

**From:** HCS Chairman [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** 05 October 2021 16:30  
**To:** Programme Officer <Programme.Officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Princes Parade, Hythe - Inquiry

Dear Caroline Williams

**INQUIRY REF – NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254**  
**“STOPPING UP” OF PRINCES PARADE, HYTHE**  
**STATEMENT OF OBJECTION BY HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY**

I am submitting this statement of objection on behalf of Hythe Civic Society (HCS) and with the agreement of its Executive Committee. HCS has some 725 subscribing members who care about protecting Hythe's past, are concerned about its present and its future development.

HCS submitted its objection to the planning authority after consulting with its membership on 7 June 2018. At that time HCS said:

*Hythe Civic Society (the Society) was founded in 1945, is a registered charity and had some 750 individual subscribing members who are who are committed to Hythe and are interested in its future development.*

*The Society OBJECTS to the proposed order to stop up and to divert part of Princes Parade, Hythe. The Society notes that the reasons given by the applicant for the proposal are “By relocating the road to the rear of the site, we can generate a vehicle free link from the proposed leisure centre and housing development to the beach and existing promenade”.*

*The Society agrees that the existing current traffic speed along the whole length of Princes Parade is too high and needs to be reduced – particularly if the planning application that has given rise to this proposed Traffic Order is granted. However the Society objects to the proposed order because the Society believes that the proposed stopping up and diversion is unnecessary. The aim of achieving a safe pedestrian crossing between the proposed leisure centre and housing development to the beach and the existing promenade on the existing road can be achieved by other means, including combinations of the other means as appropriate, including:*

- *Pedestrian priority in the relevant area;*
- *Speed restrictions in the relevant area;*
- *Pelican crossing/s;*
- *Traffic lights;*
- *“Shared space” that works well in Ashford town centre, and*
- *Traffic management measures including sleeping policemen and chicanes.*

*There may well be other relevant measures that can be taken, in addition to those above, to effectively and significantly reduce traffic speed to make the existing road pedestrian friendly and safe to cross between the promenade/beach and the proposed development.*

*The above measures will be significantly cheaper to the developer than the proposed stopping up and diversion of part of Princes Parade.*

What the HCS 2018 statement does not make clear is the adverse and damaging effect the proposed re-routing of Princes Parade will have on the setting of the Royal Military Canal (RMC) – a scheduled

ancient monument. I refer to the advice from the Government's adviser on ancient monuments, Historic England (HE), in its letter of 19 June 2019 to the District Council. I refer particularly to:

- Page 2, paragraph 2 where *HE states that heritage has not been considered as a key consideration – immediately adjacent to a scheduled ancient monument.* The Royal Military Canal is part of a world unique Napoleonic set of military defences – nothing like this exists elsewhere in the world.

HCS is concerned that the road design, when finalised and in the public domain, will result in a high retaining wall alongside the RMC at the eastern end of the site and will have a substantial adverse effect upon the setting of the RMC.

Please note that HCS wishes to make its objections known to the Inspector by this witness statement. HCS does not wish to speak nor for the witness statement to be the subject of cross-examination.

*Crispin Davies*

Crispin Davies  
Chairman - Hythe Civic Society  
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