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Ask for: Sandra Watkins
Your ref:
Our ref: B1555300/SevenoaksDC
Date: 23rd November 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Assessment of pedestrian guard rail, Sevenoaks town centre

On behalf of KHS Jacobs have been carrying out a survey of pedestrian guard rails within Sevenoaks.

There is an increasing emphasis on improving the streetscape by removing street clutter and providing better pedestrian accessibility whilst still maintaining road safety. 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.

The assessments of the existing pedestrian guardrails in Sevenoaks town centre have considered the factors to either support their retention, partial or full removal. In each case the effectiveness of the pedestrian guardrailing has been assessed to establish whether there is reason to retain them.

Enclosed is a report on the recommendations along with illustrated diagrams detailing retention and removals.

Ringway will be carrying out the removals and the panels will then be sold for recycling. Should the District Council wish to keep any panels for their own future use these can be sensitively removed for future reuse. Please could you inform me if you will be requiring panels for reuse (particularly the non-standard ornamental railings) as a charge for the identified panels will need to be passed on to the District Council.

I would welcome your comments on these recommendations. We have been impartial in the assessments and therefore if you disagree with any of the conclusions please can you forward any supporting information by 10th December 2010. Also if there are any further sites that you would like assessed please let me know as this may be programmed in the future subject to securing funding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Watkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Watkins
Project Manager