
PETITION: ROAD SAFETY IN THE VICINITY OF ST GREGORY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

To: **Thanet Joint Transportation Board, 23 November 2011**

Main Portfolio Area: **KCC – Environment & Enterprise**

By: **Director of Highways, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Salmestone**

Division: **Margate & Cliftonville**

Summary: A petition was received at the September meeting of this JTB concerning road safety in the vicinity of St Gregory's RC Primary School and the Salmestone ward.

For Decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A petition of 181 signatures was accepted at the September 2011 meeting of this JTB. In relation to the safety of pedestrians walking to school the signatories are petitioning for:
- 'The erection of edge of road railings on the school corner of Shottendane Road near the junction with Nash Road.
 - The erection of a road island at the end of Tivoli Park Avenue, at the junction with Tivoli Road.'

2. Investigation

- 2.1 KCC has access to a crash data base which includes a log of all crashes resulting in personal injury that have been reported to Kent Police. In the last 3 year crash investigation period to 30/06/11, there have been no reported personal injury crashes involving pedestrians at either location where a safety concern has been raised in the petition. Whilst there is a perceived lack of road safety at these locations, the crash record does not evidence this.
- 2.2 Having conducted a site visit, there is already in existence some guard railing at the Nash Road / Shottendane Road junction, by St Gregory's RC Primary School. The guard rail has been located at the point where vehicle / pedestrian conflict could be at its greatest. As vehicles clear the corner, their distance from the kerb edge increases and the potential for conflict is lessened.
- 2.3 At the Tivoli Park Avenue / Tivoli Road junction, adequate parking restrictions are in place to keep visibility at this junction clear. Whilst at the junction mouth the road width to be crossed is wide, a little further into Tivoli Park Avenue, the road narrows down. Pedestrians are advised that it is better to cross at the narrower section than at the wide junction mouth.

3. Current financial situation

- 3.1 KCC receives numerous requests every year for new highway works, including pedestrian facilities. Unfortunately due to substantial Government cuts in funding, KCC does not have the budget to meet this huge demand, and has to prioritise what works can be delivered with the limited funding available. On this basis, KCC is prioritising new works deemed as being 'safety critical'; i.e. a record of personal injury crashes, where it can demonstrated that a reduction in crashes can be achieved, through implementing the measure being requested.
- 3.2 Given the lack of personal injury crashes involving pedestrians at these two locations, the works being requested are not a priority for the limited funding available.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 A petition with 181 signatories has been received requesting guard railing on the St Gregory's corner of the Nash Road / Shottendane Road junction; and a pedestrian crossing island at the junction of Tivoli Park Avenue and Tivoli Road.
- 4.2 Given the current financial situation and a lack of recorded personal injury crashes at both locations, this request for highway improvements cannot be justified at the current time.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 To advise the lead petitioner that no further action can be taken at this time.

Contact Officer:

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