

From: Graham Adams [mailto:]
Sent: 17 May 2018 14:58
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>
Subject: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Dear Sirs

I am writing to protest against the proposed stopping-up of Princes Parade in Hythe, Kent in the event a housing development goes ahead on the land adjacent to the Royal Military Canal.

The proposed diversion of this coastal road serves no purpose to the public or road users as the only tangible benefit is to the homeowners who may purchase dwellings on the site. i.e. they will have the luxury of no public highway between their properties and the seafront.

The proposed housing and/or sports complex can be just as effectively serviced from the road as it exists now without wasting public money on considering or funding the diversion.

In addition, the diversion of the road to it's proposed location adjacent to the Royal Military Canal is likely to cause harm, not limited to the following:

- The Military Canal is a scheduled historic monument. Any road construction is likely to cause damage to this monument.
- It is a haven for wildlife and supports numerous migratory birds as well as local species. A road adjacent to this would force wildlife away and generate increased pollution to the environment.
- Having a public road alongside is likely to result in polluted water seepage from drains, leading to further pollution to the Canal and the wildlife it supports.
- The site is mainly old landfill and inherently unstable, polluted and leaking Marsh Gas. Any public road would require substantial groundwork to ensure it is constructed safely and remain stable and in a good state going forward.
- Disturbance of this landfill would risk further pollution to the Canal and surrounding area; irrespective of conditions and assurances placed on the organisation responsible for construction of the road, corners are likely to be cut to save on cost, further increasing the risks to the Canal and wildlife.
- Historic England have already many negative comments to the proposed housing development on the site, any road diversion would almost certainly result in additional opposition, resulting in further costs to the public purse in term of planning appeals etc.
- The current stretch of Princes Parade is used by locals and visitors to the area given it's close proximity to the beach, seafront and Canal. To divert the road would drive away these visitors resulting in an impact to local businesses.
- the Canal is used for angling by members of the public and organisations. having a road running alongside would, no doubt, force these people to look

elsewhere for somewhere quieter; leading to further loss of economic benefit to the area.

From a personal perspective I urge you to note the following, which equally will apply to many local people and visitors as well as myself:

- Myself and my family use the Military Canal on a regular basis for running, walking and cycling (both sides). To have a road running adjacent will increase air and noise pollution, reducing the enjoyment of these pastimes and increasing the health risks from traffic fumes.
- We enjoy the birdlife and wildlife in the area. The diversion of the road will force a large percentage of these elsewhere, making use of the area less enjoyable.
- I personally use the existing road for cycling on a regular basis (at least three times a week) as it is quieter and safer than using the main A259 trunk road, giving clear visibility for cars and cyclists alike. Diverting the road will create bottlenecks and areas of poor visibility for road users, increasing the risk of collisions.

In summary – no public benefit from the diversion of the road can be justified and the stopping up order should be subject to detailed necessity and merits tests as part of the overall planning consideration. This proposed stopping up order also needs to be considered by the Secretary of State at the same time as the development of the adjacent site to ensure each is not considered in isolation. i.e. the development of the site AND the stopping up order need to be considered and reviewed in conjunction.

Thank you for your interest.

Graham Adams

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