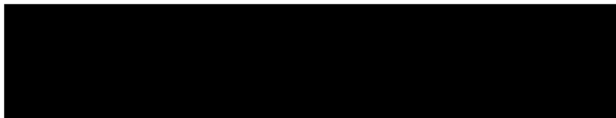


Matthew and Debby Jones



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

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Programme.officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Register Objection – Princes Parade Stopping Up Order

Reference: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

WITNESS STATEMENT

Dear Sirs,

We would like to register our objections to the movement of the road and Stopping Up Order.

The following is a summary of our understanding of the project being proposed.

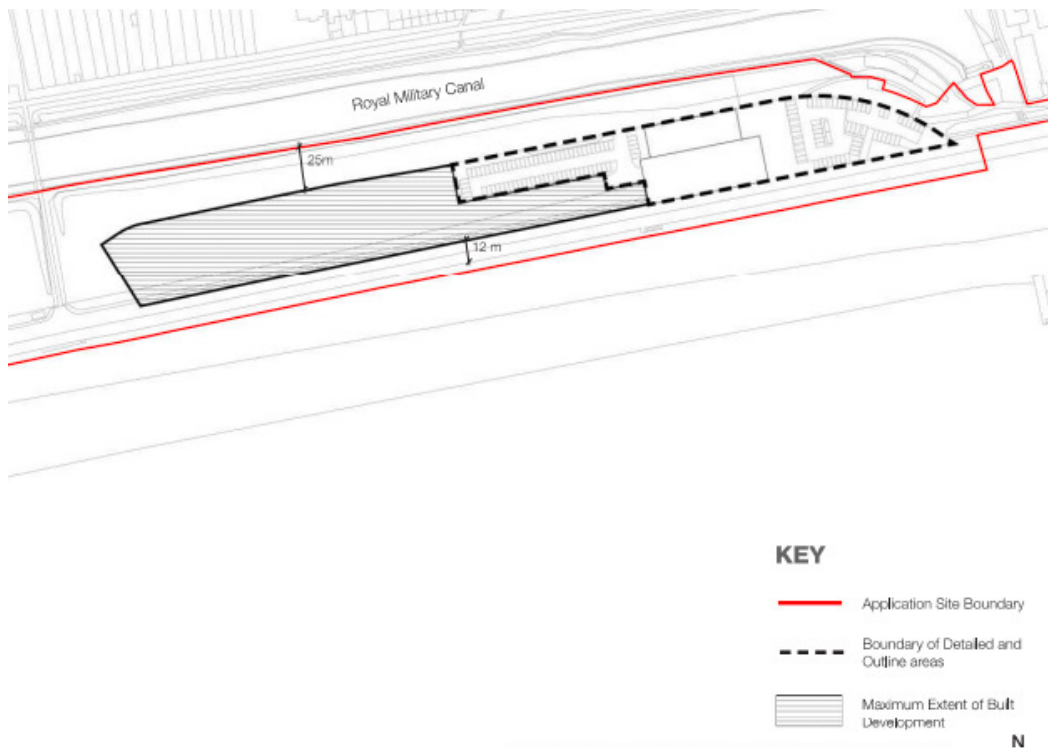
For simplicity, we have divided our objections to moving the road, away from the sea front towards the end of this document.

Relocation of the road from the sea front to running alongside and within proximity of a 'Structure of Historic Importance.' In addition to the current usage of the road, road traffic will increase to serve a new leisure centre, hotel, restaurant (s), café (s) and 150 dwellings.

