

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Warwick Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 10th July 2007

**Report Title** A445/03 Portobello Bridge, Warwick

**Summary** This report confirms the situation regarding the weak edges of the bridge and outlines future actions to address the problem.

**For further information please contact** Stephen O'Connor  
Section Engineer - Bridge Maintenance  
Tel. 01926 412407  
steveoconnor@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  Cabinet – 29th November 2001.
- Local Member(s)  Councillor K Browne - Do we have any choice other than to support the recommended course of action?  
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor C Davis -  
Councillor Mrs M Haywood -
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  .....  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance  .....

- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Warwick Area Committee – 10th July 2007

### A445/03 Portobello Bridge, Warwick

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

##### Recommendation

That:-

1. The previous proposals for a major widening of Portobello Bridge with associated improvements to adjacent junctions be abandoned.
2. Area Committee endorses the proposal to develop options for alternative pedestrian and cycling provision adjacent to the main bridge and that the options be submitted to public consultation.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Portobello Bridge carries the A445 Emscote Road across the River Avon between Warwick and Leamington. The location of the bridge is shown in **Appendix A**. The masonry arch bridge was originally constructed in 1831 and has been extended with metal structures on both sides to provide footways. Assessment of the bridge has shown that whilst the main bridge structure is satisfactory, the footway extensions are weak. As a result, the older footway on the north side, which is unsuitable for footway loading, has been closed. The footway on the south side is suitable for footway loading but not for accidental vehicle loading and has been protected by high kerbs. The carriageway has been narrowed to provide room for a replacement footway on the north side.
- 1.2 It was proposed to remove the existing footways and to widen the bridge in order to accommodate new footways and cycleways and at the same time provide additional carriageway width to enable junction improvements. This scheme was approved by Cabinet with approval to allocate the necessary funding on 29th November 2001, following extensive consultation.
- 1.3 The original bridge had been designated a Grade 2 Listed Building in June 2001 which meant that a Listed Building Consent would have been required from Warwick District Council for the works with English Heritage being the main consultee.

- 1.4 An application for consent was made but after extensive discussion with English Heritage (EH) it became clear that they would not accept the proposed scheme. EH's concern was that a widening of the bridge would not permit an unrestricted view of the original north elevation of the bridge, although it was accepted by them that the south elevation would be improved by the removal of the footway.
- 1.5 The consent application was withdrawn in May 2003.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Based on the reaction of English Heritage to the previous scheme, there is severe doubt whether Listed Building Consent would be obtainable for the widening.
- 2.2 It is proposed therefore that the major widening scheme be abandoned. The extensions to the bridge which support the footways still remain a cause for concern and it is felt that action must be taken in the interests of safety to remove the extensions from the north or both sides and make alternative arrangements for pedestrians and if possible, cyclists.
- 2.3 It is likely that proposals would include the construction of a separate pedestrian/cyclist bridge on the north side of the existing road bridge and consideration of another separate bridge on the south side if sufficient space was available.

## **3. Proposal**

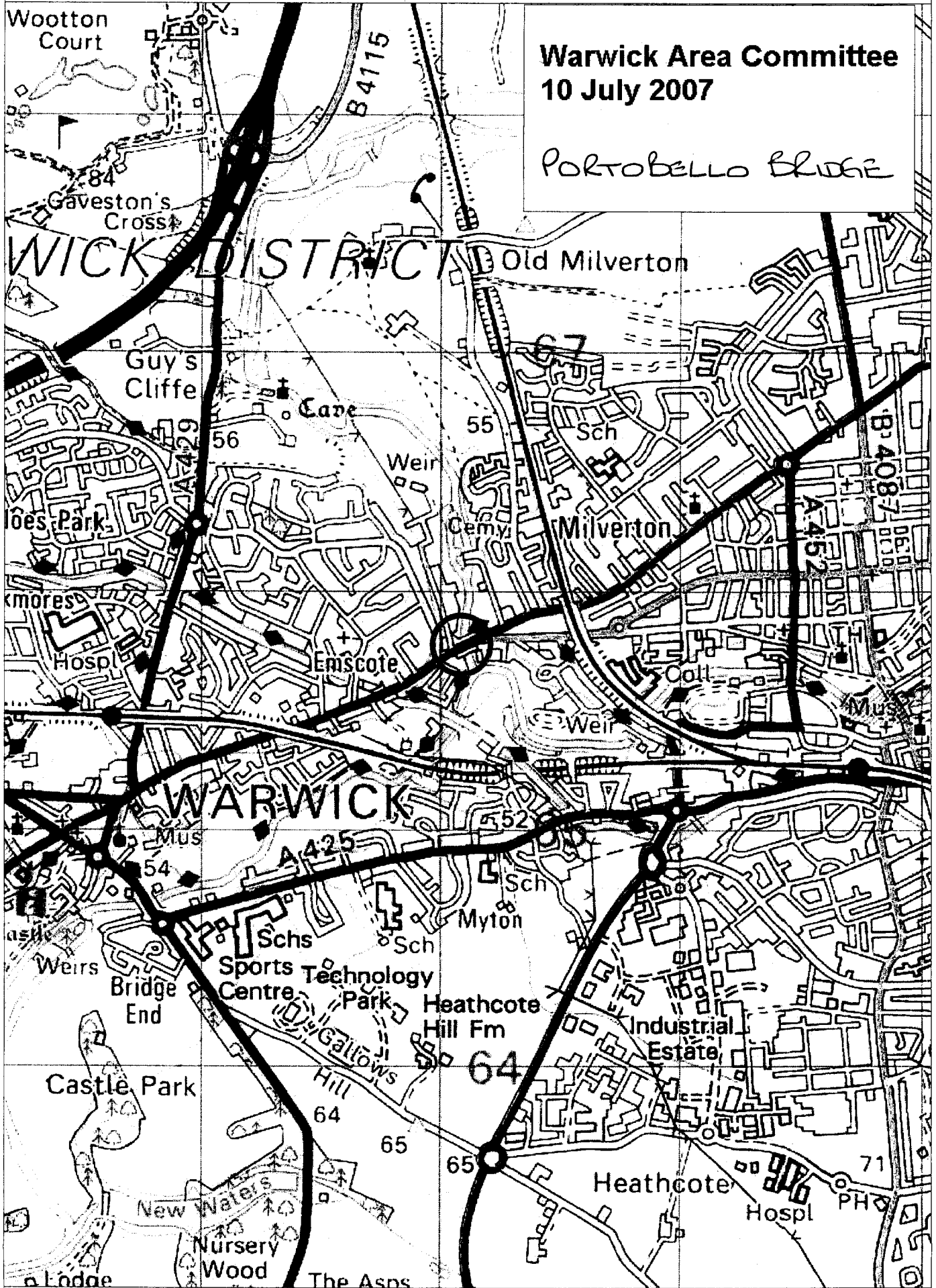
- 3.1 It is proposed to carry out a detailed feasibility study of the removal of one or both extensions and the provision of suitable alternative facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3.2 The results of the study would inform a consultation process with the public and English Heritage, with a final scheme being submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- 3.3 It is expected that the cost of an approved scheme could be met from the Bridge Maintenance budget.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

19th June 2007

Warwick Area Committee  
10 July 2007

PORTOBELLO BRIDGE



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