

Eckington Bridge to get a facelift

Worcestershire County Council has today announced plans for improvement works to Eckington Bridge. Built in 1728, the bridge is a scheduled monument, enjoying a Grade II listing and the work will ensure this historically significant structure will be preserved.

The bridge is constructed of local sandstone which has weathered to a point where approximately twenty of the masonry blocks in the two parapets need replacing to help preserve the integrity of the structure.

Work will commence in early July to erect scaffolding to the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge to enable pointing of the outer elevations to be started. This will not necessitate closure of the bridge.

From the 25 July to the 31 August, the road will be closed between the hours of 0930 and 1530 each weekday to permit the replacement of the masonry blocks in the parapet and pointing of the roadside faces.

During the closures, which have been arranged to coincide with the school summer holidays, public transport timetables designed for periods of flooding will be employed. Once the closures are removed each day the normal public transport timetables will be restored until the following morning.

Richard Attwood, Worcestershire County Council's Engineering Project Manager said: "As custodian of this scheduled monument the County Council has an obligation to ensure the bridge is kept in good order and remain serviceable for the community to use. It is essential these repairs are undertaken to ensure this can continue and we apologise for any inconvenience experienced during the works."

Local member for the area, Councillor Adrian Hardman, added: "Whilst I am aware of the disruption that work such as this can cause, the work on this historic bridge really needs to be done. I am delighted that we have been able to find the funding to maintain its life for years to come and have worked to ensure we have the backing of Eckington Parish Council.

"I am sure the team will get the job done as quickly as possible to minimise disruption and would like to thank local residents for their patience whilst this important work is carried out."

Part of this year's works will also entail investigations to ascertain whether further work will need to be undertaken next summer.

For more information on the project and the changes to the bus timetables, visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk

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