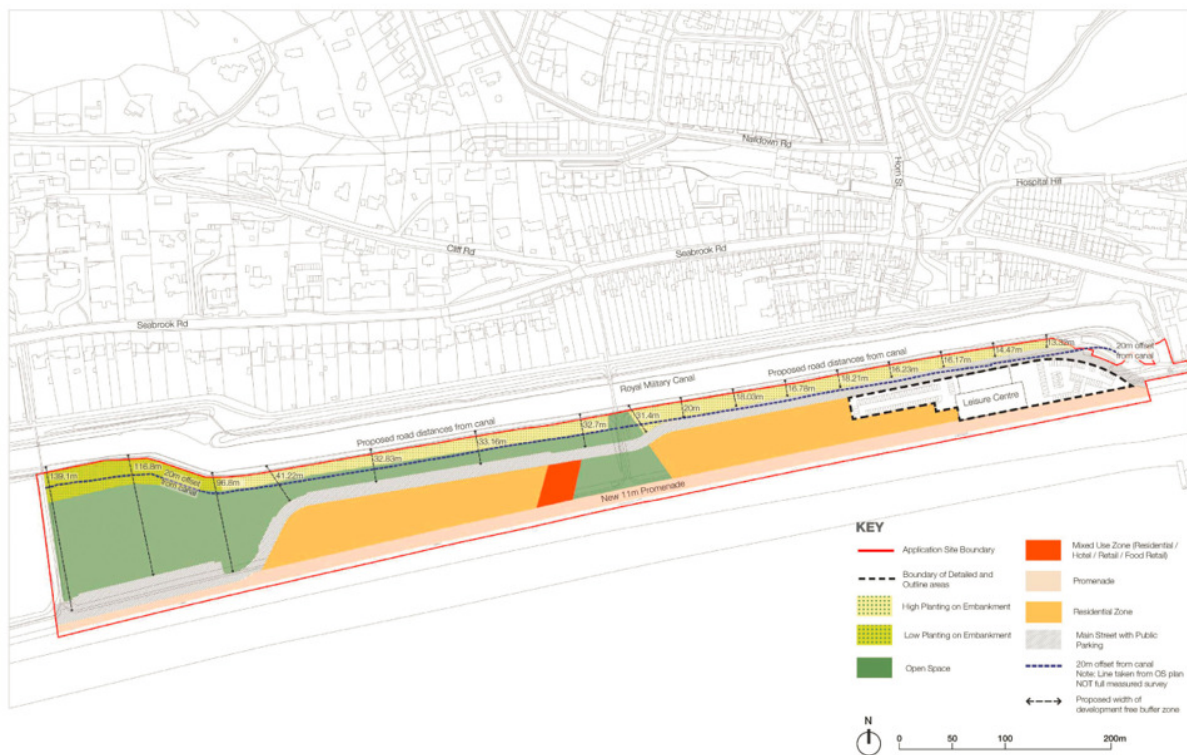


The current applications allow for:

1. Buildings within 25 metres of the Royal Military Canal. A structure and environment of great historical significance. Removal of 25 meter buffer zone.



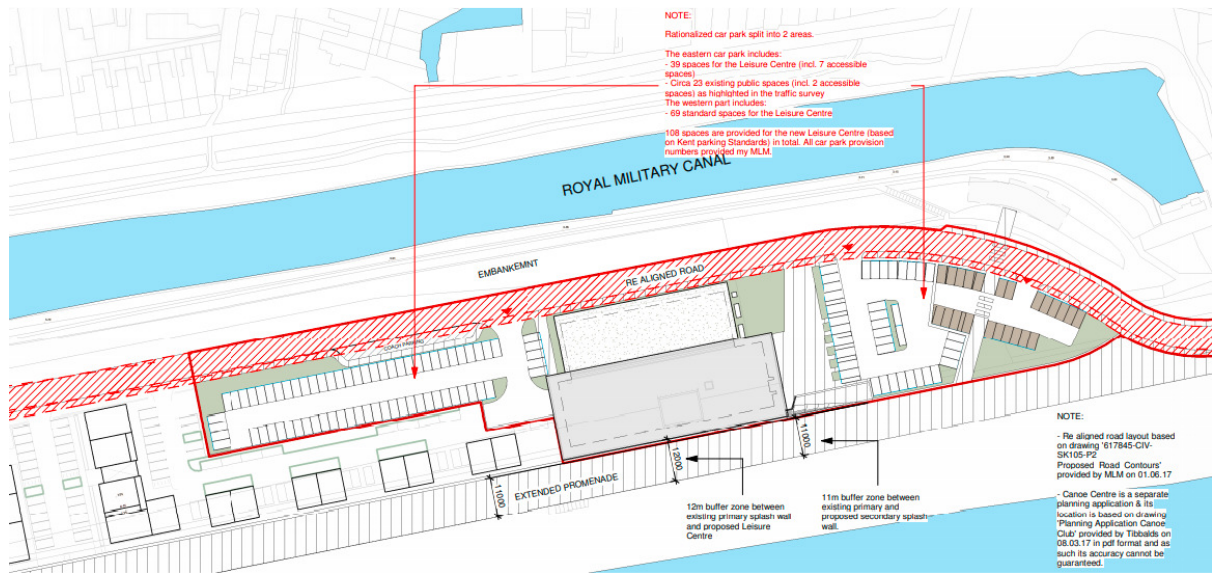
2. Road within 15 metres of the Royal Military Canal



