

**From:** Melanie Chalk [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 20 May 2018 20:20  
**To:** NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254,

NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254,

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment regarding the FHDC's application for Stopping Up the Highway at Princes Parade, in the form they state, " 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"

This Proposal is to the detriment of regular users of Princes Parade, myself included, who use it several times a week. This road gives access to Hythe, avoiding the already very busy A259. The proposed redirecting of the road will ultimately have a reduced speed limit by the use of speed bumps, or 20mph signs, thus making it a much slower route. People will of course avoid it, as at present the Princes Parade for the most part has a 40 mph speed limit and roads with speed bumps are avoided by many.

This means that the main coastal road, the A259, will become more congested than at present, there are 'pinch points' already on the 'A' road where you always have to give way to oncoming traffic, creating queuing traffic and blockages. If the majority of the traffic, that at present uses Princes Parade, is added to the A259 this will add to an already serious problem circumnavigating Hythe.

We already have additional housing being developed on land off the A259 which will mean hundreds of additional cars will be joining this same road. The Government inform us we need more housing but the present infrastructure, in this case the roads, is failing already and does not feature high on the list of improvements or even consideration before more development takes place.

Planning decisions are made by people who do not have to contend with circumnavigating the chaos that ensues, and do not listen enough to people driving on this failing infrastructure. KCC cannot find sufficient money to even maintain and mend the major highways in Kent, full of dangerous pot holes, deep gullies at the sides of the roads which cause costly repairs for motorists who drive through them.

Do KCC have to contribute to this foolhardy scheme, to change an existing functioning highway, if they do, I think, the repairs to highways should take priority. The reason behind the application, I am sure, is to build houses with direct access to the beach and promenade thus commanding higher prices, making it a more attractive prospect and money making scheme for the Developers and the FHDC.

Little thought is given to existing residents and the effect these luxury developments have on the ordinary everyday lives of those travelling around the area on a daily basis. Social housing, affordable housing is needed, affordable to wages attainable in this area, there is great resentment for the continued plans for luxury, probably second home housing such as that planned for Princes Parade which to attain high prices needs to have a road moved.

Do the people who will access the proposed swimming pool really need to walk out onto a promenade rather than into the car park and into their cars to drive away to their homes.

I would suggest that very few will actually walk to and from this proposed leisure facility so to spend money on this redirection of the road is ridiculous.

Our area, here in Kent has a strong historical background many important sites exist, Saxon, Roman and Napoleonic and draw visitors to the area. The proposed redirection of the road for the Proposed Princes Parade, shows the new road running parallel to The Royal Military Canal a scheduled ancient monument. Historic England have serious concerns about developing Princes Parade at all and the way in which the proposed diversion of a road running so close to it will impact it visually, environmentally and historically.

This is a very important historical asset to this area along with the Martello Towers which locals work hard to save for posterity. To contemplate running a road so close to an Ancient Monument is abhorrent, such things should not be allowed, when the aim is just to give Luxury housing an uninterrupted view and in moving the road so depriving locals and visitors the ability to drive along beside the sea, and to continue to use such an important through road to Hythe.

This is an ill-considered plan which will have a huge and damaging impact on the locality.

Melanie Chalk  
Local Resident

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