
RIVER DOUR GREENWAY – BUCKLAND BRIDGE

To: **Joint Transportation Board – 13 September 2013**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Dover Town**

Summary: **This report advises Members of the current situation as regards the works to extend the River Dour Greenway over the River Dour at Buckland Bridge.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Kent County Council has recently implemented a new walking and cycle route in Dover known as the River Dour Greenway. The aim of the route is to improve the links across Dover town by providing an important 'backbone' to the Dover Town cycle network. From this, future cycle routes from Whitfield and River can link in, as can the national cycle network.
- 1.2 The works were part funded by a National Lottery grant through Sustrans; an organisation which seeks to improve sustainable transport provision across the UK.
- 1.3 Part of the original proposal for the route was to remove the pedestrian bridge across the River Dour at Buckland Bridge, and replace it with a new wider bridge suitable for shared use by cyclists and pedestrians.
- 1.4 A scaffold structure was to be erected to act as a temporary crossing, and the bridge removed. New bridge abutments were to be cast, and a new prefabricated bridge lifted into position with a crane.

2.0 Update

- 2.1 The works were originally proposed for Winter 2012/13. However the presence of a gas mains pipe suspended under the bridge, which Southern Gas would not permit to be moved during winter months, meant that works could not take place at this time. The works were put on hold until Summer 2013
- 2.2 Dover District Council recently placed Tree Preservation Orders on a number of trees in the vicinity of the works in order to preserve the amenity of the area pending the sale of some DDC-owned land in the locality. The proposed works would require the felling of one of the trees and excavations in the root protection area of two others. This meant that approval would need to be granted to work on the relevant trees.
- 2.3 The delays caused by the approvals process would have resulted in an unacceptable risk that the works would not be completed in time to meet the works programme and the 'window' when Southern Gas would permit works around their gas pipe.
- 2.4 The future sale of DDC land which was to have been used as working space and for

the temporary bridge may also have prevented the scheme from proceeding next year.

2.5 As a result of this risk, the decision was made to cancel the bridge works.

3.0 Future Proposals

3.1 As part of the development of Buckland Mill, the developer will be approached by Kent County Council with a view to seek a contribution to extend the River Dour Greenway through the Buckland Mill site and under the railway bridge to Crabble Avenue.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

4.1.1 None for Dover District Council.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 None for Dover District Council.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 None for Dover District Council.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

4.1 That Members note the update.

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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>Whole file</i>	<i>Highway Services, Kent County Council</i>