

**SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
14 MARCH 2011**

Subject:	Sittingbourne Pedestrian Guardrailing Assessment
Director/Head of Service:	Director of Kent Highway Services
Decision Issues:	These matters are within the authority of the Kent County Council
Decision:	Non-key
CCC Ward/KCC Division:	St. Michaels and Chalkwell
Summary:	<i>The Board is asked to consider and comment on the proposals to manage sections of guard railing in Sittingbourne</i>
To Note	The proposals as identified in the attached report and suggest changes or amendments
Classification:	THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Introduction

On behalf of Kent Highway Services, Jacobs have carried out a survey of pedestrian guardrailing in Sittingbourne and are seeking comments on proposals to remove sections of guardrailing from some sites. The proposals are outlined in Appendix 2.

Background

There is an increasing emphasis on improving the streetscape by removing street clutter and providing better pedestrian accessibility whilst still maintaining road safety. Government is encouraging communities to assess street clutter and determine what improvements can be made.

It is recognised that where pedestrian guardrailing is badly sited or over installed it not only alienates pedestrians but also looks unsightly, easily becomes damaged which in turn leads to increased maintenance costs and complaints. Indeed poor guard railing can lead to an increase in pedestrian crashes.

The main purpose of guardrailing is to improve safety by trying to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road at an inappropriate place or from straying into the road inadvertently. Guardrailing can also be used to offer some protection to pedestrians at locations where the swept path of large vehicles, such as buses and heavy goods vehicles, takes the vehicles close to the footway, sometimes overhanging it.

Appendix 1 is a report with the recommendations along with illustrated diagrams detailing retention and removals. Ringway would be carrying out the removals with the panels being recycled. If decorative or ornate railings and panels are highlighted for removal the Borough Council will be able to retain these for repairs or future use.

Options available

Members of the Board can:

1. support the proposals to remove guardrailing at the sites identified in Appendix 1
2. recommend amendments to the proposals for re-assessment
3. reject some/all of the proposals

Implications

1. Financial – Funding will be provided by Kent Highway Services. A budget allocation has not been secured next financial year specifically for this commission.
2. Programming - It is proposed to undertake the works on a site by site basis where damage has occurred to existing barrier to achieve value for money and efficiency.

Conclusion

The removal of guardrailing which is not required for pedestrian safety or for other reasons is in line with national guidance to de-clutter streets. It will also reduce on-going maintenance costs and help improve the appearance of the public realm.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Full report by Jacobs

Appendix 2 – Drawing showing locations of guardrailing and summary of recommendations