

Proof of Evidence to Public Inquiry

Jim Martin Elected Hythe Town Councillor for Hythe South

I speak as a representative of Hythe Town Council. I am an elected Hythe Town Councillor, representing Hythe South Ward.

On the 5th June 2018 HTC held an extra ordinary meeting of the full Council to discuss the proposed Stopping up of Princes Parade. While receiving the minutes of the Plans and Works committee meeting, at which the Plans and Works committee had agreed to object to the Stopping Up order, the extra ordinary meeting discussed the proposed stopping up and the Council accepted the objection by the Plans and Works committee but agreed to amend the words of the Plans and Works Committee by adding an amendment with additional words.

Original wording from Plans and Works Committee

Some members felt that the proposal was premature as a full planning application had not yet been submitted and there was not enough information to support the proposal at this stage.

Some members would like more information regarding the proposed highway including the dimensions.

Some members noted that the stopping up order was a procedural matter and would only be enforced if a planning application for Princes Parade was approved.

Princes Parade is an iconic road, which provides parking for the public giving direct access onto the promenade, particularly for disabled people and was the only such facility in the district.

There was concern regarding the lack of detail as to where the new road would be.

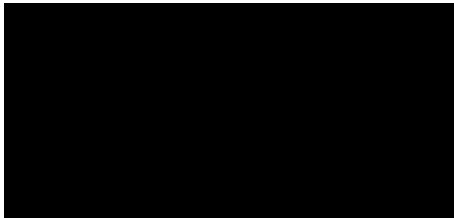
Amendment – Additional wording from HTC Extra ordinary meeting 5th June 2018

Having regard to the committee's recommendation, the council wishes to add the following points to summarise its position:

1. The new road, given its close proximity to the canal, will have a significant and detrimental effect on the habitats both within and surrounding the Royal Military Canal AND will cause harm to the setting of the Canal AND will cause harm to the setting of the canal as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
2. The stopping up of the existing road will hinder public access to the beach and the promenade.

In view of the comments made by the Plans & Works Committee, and the summary points above, it is the view of this council that the public interest is best served by the existing highway remaining as is and no new highway being built.

On behalf of Hythe Town Council, I respectfully ask the Inspector to refuse the Section 249 application seeking the applicants to revisit the form and nature of the proposed closure.



5th October 2021