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Sent: 16 May 2018 11:14
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>
Subject: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

To Whom It May Concern

Ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

This is a proposal for the stopping up of a sea front road in Hythe Kent under the auspices of Shepway District Council, or, as they wish to be now known as: Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

This proposal has been put forward as part of a plan for the Council to raise plans for and pass planning permission to themselves for the development of a Swimming pool and houses that they will not own.

The road that is to be stopped up, Princes Parade, is a vital link between the sea front side of Hythe and Folkestone. In the proposal, the route is to be diverted around the proposed new housing and is to include traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps. The only other route available for this link is Seabrook Road, part of the A259.

Princes Parade provides an alternative route for many people **AND** emergency services, especially the Fire Brigade, as they have a station which is towards the sea front side of Hythe, and this road has been used by them when the Seabrook Road route is restricted by road works. As it happens, Seabrook Road will be closed, at nights, for approximately 10 days from 22nd May for repair work, and all traffic will be diverted to use Princes Parade. The only other option would be a detour that would add at least 5 miles to the route between Hythe and Folkestone and take traffic through an area of only residential properties and narrow roads, and for anyone wishing to go from Hythe to Sandgate, which is the village just before Folkestone, a two minute journey would become a 15 or 20 minute journey.

When Seabrook Road is closed to traffic, as it will be if there is a serious accident, or road works, and if Princes Parade were to be stopped up, **ALL** traffic, including emergency services would then have to negotiate the traffic calmed area of the proposed altered route, or take the aforementioned diversion. Not a good option for someone needing an emergency service.

Another point about this proposed stopping up is the increased traffic on Seabrook Road. The proposed alternative route within the plans is to pass through a new residential area, and will have traffic calming features. This will make it less of an option for some as a route between Hythe and Folkestone, and they would then use Seabrook Road. As a resident of this road for more than 40 years, I can say that it has become increasingly difficult to pull out from my drive. Whereas I might have had a long wait of about one minute fifteen years ago, I now frequently have to wait for 4 or 5 minutes before being able to pull out onto the road, a much longer wait than any traffic light system. I would expect a further increase in traffic as a result of the proposed stopping up, to increase this wait.

Princes Parade has long been used by many as an area for beach fishing in all but the harshest of weathers. The ability to park a car so close to where you will be on the beach applies not

just to sea anglers, but to anybody wanting to spend time on the beach when the weather is good. The recent hot spell provided an excellent example of this, as cars were parked along the entire length of Princes Parade.

This proposed plan is widely regarded as a gross waste of local tax payers money and for the reasons given above, I would urge you to dismiss this proposal.

Kind Regards

J Mornington-West