

From: Leo Lyons [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 05 October 2021 15:57
To: programme.officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.
Subject: Reference: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254 - Stopping up of Princes Parade - an objection

Dear Madam or Sir

Reference: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

I wish to register my objections to the current Folkestone and Hythe Council plan to stop up and relocate Princes Parade, Hythe.

The area around Princes Parade constitutes a much loved recreational area for local people and for visitors to the towns of Hythe and Folkestone. In particular, Princes Parade affords access to an unspoilt and undeveloped part of the coast with views across to Dungeness and France – a rare thing so close to a town. The accessibility of this stretch of coast to those with mobility problems should also be an important consideration when deciding the future of the land. It is well established now that access to fresh air and open spaces is crucial to mental health as well as providing enjoyment and increasing fitness. Those of us who are wheel chair users, those who need a mobility scooter and even those who are confined to cars can still enjoy the benefits of the ocean, the foreshore and the open skies because of the existence of Princes Parade. The proposal to stop up the road will remove access to all these - permanently. The beauty of Princes Parade, where it is currently located, is that it gives access to all to an undeveloped part of the coast. This is much cherished by walkers, runners, cyclists, bird watchers, fishermen and women, swimmers – whatever their level of mobility.

Moving the road to the land adjacent to the Military Canal – in fact very close to the canal, will have an enormous impact on the environment and the wildlife which currently thrives in that area. With current laws designed to protect the environment, guard against flooding and preserve the diversity of flora and fauna I am surprised that such a development is even allowed, but even more surprised that the council think this is an acceptable plan.

Measures that are already taking place to 're-home' rare species of reptiles, move badger setts etc are far from ideal and do not make up for the devastation that this proposal will cause. Wildlife exists in areas where the conditions and environment allow it to thrive. These conditions can be very specific and we are blessed that so many species of wildlife have made the canal and the areas around it their home. There is absolutely no guarantee that we will continue to enjoy the presence of kingfishers, grass snakes, newts and lizards, bats and many species of bird right on our doorstep if the relocation of the road to within a few metres of the canal goes ahead. I understand that in places the new road will be less than 15 metres from the banks of the canal. This seems to go completely against the current public mood - that we have spent too many decades destroying nature in this country and now is the time to preserve what we have and to create more wild spaces.

Even if the plans to move the road managed to preserve a semblance of what we already have, the pollution and noise caused by a much nearer road, will I believe, sound the death knell for much of the flora and fauna we currently share our area with. Whatever happens to the wildlife, the serenity and silence currently enjoyed by us humans when walking by the canal will be gone for ever.

There are also issues around rising sea levels, increased rainfall and run off exacerbated by concreting/tarmacking over currently undeveloped land – the canal it would seem is bound to be impacted by run off.

On more day to day issues the stopping up of the road will removes parking spaces and force traffic onto other local road which already struggle to cope during peak periods. There will be a long period when no alternative route is available

I urge those concerned to think again but these hard to justify proposals to stop up Princes Parad and build a new road so close to much cherished wild areas
Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Lyons

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