

From: Graham Horner (for CPRE Shepway) [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2021 15:49
To: nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk
Cc: Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254 Stopping up of Princes Parade, Hythe, Kent

Dear Sirs

I am writing on behalf of CPRE Kent which is the Kent branch of CPRE, The Countryside Charity. We object to the proposed stopping up of Princes Parade.

As the Countryside Charity, CPRE prefers built development in urban spaces, especially brownfield sites. As such, we could be expected to support the proposed development known as Princes Parade. We do, however, also have a keen interest in avoidance of poor planning in general and especially where valuable urban green areas stand to be affected. Such is the case here.

We have objected to the planning application, principally on the effect it would have on the setting of the Royal Military Canal and its associated unique fortifications. It has been argued that the development affects only a short length of the canal out of the total that stretches as far as Rye so should therefore be acceptable. We do not agree. Although there are built-up areas each side of the canal already, none have the impact that these proposals would have. The main difference being the height of the buildings and the subject proposal to re-route Princes Parade by the side of the canal.

The Royal Military Canal provides a tranquil corridor through Hythe, generally well separated from roads with their associated noise, and air and light pollution, and separated from substantial buildings. It is an essential component of the place that is Hythe and much loved by residents and visitors for that. Meanwhile, the existing alignment of Princes Parade allows easy access to the beach as well as an alternative route between Hythe and Sandgate should Seabrook Road be closed or congested.

We cannot see any advantage in planning terms (and so to the public at large) from the proposed stopping up of the existing coastal road. There are, however, a number of significant disadvantages, including:

- loss of public access to the beach
- potential for the loss of an alternative route between Hythe and Sandgate (we understand there is no guarantee that new roads serving the proposed development will provide a through route)
- loss of tranquility along the canal where a new road abuts it
- loss of habitat along the canal, including the effects of light pollution, noise and vibration from passing traffic
- harm to the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument

As such we can see no justification for this proposal and we trust the application will be rejected.

We do not wish to speak at the upcoming inquiry.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Horner