

**From:** Alanna Fraser [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** 03 October 2021 16:02  
**To:** Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254: objection to stopping up order

Dear Ms Williams,

I am writing to formally object to the stopping up order for Princes Parade, and would be grateful if you could pass my correspondence on to the DfT and to FHDC.

My objection is based on several issues. The first of these is on safety grounds. The beach at Hythe is increasingly popular, with the Covid pandemic no doubt playing a part in this. Kite-surfers, hydro-foilers, paddleboarders, swimmers and kayakers regularly use the water, as well as families and groups who sit on the beach. I myself have been involved in two first aid incidents on the beach; in the more serious, a kite-surfer was blown towards the promenade, hit the wall and broke his ankle. The stopping up of the road would impede emergency services from accessing the beach, particularly the Seabrook - golf course part. This would be most impactful during construction of the new road and development of Princes Parade, but it seems dangerous to leave a busy beach without direct emergency service access at both ends.

There would also be issues with increased traffic on local roads, including Twiss Road the main road adjoining my road, William Pitt Close. In 2020, there was a serious accident on Seabrook Road when a car overturned, with all traffic routed onto Princes Parade. This created serious bottlenecks, and again, difficulty for emergency services. This accident underscored the issue of losing one of the roads during the construction phase, and indeed, directing more traffic into the area with the new leisure centre. This not only increases pollution in a 'blue and green' health area but also makes moving around the locality much more difficult for residents. The new road, which curves and bends, would be less safe than the existing road, which could be made safer by traffic calming measures, such as a lower speed limit or speed bumps.

Moreover, my elderly mother has asked me to object on her grounds, as this will take away parking from Princes Parade. Many elderly and less mobile people can access the promenade from the parking zones on Princes Parade, but would not be able to access it from parking further away. My mother is one of these. I believe that the new road arrangement would lead to a net loss of around 60 parking spaces which would adversely impact those with mobility problems in accessing the blue health benefits of the seafront.

On environmental grounds, the proposed moving of the road takes it close to the banks of the Royal Military Canal, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Folkestone and Hythe District Council states in its information leaflet on the canal that, "The canal and its banks are now designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument which protects it for generations to come." A road which is moved adjacent to the canal bank will create more harm to canal than the current road on Princes Parade, which is further away. This includes air and noise pollution. The canal bank from Seabrook to Twiss Road is an irreplaceable green space which many, myself included, enjoy walking. It is an attractive, tranquil and valuable amenity to the local community, playing an important role in the general wellbeing of many. I walk it 3-4 times

per week and it provides respite from my stressful job as a teacher and designated safeguarding lead at my school. As Public Health England and the Landscape Institute note, green and blue spaces have an integral role in reducing stress, lifting mood and allowing children to interact with nature. Furthermore, this action will create habitat loss for many species, including birds on the RSPB's red and amber lists, such as the reed warbler, kingfisher and song thrush, all of which I have seen in the area, in addition to reptile habitat destruction for grass snakes, lizards and many other invertebrates. The pedestrianising of Princes Parade would not carry these benefits because it lacks the natural, unconstructed environment of green and blue space along the canal banks.

Moreover, the proposed Princes Parade development does not need the relocation of the road. The proposed buildings can still be served from the existing road without the need to stop up half of Princes Parade, especially since the other half of the road will continue to operate because of the location of the golf course behind it. It is an unnecessary step; the Imperial Hotel is served by a vehicle entrance on Princes Parade as is a car park and thus, the proposed leisure centre and other buildings could be similarly served by creating vehicular access from Princes Parade. There are already precedents for this without the need to stop up the road.

I also understand that the new road is planned to run within 13.32m of the canal in contravention of the Environment Agency's recommendations. That distance is also within the 16m buffer zone from a main river which is not advised. I find both of these objectionable.

I believe that on both the counts of necessity and desirability, the stopping up of Princes Parade is found to be wanting. Thus, I do hope that further consultation and/or rejection of the proposal is recommended by your department.

Yours sincerely,

Alanna Fraser