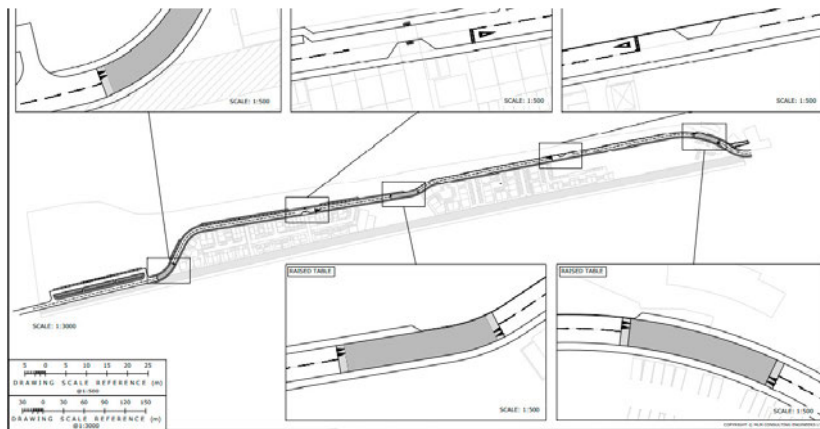
- A new Leisure Centre of unspecified height but the following suggests the intent



- parking area with 108 spaces
- coach parking bay (s)



- The north side of the highway may require a crash barrier to avert the danger of vehicles entering the canal
- Raised table traffic calming measures indicate the concerns about traffic speed. Acceleration and braking results in higher traffic noise and pollution.



Our objections:

Close Vicinity to the Historic Military Canal

This is an area is a designated local wildlife site (LWS) which is of great importance as a wildlife corridor and a place of natural beauty where nature has taken back where man had taken it away.

We believe the plan to move the road will have significant impact on:

1. Light pollution.

Presently the area along the canal is in total darkness. Street lighting necessary for the road would have a significant and permanent impact on an area of remarkable darkness. Presently you can see the Milky Way with ease. Moving the road would destroy this element of an area of outstanding beauty.

2. Noise Pollution.

Presently the area along the canal is silent and not disturbed. Moving the road would have a significant impact on retaining an area of remarkable peace and tranquillity. Concern is also raised by the impact of high buildings, adjacent and close to the road, acting as sound reflectors. The calculation of sound needs to be explored and anything that impacts on the natural acoustics, (bird song / frogs croaking etc.), which is presently clearly audible, is not acceptable.

Plant rooms and air conditioning units are never silent, and the road will not provide natural screening or acoustic barriers.

3. Emissions.

Because of the suggested location of the road between the Royal Military Canal (Scheduled Monument) and high buildings and potentially walls, calculations of emissions must be made. Logic says emissions (airborne) have to travel somewhere and this can only be towards the Royal Military Canal. It is unlikely for every vehicle to be low emission before 2050.



4. Increased traffic

The planners have already projected increased levels of traffic. Traffic brings people and people will inadvertently create further disturbance. Coach parking is scheduled close to the peace and tranquillity of The Royal Military Canal.

