



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

George Bostock

Our Ref: ZA10567

10 February 2021

Dear Mr Bostock,

Thank you for contacting me to raise the problems the temporary weight limit on Potford Bridge is causing your members. I contacted Highways at Warwickshire County Council for an update and to ask when the works are due to be completed. I have now received their response which is copied below for your information:

"When the weight restriction was first imposed, we did consider temporarily propping the structure so that it could remain open to all traffic. However, the initial installation cost of nearly £40,000 plus the ongoing cost of weekly inspections, maintenance and removal resulted in this being deemed to be prohibitively expensive. It was felt that our limited bridge maintenance budget would be better used to design and construct a scheme to strengthen or replace the bridge so that the weight restriction could be removed.

We are currently working with Atkins engineering consultancy to determine if the entire bridge needs to be replaced or if the more modern elements can be strengthened and retained. We plan to be on site next month to carry out the site investigation and structural testing work needed to inform this decision. Once complete, we will be able to determine the most feasible repair method and progress the detailed design work. If it is possible to strengthen and repair the existing structure then we can plan to begin work in the early part of 2022. If the structure is found to need replacing entirely then our maintenance budget is unlikely to meet the costs and additional funding will need to be sought, this will result in the restriction being in place for longer.

Complications resulting from the Covid-19 restrictions have led to the structure investigation and design process taking longer than expected and as a result, the existing 18-month emergency weight restriction is due to expire. We are in the process of making the weight limit permanent as it will need to remain in place until the bridge can be repaired."

I have asked to be kept informed of the outcome of the site visit next month and appraise me of any actions and will pass to you. Thank you for contacting me.

Kind regards

Craig Tracey MP
North Warwickshire & Bedworth

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & BEDWORTH

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