

From: Antony Wilson [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 27 September 2021 12:25
To: Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: Princes Parade

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21st September 2021

Dear Sir,

Ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

I am writing to register my total disagreement to the proposal to change the alignment of the coastal road along Princes Parade. I like it just as it is and many hundreds of people agree with me!

The road has existed on its present route since at least 1898. I see no reason to change it now and ruin it's special character.

The road is extremely unusual, if not unique, in that it runs unimpeded alongside the top of the beach and gives excellent views of the coast in both directions and of the sea. It is rare to find a road this close to the seafront and for such a distance of almost two miles (including the stretch from Seapoint to Sandgate). I have enjoyed cycling and walking along it for more than forty years, as have countless others and would like it to stay exactly as it is. It is an important local amenity and a special attraction for the area. Why spoil what is there?

Any change to the route will necessarily take the road closer to the Royal Military Canal. This should not be allowed under any circumstances.

The Royal Military Canal is a very special place, apart from being an ancient and historic monument, and is enjoyed for its tranquility and wildlife by various groups of people, both local and from farther afield. Fishermen, dog walkers, ramblers, cyclists, nature lovers, canoeists, picnickers and others make good use of the canal and its paths, in their different ways and value highly the calm and peaceful atmosphere. People go there to be quiet, relax and simply soak up the pleasure of the whole experience. Road construction, road noise and the intrusion of traffic will destroy the very qualities that all these people seek and enjoy there.

I suggest also that any change to the route of the road will lead to an increase in traffic accidents. Driving in the gloom and fog along a road that used to be straight, inevitably will lead to mistakes causing injuries and fatalities.

It seems an odd state of affairs that those who object to the scheme have to justify why they wish to retain the status quo. Surely it should be down to those who propose the scheme to demonstrate why they think it is desirable and justifies ignoring the wishes of the hundreds of people who oppose it.

Of course the Royal Military Canal as an important national monument is much more than just the canal itself, it is the total environment, including the canal banks, footpaths and bordering lands. It is acknowledged by the Folkestone and District Council that the Canal is an important haven for wildlife. The Council is also proud of the Green Flag accreditation that the Canal has been awarded since 2010. This is given for the good management of green spaces. How inappropriate! The Council's proposal to construct a highway across a large area of inaccessible the open land is a complete disaster for wildlife and how can the building of a road across the middle of a green space be considered good management?

I hope that you will consider these points when you review the planning proposal and that it will help you come to the view that it is ill-conceived, unnecessary, detrimental to the wider community and so should be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

Antony Wilson