

**From:** Susan Egerton-Jones [mailto: ] On Behalf Of

**Sent:** 15 May 2018 12:14

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

**Subject:** NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Email to:nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Ref NATTRANS/SE/S247/13254

Re proposal to “stop up” Princes Parade, Hythe

Dear Sirs

Further to publication of the proposal to close a section of Princes Parade in Hythe dependant on an earlier application made by the council to the council for the development along this section of the Parade for new leisure facilities to be paid for by the building of residential properties. As this earlier application is under appeal at this time, it is not appropriate to be even considering any road closures and the proposal should be withdrawn without delay.

However, given the very short time residents of Hythe have been allowed to consider the proposal to close the Parade, or even part of it, I would like to object very strongly to any plans for any closure. I use this road regularly both in my car and on foot to reach the golf club, the canoe centre, the children’s playground, the petrol station and to walk on the beach. This latter access is now rather expensive after parking meters were recently installed along the Parade and further holes made in the sea wall to allow motorist access to the meters. (Has this destruction been approved by the DoE I wonder?)

Furthermore, it is noticeable that parking in the narrow residential streets leading up to the beach has not been taken into consideration. My access from my garage into Stade Street is now quite dangerous. Residents living without garages are already losing parking space to visitors unwilling to pay and local Hythe residents who already have paid the cost of mis-installing the meters on the wrong side of the parade in the first instance.

I cannot work out why there is such a time limit for approval being set now. The impact of an improperly discussed closure of any part of the Parade road at this stage would be chaotic and very expensive. Whether or not a proposed slip road to the proposed housing is ever built with all the associated destruction of wild habitat and peace of the Royal Military Canal and sea vistas enjoyed for centuries by residents above the town, the impact on traffic on the A259 through Hythe would be very serious. This road is already heavily congested, particularly at holiday times and when there are problems on the M20 . It is also very narrow in places and blockages occur when lorries, buses and emergency

vehicles need to get through. Any closure of Princes Parade would involve diverting all beach traffic on to the A259. A slip road through the wilderness area would serve only to create hold ups at its start and end. Hythe cannot afford to even maintain A259 in a roadworthy state as it is despite a new surface currently being planned for the immediate future. So where does all this money come from? The cost of building homes out of the financial reach of most families could never fund the amount of infrastructure costs required and as East Kent has fulfilled all government guidelines for new builds, there can be no government led excuse for disrupting coastal traffic, impinging on the historic site of the Royal Military Canal and removing vehicular access to a beautiful and unspoiled stretch of leisure beach that has existed for centuries. Improving the entire length of the Princes Parade - yes. Stopping it up - NO.

I feel that Hythe, Folkestone and Shepway need to put their own houses in much better order, before even thinking about destroying what now exists and has helped to build Hythe's reputation as a lovely and peaceful seaside town.

Yours faithfully