

County Council Meeting – 16 October 2012

STATEMENT BY MEMBER

I wish to inform the Council about the very satisfactory way that progress is being made on Walton Bridge.

My division takes in the complete span of the bridge, as by a historic shifting of the Thames, my division includes a small amount of land on the south side of the Thames as well as the north bank. The bridge has continuous flowing traffic nearly bumper to bumper from 6.30 in the morning to 10.00 at night and so you can understand the reason why the second temporary bridge is coming to the end of its life.

The bridge is being built by Costains together with Surrey's own engineers and the two great spans are about to be put in place piece by piece. There has been minimal hold up of traffic and the site is always well regulated and tidy.

To support this there have been three public meetings to date and at the last meeting a member of the public stood up and told the over one hundred people at the meeting that he had been a bridge engineer (now retired) and had constructed bridges all over the world and he wished to say what a fine job Costains and Surrey were doing and it was one of the best sites he had seen. There was then spontaneous applause and words of agreement from the meeting.

I would also like to add my appreciation for the help and cooperation I have received from our Surrey officers and also members of Costains team when I have been dealing with residents' concerns. There has been a meeting for local County Councillors, but we ran out of time to pay a visit to the actual site, so I have requested another site meeting. Since this operation is such a good demonstration of teamwork and best practice, I have also asked that all County Councillors are invited so they too have the opportunity to see the excellent work being done by Surrey and our contractors.

Richard Walsh
Local Member for Laleham and Shepperton
16 October 2012