

## Ovingham bridge refurbishment

### Minutes from public meeting, held 24 February 2014

- **Official Diversion Route. – A69 – Styford Roundabout – A695**
  - A resident emphasised that this diversion would not be used and instead people will use the Hagg Bank road which has the potential to cause chaos. Councillor Kelly pointed out that the diversion is a recommended route. NCC will not be able to stop people using the rat runs.
- **Parking At Riverside Park**
  - This area will be available for anyone to use for parking. Further investigations will be made to find solutions to parking problems that may arise on the Prudhoe side of the bridge.
- **Reinstatement Assurance**
  - Any damage to greens – all will be reinstated. Trees felled - young replacement trees will be planted. Hardcore not tarmac will be used on access road and this will be removed when Bridge Work is completed.
- **Access by vehicles to Allotment entrance**
  - Possibility of access at weekends. To be discussed further, with NCC Construction Manager – DJ to liaise with Allotment Committee.
- **Extended Timing of Bridge Works**
  - Originally planned to take 9 months but have extended to 12 months -3 month extra in case of adverse weather conditions or other issues.

Bridge to be closed to traffic	May 2014
Bridge to re-open to traffic	May 2015
Clear of site	July 2015

Timing depends on progress of painting the support legs of bridge. We will be kept up to date by JLR via liaison group/newsletter and NCC's website.
- **Keeping to deadlines/ Penalty clause**
  - NCC will be doing most of the Bridge Work with specialist sub-contractors. Both teams will be working closely together to meet deadlines. No penalty clause will be in place.
- **Bridge noise**
  - New decking should be VIRTUALLY noise free.
- **Noise disruption while Bridge Work is carried out.**
  - Reference made to residents in immediate area working from home during 8.00 – 16.00 hours. Noise levels will be monitored. Acoustic fencing can be put in place if necessary.
- **Parking in Village**
  - Many concerns raised. All works traffic will be parked on bottom village green (within site compound) not on village roads. Extra parking area has been investigated but no suitable/convenient area has been found as yet. Will investigate further e.g School car parks at weekends/outside term time?

- **Businesses in the Community**
  - PK/DJ have spoken to Businesses in Ovingham village earlier in the month.
  - PK had enquired about Business Rate Relief
    - response from Council leader was negative
  - Further concern was expressed in relation to the effect of the Bridge Works on the economy of the village at the meeting. A request was made for advice on how to take this concern further.
- **Can the bridge width restrictors be made reflective?**
  - NCC will look at making the restrictors reflective at both ends of the bridge, both faces;
- **Signs required to ensure cyclists dismount at both ends of the footbridge (FB);**
  - Signs have been added to the traffic management sign drawings;
- **Increased traffic movements through the village during works – school crossing patrol required?**
  - Traffic movements will be greatly reduced with the bridge closed. Situation to be reviewed once works starts. Cllr Kelly advised they have struggled to get a school crossing patrol historically.
- **Coordinate wagon movements with hourly bus services (Ovington to Ovingham in particular);**
  - See additional information (page 3) for further information.
- **Can the Ovingham school(s) be opened at weekends for parking?**
  - To be discussed on Thurs 6 March with school head teachers.
- **Traffic Warden required (initially) to check vehicle parking?**
  - As school crossing patrol, situation to be reviewed and NCC to provide warden, if required.
- **Potholes along Horsley Road;**
  - Western area Highway maintenance to advise timeframe for pothole filling.

**Additional Information.**

The following information was possibly not made clear at the Public Meeting:-

- **Traffic Movement**

- There will be no heavy vehicle movement during school drop off and school pick up times;
- Site /Bridge Works traffic will be on site before 8.00 and will not leave until 16.00/16.30;
- Worst period of time will be the set -up and removal of the site compound where there will be deliveries of stone;
- Deliveries, especially HGVS will be informed they must not deliver materials between 0800 and 0900, and 1500 and 1600, Mon to Fri during term time.

- **Works Vehicles**

- These will all be parked on the lower section of the Village Green, within the site compound.
- They will not be using village roads for parking.

- **Liaison Group**

- This will be a small group made up of a range of constituents representing the residents put together by PK/EB/TR
- Role of the group will be discussed at the first meeting in March - date to be confirmed.
- Residents will be able to contact the group with their concerns/queries and ideas.

- **Safety of Children**

- Schools are happy with arrangements made so far but final details are to be confirmed  
ie. muster points and times for walking bus.
  - All this information will be distributed via the schools through the Head Teachers. Head Teachers have advised they have good communication with parents via email. This will be used to inform parents.
- Next meeting with Head teachers will be 6<sup>th</sup> March

I hope this will alleviate any concerns related to school children`s safety.

- **Additional Information to questions asked since the meeting**
- **Truss Strike**
  - Question – Will there be checks made on structure of the bridge sides if cars collide into them because present grids will be removed and they currently act as buffers on the bridge.
  - Answer JR– They are aware of the issue caused by removing the high faced kerbs but they have not finalized the solution yet – this is why nothing was shown on drawings displayed.
  - As the traffic is travelling parallel to the truss there is a low risk of damage occurring.
  - However localised damage is feasible and they are working on a solution to protect the trusses.
- **BT Service**
  - Question – will BT service be interrupted when work is carried out to re-site the wires.
  - Answer JR– There are 3 large cables on the bridge - within each of these there are approx. 100 sheathed copper wires. Each wire has to be jointed individually. BT advise there will be no noticeable interruption to service.
- **Bridge Works** information will be updated at regular intervals and a copy put on the websites (NCC, Ovingham PC and Prudhoe TC) and village noticeboards.

For queries contact:

#### **Ovingham**

Cllr Kelly, PC Clerk Margaret Davenport, Chairman of PC Doreen Jordon or any of the Parish Councillors or Liaison Group;

#### **Prudhoe**

Cllrs Burt and Reid or Prudhoe Town Council.

*Liaison group members from Prudhoe are to be confirmed, please contact the above if you are interested.*

If you have any concerns or queries and we will do our best to follow these up with NCC.

For all other queries, including out of hours concerns please contact:-

Northumberland County Council on 01661 520005 or 0845 600 6400

Email: [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk)