

From: Geoff Burrell [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 06 June 2018 11:24
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>
Subject: OBJECTION to proposed Stopping-up Order for Princes Parade, Hythe Kent

Dear Secretary of State
(c/o National Transport Casework Team)

Please see below my Objection to the Stopping-up Order proposed for the Princes Parade (Hythe) coastal highway being sought by Folkestone & Hythe District Council.
I would be grateful if you could please acknowledge receipt of this Objection.

Yours sincerely
Geoff Burrell

Dr G J Burrell

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Ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254
Draft STOPPING-UP Order
PRINCES PARADE, HYTHE, KENT

I OBJECT to the proposed Stopping-up Order on the following grounds:

1. The Princes Parade Road is an essential and much used link between Hythe and Sandgate to Folkestone, carrying traffic to and from the south of the town, avoiding the congestion of Seabrook Rd (A259) and the difficulties of Twiss Rd.
2. The proposed Stopping-up Order relates to a hybrid planning application within which the specification for the replacement road has not been presented. It is however clear that, were the existing road to be relocated, the scope for positioning its replacement is severely limited, giving rise to a range of difficulties that impact on its suitability as a two-lane highway. It will inevitably be inferior to the existing road due to width limitations and the addition of at least 4 bends (currently drawn as 6), replacing a straight highway with good visibility. In addition:
 - (a) It would be positioned as close as 20 metres to the Royal Military Canal (a Scheduled Ancient Monument), at a height of approximately 6 metres above the watercourse.
 - (b) It would cause harm (which may be "substantial") to the heritage asset contrary to the NPPF.
 - (c) It would obliterate a wide swathe of the well-established wildlife habitat associated with the watercourse.
 - (d) It would sit at height close to, and immediately north of, the public footpath and bridleway along the south bank of the Canal, which is much used and enjoyed by walkers daily. They will suffer a loss in tranquillity, wildlife interest and, along the majority of its 880 metre length, would be cast in permanent shadow. The footpath will take significantly longer to dry out after rainfall, whereas currently it is exposed to direct

sunlight along its whole length, making it a particularly favoured walk for locals and tourists alike.

- (e) There would be no scope for including a verge or pavement on the north side of the new road; pedestrians wishing to cross the new road using the public footpath from the canal and the beach are likely to be inconvenienced and potentially placed at risk. (The planning application is silent on how this will be alleviated).
3. The Princes Parade Road and Promenade was first opened by Royalty on 12th August 1881 when the Princes of Wales (later King Edward) declared the land upon which the road now sits “*open from Henceforth to the Public*”. Subsequent covenants have been consistent with that purpose and appear to preclude any building on that land. The rights of unfettered public use appear to be well established.
 4. Being one of few National scenic coastal drives immediately adjacent to an accessible beach, it is a much frequented destination for visitors and local people alike. Diverting the road would restrict their access to the beach, impacting the elderly, disabled and those with young children, also other regular beach users with heavy equipment such as kayakers, kite surfers and sea anglers.
 5. *On behalf of the local sea angling clubs*: The following local clubs fish competitively from Princes Parade beach on a regular basis - Hythe Sea Angling Club, Folkestone Sea Angling Association, Fountain Sea Angling Association, Seabrook Sea Angling Association and Martin Walters Sea Angling. More distant clubs who travel regularly to this beach are Sheerness Sea Angling Club, Southern Circuit and Medway Rollers. During the year there many open competitions organised by various clubs that attract anglers from all over the country and abroad (e.g. France, Belgium and Netherlands). Some travel up to 7 hours specifically to compete at this venue and spend money in the three local tackle shops and use local hotels and B&B's. Princes Parade is used for nearly all UK open competitions due the size of the beach and consistent sea bed throughout, which makes it a fair competition. If the road is relocated as proposed it will become impractical to fish here and will almost certainly put a stop to all the open competitions in Hythe, sadly with all the clubs removing Hythe Beaches from their well-established match fixture lists.
 6. The applicant has stated the following reason for seeking this Stopping-Up Order:
“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 the beach and existing promenade”.
That is an extremely weak reason that fails to justify the loss of ready access to the road and beach that has been enjoyed by the public over many generations that would result from removal of this highway from its sea-front location.

This application is in serious conflict with the Public Interest, neither is the road diversion necessary to meet the aims of the applicant’s proposed development. It should therefore be refused.

Geoff Burrell
6 June 2018

Dr G J Burrell

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