

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 18 May 2018 21:46  
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>  
Subject: Your ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

Objections to proposed diversion of Princes Parade, Hythe, Kent.  
Your ref: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254

I object to the proposed stopping up of a stretch of Princes Parade and its diversion along the South Bank of the Royal Military Canal ("RMC"), a Scheduled Ancient Monument, on the following grounds.  
S.16 Traffic Management Act 2004

Currently Princes Parade provides a straight free-flowing access with excellent visibility to the centre and to the West end of Hythe, where most commercial premises are, avoiding the congestion on the A259 in the centre of Hythe. So the diversion of Princes Parade is contrary to both limbs of Section 16.

S.247 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 The role of the Secretary of State is to decide whether the public interest in not interfering with an established right of way is outweighed by any public interest in diverting it.

The diversion of Princes Parade away from the seafront and along the RMC will be detrimental to the public interest because:

- a) The public in their cars can at present enjoy the sea views from Princes Parade, both as they drive along it and, particularly, if they park on Princes Parade along the Promenade. Parking there to enjoy the sea views is popular, particularly with elderly and disabled people, and with people with children wanting them to see the sea in comfort and safety. Because parking there is popular Folkestone & Hythe District Council ("FHDC") have recently installed parking meters for their financial benefit.
- b) The stretch of the RMC along which the diverted road will run is bounded on both sides by strips of quiet natural countryside served by three public footpaths which are enjoyed by a large number of residents and visitors. Their enjoyment will be adversely affected if there is a busy road along the South Bank of the RMC. That enjoyment includes enjoyment of the bird life, both swans, ducks and moorhens on the canal and the birds in the strips of natural countryside.
- c) The entry on the Schedule of Monuments for the length of the Royal Military Canal along the Princes Parade site describes the Canal as "a unique defensive work that bears significant testament to a period when modern Britain faced the most serious threat of invasion prior to the major conflicts of the 20th Century".

It goes on to say that “despite some disturbance and damage [this 1.05km length] survives relatively well”. It is a heritage site of great national importance,

- d) As a Scheduled Ancient Monument the significance of the RMC should not be damaged or lost by development in its setting. Diverting Princes Parade along its Southern bank will seriously damage the setting of the RMC.
- e) The interference with the present safe and free flowing access along the whole length of Princes Parade is detrimental to the public interest as reflected in s.16 (1) of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Diversion provides private benefit and no public benefit but instead causes irreversible detriment to the public interest.

Diverting Princes Parade along the RMC will provide private benefit;

- a) To FHDC as land owner by enabling it to sell houses with direct traffic-free sea views at an enhanced price instead of sea views across a road with parked cars; and
- b) To the relatively small number of people able to afford the enhanced price, more likely as second homes rather than for permanent residents; without providing any public benefit.

Mr C.I.McGonigal,  
Hythe Resident