

July 15, 2011

Teme Bridge refurbishment update - work to address community concerns

Worcestershire County Council, through a steering group of local representatives, is working to address a number of concerns raised in connection with the forthcoming temporary closure of the Teme Bridge in January, 2012.

The nature of the refurbishment work is taking place alongside detailed discussions with English Heritage, as advisors to the Secretary of State, for the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent. Accordingly the duration of the work is still to be established.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Worcestershire County Councillor for Tenbury, said: "We are aware that the community has become increasingly concerned about the condition of the bridge over recent years and now the County Council is able to address those concerns as part of the bridge maintenance priorities for 2011- 2012. There are a number of other issues too which have been address in connection with the bridge closure.

"I can assure the community that there will always be access for mobility scooters/wheelchairs, pedestrians, and cyclists throughout the works and depending upon the mode of the construction phases these will either be accommodated on the existing bridge, or a temporary footbridge.

"The road closures will not commence until the New Year, which will leave access to the town unimpeded for the Christmas trading period.

"Another concern relates to the diversion routes. The County Council is to ensure that maintenance work is undertaken to ensure the main diversion routes are as defect free as possible and winter maintenance activities will be extended to other routes to ensure they remain accessible.

"The County Council has also undertaken a major delivery survey to understand the needs of the businesses in the town and will ensure through media coverage that all suppliers are aware of temporary arrangements to keep local needs supplied."

Richard Attwood, Worcestershire County Council's Engineering Project Manager, said: "We are working hard to ensure that the essential repairs to the bridge are undertaken in the most efficient way possible. Extended working hours will feature as a part of the contract. We are also looking at utilising as much factory produced precast modules as possible to reduce the amount of on-site work that might be affected by winter weather.

"Works not affecting traffic will be undertaken on the elevations and beneath the bridge during the latter part of the summer.

"Among the other issues being addressed is the provision of temporary parking on the Burford side of the river.

"We propose to hold a public briefing during September when there will be a chance for the community to receive the proposals and raise any further concerns they may have. The date of the meeting will be advertised in August."

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