall placing their gear straight from the car boot onto the promenade. Similarly, parents with small children will have to walk the excited children on a path alongside what will become a heavily trafficked road whilst the vehicles are negotiating multiple sharp bends and emitting exhaust fumes.

There are often large 'Beach Fishing' competitions with up to 500 participants from all over the EU. Many of the competitors stay in local accommodation with their families. With the Stopping Up of Princes Parade and lack of parking with direct access to the beach, many of these 'Beach Fishing' competitions will be held at other locations in the country, thus depriving Hythe town businesses and accommodation providers of the tourist revenues.

Canal and Wildlife

Quote www.kentdowns.org.uk - Royal Military Canal at Hythe *"The tranquil banks of the canal provide an ideal home for many insects such as dragonflies as well as amphibians, birds and small mammals. Whatever the season there is always something to see"*.

With the proposed new road, the peace and tranquillity of the canal banks will be lost to traffic noise, traffic fumes and light pollution. This area of the canal bank is one of the few areas in the FHDC area which is suitable for star gazing, this will be totally lost due to the light pollution of not only the street lights but the traffic headlights.

The canal wild life such as ducks, swans, moorhens etc. plus their young, will have to negotiate a busy road in order to access the wider area of bank for resting etc, plus their nesting areas on the canal will be subjected to continual 24 hours of noise, lights and traffic fume pollution. Due to the 24 hour noise, lights and traffic fume pollution, the kingfishers, which nest in this area of the canal, will be stressfully forced to establish new territories elsewhere, as will numerous other diverse species all of which form an essential part of the canal's eco-system.

During the winter months when gritting/salting of the road is necessary, there is a high risk of the salt/grit being flung into the canal by the spreading lorries and traffic.

With the number of bends in the proposed new road, it is only a matter of time, especially during winter months, of vehicles coming off the road into the canal. **When** this happens the pollution from leaking fuel/oil, recovery of the vehicle etc will cause irreparable damage to the actual canal and its eco-system.

Princes Parade

Princes Parade is often used by serious cyclist for Time Trials, at speeds of 35mph plus. If the road is Stopped Up, then these cyclist will be forced onto the Promenade mixing with the pedestrians, There is no speed limit on the Promenade!

Alternatively, if Princes Parade is widened -

- to allow for Car Parking, at right angles to the road, this would allow the meter parking to be doubled and the parking congestion on the adjoining *location* roads to be eased. It would also double FHDC parking revenues for this area.

COPY

- a Cycle Lane to be created along the Princes Parade, separating cyclists from the pedestrians on the promenade, thus reducing the current number of accidents/incidents and costs to the NHS.
- with a separate cycle lane and cyclist/pedestrians being separated, the rough, pot holed footpath on the northern side of Princes Parade would become obsolete and could be incorporated into the widened road.
- the road would be used by HGV's, Emergency Vehicles, Delivery vans access vehicles
- although I have not priced the costs involved, I would think that it would be financially substantially less to add a 4 meters to the width of Princes Parade, than to build a totally new road, which will be longer, thus creating savings for the FHDC Council Tax Payers.
- As the proposed new road will be longer than Princes Parade, this will increase the Carbon Emissions of vehicles having to drive further.

It is for the above reasons that I wish to object to the Stopping Up of Princes Parade and would ask the you refuse the application.

Yours sincerely,



Sheila Willis-Rawlings

CC; FHDC ✓