

PPIQ 001

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3 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Our reference: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254 or DPI L2250 21 22 SUOH

Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Section 247
Proposed Stopping Up of Highway at Princes Parade, Folkestone, CT21 6AQ
OS Grid Reference: E: 618281, N: 134781

Notification of Pre-Inquiry Meeting

This letter follows the recent communication sent out to you from Neil Crass, Case Worker on behalf of the Department for Transport, informing you of the dates that a Public Inquiry into the above proposed order will be held. I am now further writing to you on behalf of the appointed Inspector, Mr O S Woodward BA (Hons.) MA MRTPI, to confirm that Pre-Inquiry Meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 21 September, 2021 from 11:00 hours at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY

1. Scope of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting

The purpose of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting is principally to discuss the practical arrangements for the Inquiry including the representation and management of the witnesses and objectors, to set an Inquiry programme including timetabling of when people can speak, and to clarify the scope of the Inquiry. Clarification of the main issues will also be sought.

There will be no discussion at the Pre-Inquiry Meeting of the merits of the proposals in question.

I have enclosed a copy of the Agenda for the Pre-Inquiry Meeting.

2. Scope of the Inquiry

An application under section 247 of the Town and Country Planning Act is made to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Transport and it is the SoS who will make the final decision as to whether or not the Stopping Up Order (Order) should be made. The Inspector's role is to assist the SoS by considering all of the written and oral evidence, both for and against the proposed stopping up, and to submit a report and recommendation to the SoS. It is open to the SoS not to accept the Inspector's recommendation if he has good reasons for making a decision contrary to that recommendation.

The Inquiry provides the opportunity for the Applicant's reasons and justification for the proposed stopping up of Princes Parade to be fully explored and tested; and for all of the key issues raised in the objections to the proposed order to be considered by the Inspector, before he prepares his report to the SoS. Those opposing the Order should, however, note that it is not open to the Inspector or the SoS to revisit the Council's decision to grant permission for the Princes Parade Development. Objections pursued at the Inquiry should, therefore, be clearly related to the proposed stopping up of part of Princes Parade.

3. Inquiry Programme Officer and Website

Caroline Williams has been approved as Programme Officer for the Inquiry and she can be contacted by email at: programme.officer@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The Programme Officer will take the lead role in:

- liaising with all those who want to appear at the inquiry;
- helping the Inspector to arrange the Inquiry programme and making this available to all participants;
- making sure everyone know what matters will be dealt with on what particular days and when then need to be attendance; and,
- helping participants to locate application and inquiry documents and advising them how to go about submitting any further written evidence and when this must be done by etc.

Inquiry pages have been set up within the Folkestone & Hythe District Council (F&HDC) website and these can be accessed via the following links:

Public Inquiry News and Updates:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/princes-parade-inquiry-news>

And, Public Inquiry Document Library:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/princes-parade-inquiry-document-library>

These pages will be maintained by the Programme Officer and will include all information relevant to the Inquiry including the Inquiry programme, Core Documents and other statements. If you are seeking information regarding the Inquiry or any documents please use the website as your first port of call.

If your query or question is not answered then please contact the Programme Officer by email.

4. Parties Wishing to Appear or Be Heard at the Inquiry

Due to the high numbers of written statements received to date the Inspector has requested that objectors where possible organise themselves so that they can be appropriately represented at the Pre-Inquiry Meeting.

Please note that the Pre-Inquiry Meeting will be streamed live via the Council's You Tube Channel and log in details for the streaming will be published on the Inquiry website page prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Please be reassured that anyone who is unable to attend the Pre-Inquiry Meeting will still be able to attend the Inquiry providing that a written request is received by the Programme Officer (dates to be confirmed at the Pre-Inquiry Meeting).

The Inspector would like confirmation to be sent to the Programme Officer by email of those who intend to attend the Pre-Inquiry Meeting, at the latest by:

- Friday 10 September at 17:00 hours (please include your full name and job title); and,
- Any attendee who requires any special requirements such as hearing loop or help with access can you please confirm this when sending in your email.

Anyone who wishes to speak at the Inquiry should formally write to the Programme Officer to request to do so and if possible to have provided a written statement, however it is not mandatory to provide a written statement ahead of the Inquiry.

The Inspector will provide a more detailed agenda/programme for the Inquiry following the completion of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting, detailing attendance information over the four days.

5. Venue for the Inquiry

The Inspector has added to the agenda for the Pre-Inquiry Meeting the possibility of the use of an alternative venue for the Inquiry and also the possibility of using a virtual platform in the case of those needing to self-isolate due to CoVid 19.

6. Written Statements (of Case)

As indicated in the original communication from the Department for Transport (DfT) it is helpful to the Inquiry proceedings, and to avoid any potential delays, if written statements which parties intend to rely upon to present their case are exchanged ahead of the Inquiry and a copy provided to the Inspector ahead of the Inquiry opening.

This is confirmation that the request is to provide a copy of your written statement (of case), as an objector to the office of the DfT by no later than 5 October 2021 (nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk). Any comments and objections that you have already submitted will be taken into account and do not need to be re-submitted.

To send a copy of that statement to the applicant please forward it to the Programme Officer who will ensure that the applicant and the Inspector receives a copy. All copy statements will be added to the Inquiry website.

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Further details about the procedures for attending both the Pre-Inquiry Meeting and the Inquiry will be sent to you under separate cover from the Programme Officer and will include social distancing and the health and safety of all those involved.

If you have any further questions regarding this notification please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Officer on the email address at the top of this communication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Williams".

Caroline Williams
Programme Officer

Encs. Pre-Inquiry Meeting Agenda