

# Bishopsford Bridge Newsletter

Issue: October 2020

**Thank you to all the people and organisations who gave their views on the new designs for Bishopsford Bridge. This feedback has been incorporated into the designs for the new bridge.**

In May and June, 260 people and organisations responded to the opportunity to comment on the designs for the new bridge. Feedback from the consultation has influenced the design in the following ways:

- Lots of people said that cycling and walking should be encouraged by the provision of cycle lanes and better pavements. We have changed the design by widening the bridge as much as possible to provide a segregated cycle lane northbound and a wide shared surface for pedestrians and cyclists southbound.
- Safety was raised as an important issue: safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The parapet for the new bridge is designed to prevent vehicles from entering the river in the event of an accident and to deter people from climbing on it. The updated design also replaces the large wall on the Ravensbury Park side with railings, similar to the National Trust, supporting a better view of the natural landscape and of cyclists and walkers emerging or entering Ravensbury Park

If you would like to find out more on the planning application, please visit Merton's Planning Explorer <https://planning.merton.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorerAA/GeneralSearch.aspx> and use the reference **20/P2438**. The target date for the planning application to be decided is Merton Council's Planning Applications Committee on 22nd October 2020.



Artist impression of proposed bridge

## The broken bridge has been demolished

In July 2020 demolition was completed on the broken Bishopsford Bridge.

Utilities, such as Thames Water, broadband and gas, were removed from the old structure and the bridge was carefully demolished to allow the river to flow freely through the area. Some of the utilities have been placed in a metal gantry crossing the site and will be replaced within the new bridge.

Mitcham Parish marker, dating from 1882, has been salvaged and will be placed in the same place on the new bridge.



Photo of demolished bridge with gantry for utilities to the right

## Outline programme



### April - July 2020

- Broken bridge demolished.
- Public consultation carried out on designs for new bridge.
- Site surveys undertaken to inform design and construction: heritage assessment, ecological surveys.
- Procurement starts for the contractor to build the new bridge.



### August 2020

- Planning application submitted seeking permission for the new bridge to be built.
- Work continues with gas, water and other utilities to prepare for the construction of the new bridge.



### September - October 2020

- Merton's Planning Applications Committee considers the application for the new bridge.
- The council awards the contract to build the new bridge.



### November 2020 - Spring 2021

Construction of the new bridge.

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