

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD	
Meeting Date	2 nd October 2023
Report Title	Informal Consultation – Proposed Removal of Bollards, James Street, Sheerness
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Donna Seager, Environmental Campaigns & Performance Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. Members are asked to note the results of the recent informal consultation and recommend that the existing bollards on either side of James Street, Sheerness be removed.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of a recent informal consultation with residents to remove the existing concrete bollards which currently line either side of James Street in Sheerness, to the west of Richmond Street.

2 Background

- 2.1 The informal consultation took place between 17th July and 11th August 2023, and a copy of the consultation material can be found in Annex A.
- 2.2 A summary of the results of the informal consultation can be found in Annex B.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposals consist of removing all of the concrete bollards located in the section of James Street to the west of Richmond Street, Sheerness. Long-running issues have been experienced with refuse freighters gaining access along this section of James Street due to the narrow width of remaining carriageway between the parked cars on both sides of the road.
- 3.2 Following discussions with Kent County Council, proposals have been suggested to remove the bollards to allow vehicles to park closer to the front of the

properties which would increase available carriageway for the freighter, and other larger vehicles, to negotiate the parked vehicles.

- 3.3 James Street, like many other roads in the area, has a “sack only” refuse collection and when it is not possible to collect waste on the designated day the residents’ bags are often split open by birds and other animals creating a mess on the highway and a potential health and safety issue. Whilst refuse collections in this road are currently weekly, from 2nd October these will be changed to alternate weekly collections to bring them into line with the rest of the Borough. There is a major concern that if we are unable to collect the waste due to parked vehicles, there could potentially be two weeks’ worth of waste that could end up on and around the highway.
- 3.4 Currently, waste crews are pulling waste down the full length of the road to the vehicle which is unable to access James Street, but this is not a sustainable solution to the issue.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to introduce a single yellow line on one side of James Street, with a timed parking restriction to match the refuse collection day and time. There are some concerns with this proposal, however, as it will seriously impact on residents who rely on the already limited on-street parking as is the case with the majority of terrace-fronted roads in the Borough.
- 4.2 The timed restrictions would also rely on residents moving their vehicles during these times to ensure unhindered access by the refuse freighter. This would require residents to find alternative parking in adjoining roads where on-street parking capacity is already severely limited.
- 4.3 The other issue with this option is that access along the road would be dependent on the refuse freighter arriving between the timed restrictions, with no allowance for delayed collections. This proposal has therefore been rejected in favour of removing the bollards.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 An informal consultation took place with residents in the section of James Street to the west of Richmond Street. Of the 65 properties consulted, 5 responses were received, 4 supporting the proposals and 1 objecting to the proposals on the grounds that vehicles are already parking close to the front door of the property, obstructing access with a pram. The full comments in the responses can be found in Annex B.

- 5.2 The proposals have been discussed with Highway Officers at Kent County Council who have indicated their support for the removal of the bollards.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Cost of removing bollards and reinstating the carriageway, to be funded by Swale Borough Council and undertaken by Kent County Council.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	The health and wellbeing of residents in James Street could be improved by the removal of the bollards as this will ensure regular bin collections can be completed without hindrance and delay. This will prevent household waste ending up in and around the street from bin bags. There may be some potential issues around vehicles parking close to the front doors of properties which could restrict access with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Annex A – Copy of Informal Consultation Material
- Annex B – Results of Informal Consultation

8 Background Papers

None