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Re :Public Inquiry Proposed stopping up of Highway at Princes Parade Hythe CT21 6AQ Reference No NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

I wish to place my objection to the application by Folkestone and Hythe District Council to stop up the coastal road along Princes Parade Hythe and my reasons for objecting to this proposal.

This coastal road provides a safe and easy access to the beach at Princes Parade for many local residents as well as visitors to our town, it is a hive of activity in the summer months and busy all year round. Those that enjoy water sports, such as kayaking, paddle boarding, wind surfing, etc, along with the many fishermen, use this road to park up and get their equipment onto the beach to undertake their activity; the removal of the road would be a detriment to their sport, as it will mean a long distance to get to the beach and in some cases may prove impossible. In times when our population is overweight and people are encouraged to undertake activities this is a backward step.

In the summer the road is well used by people visiting the beach, providing them with parking too, and therefore all enjoy this great asset to the town of Hythe, it brings people to the town and therefore supports the local economy. All year round, including the winter months, it is popular for people to park and take a walk along the promenade, morning, afternoon or evening. Moreover, what about those that are disabled and/or elderly? Many people, no longer able to walk alongside the sea, still love to sit and watch the sea from either their car or close to it on the promenade. Removing the coastal road would take this pleasure and enjoyment away from the people of the town and surrounding area. Ironically also for the council the loss of an income stream from the parking charges.

Stopping up the coastal road and moving it near to the Royal Military Canal, which is a significant historical site, and promoted on many websites (Visit Kent, Explore Kent, Visit Folkestone & Hythe, etc ) "as a tranquil haven for watching wildlife including some rare species" is ludicrous. It will cause long term damage to the Royal Military Canal environment (both from the construction of the new road and the ongoing emissions from the vehicles using it) and the destruction of wildlife habitat (birds, insects and mammals) in this area, and for what? The Cabinet Councillors on Folkestone & Hythe Council have not listened to the local residents who want to retain this valuable coastal asset to the town of Hythe; they have provided no real justification to stop up the road, nor addressed the impact on the local road network. It feels, as a local resident, as though Folkestone & Hythe Council have ignored the objections raised and their subsequent report commissioned in response to the original objections avoided addressing the concerns or misrepresented them. Even with the announcement of the public inquiry into the stopping up of the road they continue to take action to remove the reptiles and make preparations.

This coastal road is a well-used benefit to all residents and I see no reason why we should not continue to enjoy it. I would respectfully request that the Public Inquiry listens to the people and conclude the stopping up of the coastal road has no real justification in terms of the benefits to the whole of the area and is, in fact, detrimental to the town and the environment of the Royal Military Canal.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Tina Bray