

Portfolio Holder Decision – Funding for Bridleway and Bridge

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Date of decision	5th August 2022
	Signed 

Decision taken

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property gives approval to:

- 1) Fund the replacement of a bridge on Public Footpath R260 at Sawbridge at an estimated cost of £25000.
- 2) Fund the drainage improvements and associated work on Public Bridleway SS61 at an estimated cost of £45000.

Reasons for decisions

Warwickshire County Council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain its public rights of way for use by the public. The footpath R260 of which the bridge forms part has a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) on it to prevent use by the public due to the danger presented by the condition of the bridge. The bridleway SS61 is closed to the public using a TTRO to prevent further damage to the surface. The replacement bridge and the surfacing are required to allow these two routes to be re-opened to the public. Complaints and queries have been received regularly from users of the routes, the Local Access Forum and from the Parish Council about the closures and the length of time for replacement and repair.

Background information

Approval is requested for the funding as follows:

- 1) The bridge on R260 has been the subject of a temporary closure notice for over three years because it is too dangerous for pedestrians to use. The size of the bridge is such that it cannot be replaced using the normal Rights of Way wooden bridge kits and therefore capital funding is required. The bridge dimensions mean that installation is not suitable to be done by volunteers, which is normal practice. A specialist contractor will be employed to carry out the work.
- 2) SS61 runs downhill along a sunken track (i.e. it is significantly lower than the land on either side). Water runs off the neighbouring fields and then straight down the bridleway washing away the surface making it difficult to use. At some point in the past a scheme was put in place to assist in draining the water away but this has not been satisfactory. A more substantial system is required for the long term. Drainage systems have been in place using plastic piping but has become damaged and failed. The proposal is to use a surface water chamber to store the

water coming off the field ditches and slowly release this into a substantial drainage system buried at a greater depth under the surface of the bridleway than the previous system. This will discharge the water at the bottom of the hill into an existing ditch which discharges into the highway drainage system. The proposal would be to secure the drainage for the long term thus ensuring the surfacing remains stable. The proposal is to restore the surface once the drainage is in place.

Financial implications

The money is being made available through income from a windfall payment received of £171000 for settlement of New Roads and Street Works Act fines imposed on a street works operator which constitutes revenue. The Portfolio Holder has the authority to approve additions to the Capital Programme up to a maximum value of £2,000,000 if they are funded from revenue. It is hoped that the bridleway work will preserve the bridleway in the long term and prevent regular expenditure to keep the surface in a just useable condition.

Environmental implications

The bridge requires replacement because the footpath is currently unusable. Complaints have been received about the lack of replacement. The bridge will be provided by an approved supplier and to a known standard. It will be fitted by suitably experienced and qualified contractors.

The bridleway requires work to prevent further surface erosion. The work will be carried out by suitably experienced and qualified contractors.

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Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins Assistant Director (Environment Services)
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors –

Local Member(s):

Dunsmore and Leam Valley – Howard Roberts

Shipston – Jo Barker