

From: David Wimble [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: 28 September 2021 15:28
To: Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: Princes Parade

Good afternoon Programme Officer,

Firstly, I apologise if this email is out of time, but hope you take my observations into account, whilst reaching your verdict on the PP Road development?

I would like to take this opportunity to put my opinion forward about Princes Parade and the issue with the re routing of the road.

Firstly, to qualify my position on this, I am in my second term as a councillor, My first term, we spoke about the need of a new pool for Hythe, Several sites were considered and rejected for a number of reasons.

After failing to get elected in the term before my present, I spoke to a lot of people about the need for the swimming pool, I also wrote about it in The Looker Newspaper (of which I am editor). The one thing that is recurring, in the history of the project, is that there is a very loud minority, who are opposed to just about every aspect of the pool.

Many of the people who make up the anti PP brigade, are not local people, they have moved down to the district and qualify as 'Nimby's'.

I have had probably 300 emails for and against the pool over the past 6 years. one thing that is very apparent is the 'bullying, tactics' that the anti PP brigade use.

I am also in the privileged position of owning a business in Hythe High Street. I use my position to get the 'Real Feel' of what local people want.
and it is a case of the silent majority certainly do want the pool. and everything else that comes with it.

The current road is like a race track at times and is used as a rat run, for people who try to beat the traffic hold ups by the Bell Pub in Hythe along with the fact that there is a speed camera on the main A259.

If anything the re routing of the road will achieve much more than just making way for a superb public space and enhanced sea front walk way promenade. but much more importantly it will act as a traffic calming measure, for the development.

it will also probably make more people aware of the historic monument that is the Royal Military Canal.

The whole development is about building 'Place' and a destination for people to Live Work and Play. I fear if this proposed road is denied, it will not only postpone the building of the pool, but also rob the majority of LOCAL residents who are waiting for the site to be developed.

I think this can also be qualified, by a simple story from a recent planning issue at the other end of the Parade.

When I was on the planning committee, a Mr Ellis lobbied me consistently about the building of the properties on the site of the Imperial Hotel. He spoke endlessly of the 'destruction of natural habitat and how no one wanted these houses and that they certainly were not meant for local people. To cut a long story short.... guess where he now lives? In the flats that he was so adamant, would ruin Hythe.

As a council we have a duty to deliver housing and affordable housing too. Hythe has very little space and place to build these. so again the development is helping put something much more than just a leisure offering to locals. but helps improve the history and appeal to people of the whole district.

I personally think that this is a very forward thinking plan, of which the road re rout is not only key for the whole project, but also helps the risk of speeding cars.

There has been many false facts put out by the anti PP group. I am sure you have worked these out for yourself.

But this will not damage the sea defences as claimed

It will not stop emergency services from access to the seafront esplanade

It will not stop a short cut 'rat run' but will actually improve road safety

It will enable car parking in a controlled way without the risk of children running between parked cars. as it will enable a large safe promenade.

It will also help enable a much needed public space

It will enable more affordable Housing

It will produce jobs, in the hotel, coffee shops and sports facility

It will help maintain the sea wall and sea defence

It will act as a traffic calming measure

it will deliver on a promise to the people of the district to deliver a 'fit for purpose' development that will enhance the community and economy.

Kindest Regards

Cllr David Wimble

Independent Councillor, Folkestone and Hythe District Council