

Bishopsford Bridge Newsletter

Issue: January 2020

The council has been working with independent experts towards reopening the road across Bishopsford Bridge.

The council has considered options that result in reopening the road across Bishopsford Bridge as quickly and safely as possible to benefit local residents, considering minimising flood risk, the age of the existing structure, the ease of construction, accommodating gas, water and other utilities, effects on fauna, flora and heritage and other factors.

After carefully considering advice from independent experts, Merton's Cabinet will be making a decision on the final option for reopening the bridge at its next meeting on Monday 24 February 2020.

All of the options being considered involve some demolition and fall into the outline delivery programme, which is set out overleaf. This will see the initial demolition work on-site in March-April 2020 and will involve seeking your views on the new designs between April and May 2020. The main construction programme will be updated depending on the option determined by Merton's Cabinet on 24 February 2020.

We will hold a public meeting in February - please keep an eye on the website below for more details.



Outline programme



Is having a temporary bridge an option?

To complement the pedestrian and cycle bridge, we have also been investigating the installation of a temporary traffic bridge across the River Wandle - such as a portable, prefab Bailey bridge.

However, while a temporary bridge would allow us to open the crossing to traffic more quickly, it has several drawbacks. A Bailey bridge would not be able to hold buses and lorries. It would be a single lane, so traffic would need to queue before crossing. It would require permissions to avoid harm to local residential amenity and ecology and to minimise flood risk. It would also slow down construction work considerably as we would have to work around the Bailey bridge.

After weighing up the options, we have reached the conclusion that focusing on the construction of the permanent bridge will be more beneficial in the longer term than slowing down the project by erecting a temporary bridge.

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