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From: John Maxwell [mailto: ]

Sent: 30 May 2018 08:45

To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>

Subject: NATTRAN/SE/S247/3254 Princes Parade Hythe Kent

Being a long term resident in the area and a frequent user of Princes Parade Hythe as a cyclist and motorist, I am totally opposed to any suggestion of realignment or stopping up of the road. I use it as a through road in both directions as a pleasant alternative to the A259 as well as parking for the purposes of taking fresh air and exercise along the sea front.

I have enjoyed the OPEN aspects of the sea front for 70 years and admire the semi wild surroundings and the safe and attractive combination of the promenade with its pedestrian/cycle way and access to the beach and the straight road of Princes Parade allowing safe parking against the low sea wall providing safety for all users enjoying the Sea Front. My grandparents, my wife and children and my grandchildren have and still do like the close connection where they feel safe disembarking to enjoy the pleasures Hythe sea front presently offers. In addition the straight Parade allows clear vision in both directions for crossing the road to visit the Canal on the Northern side of Princes Parade, and enjoy the semi wild landscape and peaceful walks beside the Royal Military Canal with its water fowl and other bird life and flora. All of my family and particularly me who visits most often totally reject and object to any suggestion of realigning or stopping up of Princes Parade as well as to any Development which will seriously harm the stated special landscape and amenity which we enjoy so much.

The area adjoining Princes Parade is special in that it is the historic envelope comprising the last vestiges of Hythe Haven where The Canal joins the area near to Battery Point. This area should not be the subject of Development of any kind as it is a natural combination of flat sea/landscape and has its own peaceful characteristics. The application for a Leisure Centre is inappropriate particularly as there is an alternative site at Nickolls Quarry which would not create great harm to the environment and the Amenity. What is more any suggestion of closing Princes Parade to accommodate this as well as residential development is poor planning as it would create more traffic on the A259 with the increase in pollution for the other residents but also for new residents who will have to suffer double traffic use as those who go in must come out! Hythe sea front is not outstandingly beautiful, but it is an attractive sweep of shingle and has a special claim to plain singularity due to its Cinque Port History and being flat sea scape with a sea wall ridge just as Hythe Haven has been for thousands of years. Residential Development with a Leisure Centre is out of scale, out of place and incredibly damaging to the scenic values and amenity. For stopping up or diverting a much used and loved and useful highway to accommodate the ambitions of profit and bad planning is absolutely not acceptable in any fashion.

Not forgetting the deleterious effect it will have on the Royal Military Canal and its environs.

The Local Planning Authority is not noted for its planning skills. While professing to support development to “deliver the homes that our children and grandchildren need for the future”, and saying to advertise the district “who doesn’t love our parks beaches and open spaces?” it supports unnecessary development of the kind put forward for Princes Parade and Otterpool Park which is just up the road, with its 10,000 to 12,000 houses covering acres of open farm land. My children cannot afford the expensive flats already recently built along the sea front nor will they be able to afford to buy on Princes Parade nor Otterpool Park in spite of being in junior management positions. The advertised benefits are insupportable by evidence and will never provide homes which are affordable to the majority of young folk in the District. National statistics prove this quite clearly in my view as the Developers change their plans in the name of profit. Princes Parade will be homes for the wealthy who will not want their view of the sea spoilt by local use along the Parade just as the Fishermans Beach developers want to get rid of the fishermen huts. The facts are there to see. To make a stop order or diversion order would be absolutely abhorrent and unacceptable as being harmful to local needs and the environment.

The Council states in its promotions that developments will be designed so “that outdoor space will make up over 40% emphasising healthy living and wellbeing”. Princes Parade will reduce outdoor space and the stopping up or realignment of the Parade will reduce the accessibility to all save a few to the sea front and its environs. Already with regard to Otterpool Park the developers have reduced the stated 40% to a lesser figure to be decided. So much for space retention, so much for promises, and so much for the promotion of healthy living! If Otterpool is for local people who needs Princes Parade for housing?

The Coastal Road Princes Parade supports healthy living for many locals and visitors. Altering it will cause great damage and distress to many people as well as the amenity and the environment. What is more the local parking meters recently introduced along the Parade are already diminishing access for many of us who walk or visit the sea front. Many elderly and infirm cannot afford to pay for parking just to smell the sea. Furthermore and finally on a personal note, I abhor the new parking charges as they prevent and deter those people who have purchased a seat or bench on the sea front to remember lost loved ones, relatives and friends. How can the bereaved visit with free access in safety and comfort in a distressed state if the Council ignore their needs? Great difficulties will occur if things are made even worse for them by diverting the road and doubling the traffic. The peace and quiet so beloved by so many of us will be destroyed.

Trusting that the Parade will be left as it is and that Hythe Sea Front will not be seriously damaged forever by unwarranted and unwanted development.

John Maxwell [REDACTED]