

From: Alanna Fraser [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 05 June 2018 20:09
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>
Cc: saveprincesparade@yahoo.co.uk; Love, Rory Cllr <Rory.Love@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to object to NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254, the stopping up of Princes Parade in Hythe, Kent. There are several reasons why this is not a proposal that I feel you should support.

The first is on environmental grounds. The proposed moving of the road takes it close to the banks of the Royal Military Canal, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Folkestone and Hythe District Council states in its information leaflet on the canal that, "The canal and its banks are now designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument which protects it for generations to come." A road which is moved adjacent to the canal bank will create more harm to canal than the current road on Princes Parade, which is further away. This includes air pollution and noise pollution. The canal bank from Seabrook to Twiss Road is an irreplaceable green space which many, myself included, enjoy walking. It is an attractive, tranquil and valuable amenity to the local community, playing an important role in the general wellbeing of many. I walk it 3-4 times per week and it provides respite and tranquillity from my stressful job as a teacher. As Public Health England and the Landscape Institute note, green and blue spaces have an integral role in reducing stress, lifting mood and allowing children to interact with nature.

The pedestrianising of Princes Parade would not carry these benefits because it lacks the natural environment of green and blue space of the canal banks.

Moreover, the proposed Princes Parade development does not need the relocation of the road. The proposed buildings can still be served from the existing road without the need to stop up half of Princes Parade, especially since the other half of the road will continue to operate because of the location of the golf course behind it. It is an unnecessary step; the Imperial Hotel is served by a vehicle entrance on Princes Parade as is a car park and thus, the proposed leisure centre and other buildings could be similarly served by creating vehicular access from Princes Parade. There are already precedents for this without the need to stop up the road.

I believe that on both the counts of necessity and desirability, the stopping up of Princes Parade is found to be wanting. Thus, I do hope that further consultation and/or rejection of the proposal is recommended by your department.

Yours sincerely,

Alanna Fraser
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