

From: Kerrie MacDonald [mailto:]

Sent: 04 October 2021 18:12

To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>

Subject: ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254) - Objection to - Stopping up the Sea road in Seabrook Hythe

Hi Neil Crass,

my name is Kerrie MacDonald and I live on the

We moved about 7 months ago to this area to be closer to the sea and to nature. My husband is a paramedic so has a hectic and sometimes emotionally stressful time at work. We all appreciate the ability to unwind and my husband swims in the sea on his days off.

We love the area Princes Parade as it exists right now, but we moved knowing that changes were planned. We are not happy about it, but we are aware that change happens for many reasons.

But I was less aware of the plans to stop up of the sea road, until the petition came about. And I am not happy that the council have plans to effectively re route a much loved and constantly used highway, sea road.

I strongly object to the stopping up of the road at Princes Parade. I think it works for the area, the community and tourists alike. I don't see the benefits to the community as a whole by moving it and disrupting the way this works now.

I know of very few areas in Kent where you are able to drive along the sea road and take a breath as you drive straight and true towards Hythe. It is perfect that you are able to stop anywhere along it, look out to sea with uninterrupted views towards Hythe and Dymchurch and park up.

A moment to reflect and a moment out of life's hectic ups and downs. Anyone who has visited us from outside of Kent, is astonished that the council plan to change how you use this coastal road, when it really doesn't need changing. It is beautiful in its length and breadth, and nothing like it exists anywhere else along the Kent coast.

It is so important to the ecological wellbeing of this heritage site that the road remains as it is and is not right next to the canal. Especially when it is a haven for wildlife and people alike. The majority of the council seem to have a total disregard for what a heritage site means. Or a care for the natural habitat and home to much wildlife that lives there.

If the road is stopped up and re-routed closer to this beautiful site, the worry is the run-off from the new road, from the cars parked for the proposed housing estate, will end up running off into the canal.

This would not just be rain water, but mixed with petrol, diesel and would be completely toxic to the canal and all that lives in and around the water itself. We would soon end up with spills of one thing or another when we have heavy rain falls and along with predicted sea level rises for this area due to climate change, no fish, swans, or Kingfishers, will remain. We will end up with a dead bit of water with nothing in it, which will amount to total human disregard.

I believe the environmental damage to this area will be great. We are currently living on a knife edge with mass decline of species of animals, insects and birds. To move a road that works to churn up an area of beauty, to risk polluting the canal, seems idiotic in this climate of uncertainty, surely we need

to work towards the least environmental harmful solution? Is this new road really taking this into consideration?

I have young children, I do not want to leave a hollowed out husk of a world for them to bring up their own children in. We are doing so much harm to biodiversity, if we carry on as if it doesn't matter, nothing will be left. Unless we make a stand this is just wanton human destruction for political and financial gain.

I do not agree with the development. But I can see that there is a need for housing and I am not opposing the development here, but I do believe that if the development is to go ahead they need to use the road where it is and go back to the drawing board. Come up with an ecological sound proposal that works to enhance this beautiful landscape and heritage site, not up root and trash the very thing that makes it so unique and beautiful.

This could be a chance to show the world how an ecological housing estate in an area of beauty is done, whilst considering every animal and every human who lives here.

I also believe the stopping up will cause a road blockage for the Hythe, Seabrook Sandgate and Dymchurch. Not only for those living in these areas, but for emergency services needing access to them too. My husband is a paramedic and he uses the sea road to get quickly through Hythe at busy times, all the time.

I have seen during lockdown and throughout the summer months lots of outside traffic and visitors and cars park along the main Searook road all the way along to Sandgate, and all the way along the sea road towards Hythe. On those hot days there really is no space left. There will just not be enough spaces for all the people to park on those days. It is unspoilt, undisturbed and a direct link for those wishing to come and park and access this beautiful part of Hythe.

If the sea road were to be taken away, the main Seabrook road will become clogged up, due to the nature of the narrowing in places and parking along the main road, as there will just be nowhere else to park. This will cause major flow problems. And with more traffic due to the new housing estate and incoming visitors to this, proposed tourist area, it will surely break the camels back. No one will be able to move for parked cars. The whole area will become gridlocked. And I will struggle to pick my daughter up from school. Frankly it is a total disregard for the communities already living and working in these areas.

I really do appreciate your fair and transparent investigation.

Thank you.

Regards

Kerrie Macdonald