

County Council invites residents and traders to find out more about Teme Bridge works at second public briefing event

Residents and traders are being offered the opportunity to find out more about the plans for essential works on Tenbury's Teme Bridge due to start in the new year.

A second Public Briefing is taking place on 17 November at Tenbury High School, in Oldwood Road. The event starts at 7.30pm

To protect the future of the bridge strengthening and protection works are necessary to avoid the need to impose weight restrictions. Left unchecked the bridge would attract a weight limit of 3 tonnes which would not serve the town's needs.

In addition to these repairs water-proofing, re-kerbing and resurfacing works will take place. The parapets will also be cleaned back to bare metal before being re-coated in high performance paints.

The work is currently out to tender, but to ensure the bridge is closed for the shortest time possible the County Council is incentivising contractors through the procurement process by awarding high points to those that can deliver the project in the shortest time.

Those attending the public briefing event will also be able to find out more about the authority's plans to help businesses in the town while the work takes place.

Information leaflets, which will be distributed to residents, businesses and suppliers following the meeting, will detail all diversion routes to help people devise the best routes to Tenbury's shops and businesses and allow traders to plan with suppliers temporary route changes where necessary.

A special shuttle bus service will also run Monday to Saturday throughout the duration of works linking the 758 service from the bridge to the Bromyard Road Business Park.

County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock, Local Member for the Tenbury Division, said: "We understand the concerns people in the community have and recognise the need to keep disruption to a minimum while these essential works are taking place.

"We have devised a number of plans to help residents and businesses at this time and we want to keep people informed, which is why this second public briefing has been arranged. Anyone with an interest is invited to come along."

Road closures are planned to start on January 9, 2012. All proposed diversion routes will receive enhanced signing to address any safety concerns the community may have such as horse riding on the highway and children walking to school.

All winter maintenance work, including gritting, will routinely take into account the main diversion routes. Other routes, which will have a temporary environmental weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes imposed, will be additionally treated when freezing rain, snow, or hoar frost is forecast.

The council has been in discussion with the emergency services for some time to ensure needs continue to be addressed as required.

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