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Sent: 02 September 2021 11:26
To: Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: Princes Parade Stopping Up Order Public Inquiry

I write with regard to the Public Inquiry into the stopping up of Princes Parade to accommodate Folkestone & Hythe District Council's planned development of a swimming pool and 150 homes in the area, under reference Y17/1042/SH.

As a local journalist who has interviewed and met hundreds of local people over the last five years, I have yet to find someone in favour of building houses on this prime open space right next to a rising sea – apart from those handful of councillors who believe it is still a good idea. The stopping up of Princes Parade in preparation for the building of the homes appears to be folly of the highest order, especially as shingle is regularly strewn across the road during winter (and now summer) storms, and such a Council vanity project should not take precedence over the almost unanimous will of local people.

Princes Parade, and especially its promenade is currently a treasured part of the Hythe Bay landscape – the last remaining open space along this part of the district. Popular among walkers, joggers, cyclists and day-trippers, as well as tourists, the building of homes along this stretch of iconic coastline should in theory never have gone beyond the drawing board as an idea, and discarded at the earliest possible opportunity.

Even worse is the proposal to replace the coast road with a new road alongside a nationally important historic monument, the Royal Military Canal, which provides peace and quiet for people and wildlife alike. Such a destructive impact on a 200-year-old site would be nothing less than heinous vandalism – venting anger against the district not just locally, but nationally.

The Public Inquiry should investigate all the complete impracticalities of stopping up Princes Parade and aim to maintain the status quo.

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