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**Sent:** 01 June 2018 20:40  
**To:** NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

**Princes Parade Hythe - Redevelopment and Stopping Up of the road.**

I wish to protest about the proposed stopping up of Princes Parade for the following reasons:

Princes Parade itself is iconic (opened by the Prince of Wales in 1890) and is a major asset to Hythe in that it attracts a huge number of tourists to that stretch of beach where they can park right next to the promenade and unload fishing gear and family equipment direct from their car in preparation for a day on the beach. Moving the road back will remove that facility and ease of access to the beach. It may make for a better view for the inhabitants of the new houses and people sitting in the leisure centre, but it is a significant and unacceptable detriment to all of the current users.

There are very few stretches of the coast where walkers, joggers, cyclists and mobility scooters can travel along a promenade looking out on one side across a beautiful bay and the other, up to the hills and then walk across a few yards and be on the footpath of a tranquil, beautiful and historic section of canal in the countryside. By moving the road, as pointed out by Historic England, the ambiance and surroundings of the historic, peaceful and beautiful Royal Military Canal will be lost on that section where the road is proposed to run along the top overlooking the canal. This represents a significant disadvantage to the people of Hythe, Seabrook, Sandgate and the many visitors.

The Stopping up of the Road is not required in order to achieve the planned development (should this ill advised development get the go-ahead) The new development could be accessed from the existing road.

FHDC state that "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 is not a good enough reason to disadvantage all of the current users of the road and promenade. There are plenty of examples of speed control and traffic management systems enabling pedestrians and vehicles to co-exist perfectly happily and the same could be achieved here without the need to place a road so close to a historic monument and spoil the tranquillity of the green haven of the Royal Military Canal.

There is no doubt that Princes Parade needs traffic calming measures now. However, by stopping it up and diverting the road, traffic along the busy A259 will be significantly increased past a Primary School and an already dangerous junction with Horn Street where, with the increase in housing on Shorncliffe, traffic management is currently inadequate.

In any case, The Stopping Up Order should not be granted until the full plans for the development and the road layout together have been approved. It is neither sensible nor necessary to grant the order in advance of the planning permission having been granted as changes to the existing proposal may affect the consideration of the decision on the road.

Yours sincerely

Chris Turnbull.