Please do take the opportunity of visiting the Royal Military Canal in Hythe and particularly the part where the canal is adjacent to Waitrose. Please take careful note of the distances between the canal and Waitrose and the landscaping, as well as the height of the bank, which disguises Waitrose when one is standing at the canal side. There does not seem to be anything within the plans for the new road which would protect the canal in this way.

Indeed, the area in question provides a valuable alternative screen of wildness and nature's order.



Formal landscape near Waitrose



Natural landscape under threat

An environment is not simply what you see. It's how the air smells, what you hear. Moving the road will destroy all these elements.

5. Road Stability, Underwriting and Maintenance.

The old road is not built on top of a tip. The current road has proven stability.

The new road will be built on top of unstable ground and in a period of significant flooding, where the foundations of the road could be submerged for an extended and significant period of time, what would happen to the substructure of the new road and the excess water run off?

Unless the road is built on prohibitively expensive pilings, the road will move and will need major repair and renewal. Who would be responsible for and underwrite such a risk? The developer will almost certainly be long gone and even if still around, unwilling / unable to meet the huge financial obligations needed to address the subject. Hythe and Folkestone Council, for what seems presently to be a remarkably small financial gain, will leave the liability with the people of Folkestone and Hythe. This risk is totally avoidable if the road is left in its current position. I object to the people of Hythe, Folkestone and associated areas being subjected to potentially huge financial liability.

6. Facts and figures.

I raise concerns with the accuracy of information gathered and presented to the council, planners and other bodies.

For example:

Princes Parade, Hythe
Flood Risk Assessment

herrington
CONSULTING LIMITED

Source of flooding	Initial level of risk	Appraisal method applied at the initial flood risk assessment stage
Rivers	Low	OS mapping and detailed study of the Royal Military Canal
Sea/Estuaries	Low	Environment Agency flood zone map
Ordinary and man-made watercourses	Low	OS mapping
Overland flow	Low	Environment Agency 'Risk of Flooding from Surface Water' flood maps, and aerial height data
Groundwater	Low	BGS Geology mapping, OS mapping and geo-environmental report
Sewers	Low	Historic sewer records contained within the SFRA and topographic survey
Artificial sources	Low	Ordnance Survey mapping and Environment Agency 'Risk of Flooding from Reservoirs' flood map

Table 3.1 – Summary of flood sources and risks.

Check your long term flood risk

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GOV.UK Check your long term flood risk

BETA This is a new service – your feedback will help us to improve it.

Flood risk summary for the area around:

HYTHE IMPERIAL HOTEL, PRINCES PARADE, HYTHE, CT21 6AE

Rivers and the sea
High risk

[▶ What this information means](#)

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the flood risk from rivers and the sea.
[View a map of the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea](#)

I understand, through global warming, the risk of flooding is increasing, not decreasing. May I request you take a further look at this aspect.

7. Historic Relevance

We are bemused by the lack of protection being afforded to a site of historic significance. I would appreciate your time in reflecting on the documents you have seen and particularly to reflect upon the lacklustre response from other bodies such as Historic England and the Environment Agency. Nobody would consider building a road at such proximity to Hadrian's Wall, an ancient monument of equal standing. It is almost as if these bodies have not understood the momentousness of this plan.

Moving the road would, in my opinion, have a huge impact on the ancient monument of the Royal Military Canal and I would appreciate your support in protecting this site.

8. Existing Road

In our experience the existing road works well. It provides ample parking and easy access to the beach. It forms an essential alternative to Sandgate Road. The current promenade works well as a shared path with plenty of room for cyclists, roller skaters, walkers and runners.

In summary

The land currently provides a natural buffer (both in terms of noise and visually) between the current road and the canal, creating a unique tranquillity which is rare. Moving the new road next to the canal will utterly destroy a unique historical, floral, and environmental location. Despite any claims that new planting would ameliorate the harm I believe the above has demonstrated that this will not be the case.

This unique area once lost, it will never be replaced for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

You are the guardian of the land and please protect the Military Canal. Please reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Matthew and Debby Jones

Information and drawings taken from:

Shepway District Council Proposed Leisure Centre and Mixed-Use Development at Princes Parade Hythe
Environmental Statement Technical Annex 8 Transport August 2017