

From: Terence Ellames [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: 03 June 2018 16:15

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

Subject: Proposed stopping up and diversion of Princes Parade in Hythe, NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to your your public notice regarding the above I object to this proposed order and have the following related comments:

1) I have no objections in principle to proposals to build housing and/or leisure centre on land adjoining Princes Parade, but have a number of key concerns with the planning application associated with this draft order, particularly the closure and diversion of Princes Parade. I attach for your information my comments on the related planning application which includes objections to the road diversion, impacts on road users such as myself and on the Royal Military Canal.

2) I do not believe it is necessary for Princes to be closed and diverted to allow this or a similar housing and/or leisure centre development to happen.

The main reason for the draft order is that the applicant states it would allow a 'vehicle free link from the proposed leisure centre and housing development to the beach and existing promenade'. Whilst this might be the case, it would also result in the loss of one of the most scenic drives in the district and anywhere along the coast in this part of Kent, loss of car parking right up alongside the beach, diversion of traffic elsewhere on the road system that is less attractive visually and in terms of accessibility, and creation of a new road that would have a negative impact on the Royal Military Canal in terms of noise, visual and lighting effects. Much better any development is designed to retain the existing road, including traffic calming measures if necessary, and a more ecologically sensitive outlook provided to the Royal Military Canal rather than an unnecessary and damaging diverted road.

3) On a personal level I use Princes Parade most days to drive back and forth to Folkestone and beyond because it is so much easier than the alternative route, the A259, coming from the southern part of Hythe in Windmill Street where to access it there is often traffic queuing. It is also such a sheer pleasure driving along the coast at this point, and a major pleasure and feature of living in Hythe. The diversion would not be anywhere near as attractive and I would consider this a major loss to my driving experience locally, and indeed to my friends and family who love the existing route. I also have a kayak and dinghy and often use the eastern end of Princes Parade to park right up along the promenade to gain easy access to the beach, as this is the narrowest section of beach and fairly easy to park. Aside from a major section of beachside road being lost, the proposed alternative arrangements would not be so accessible and there would be more cars in the area.

I really hope this traffic order does not go ahead and a development is found that retains the existing road of Princes Parade and enhances it to the benefit of all, not just some houses fronting the beach and sea.

Yours Sincerely,

Terence Ellames

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