

Item 21

BROADWAY ROAD BRIDGE

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

9th March 2006

KEY ISSUE: Previously, the committee approved the reconstruction of Broadway Road Bridge and the provision of a separate footbridge. This report seeks the approval of the committee for the compulsory acquisition of land to progress the scheme.

SUMMARY: Broadway Road Bridge carries the C4 Broadway Road over Windle Brook between the villages of Lightwater and Windlesham in Surrey Heath. The structure is a single brick arch in poor condition. The existing bridge has no footway, forcing pedestrians to step out into the carriageway to cross the bridge. A scheme has been developed to reconstruct the bridge and takes the opportunity to provide a separate footbridge on the east side to improve pedestrian safety. A temporary bridge would be utilised during the works to maintain single lane traffic flow. The works are expected to take 12 weeks.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) approves the scheme shown on drawings 3246/102,106 rev. A, 107 rev. A, 109 and that authority be given for the promotion of any necessary planning applications and orders and the compulsory acquisition of land.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1 As a result of an inspection and strength assessment, Broadway Road Bridge was placed on the County's Close Monitoring list of structures. Since 1998, the bridge has been monitored and managed in accordance with the Highways Agency Standard BA 79 "The Management of Sub-standard Highway Bridges".
- 2 The reconstruction of the bridge was consequently included in the Local Transport Plan 5 year implementation programme for bridge strengthening and is currently programmed for 2006/07.
- 3 Recent inspections have highlighted the continuing deterioration of the brick arch structure. Further deterioration is likely to lead to the introduction of more "formal interim measures" (ref: BA 79) the most appropriate being a weight restriction.

- 4 Pedestrians currently use a narrow verge on the east side of the bridge and in some cases are forced to step out onto the carriageway to cross. The opportunity has been taken to include the provision of a separate footbridge in the bridge reconstruction scheme to improve pedestrian safety.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

5. Broadway Road Bridge carries the C4 Broadway Road over Windle Brook between the villages of Lightwater and Windlesham, in Surrey Heath, Surrey.
6. The bridge is a single span brick arch structure carrying a 5.6 metre carriageway. The arch has a maximum rise of 0.97m and spans approximately 3.0m. The parapets are constructed in solid brick. The structure is now in a poor condition and requires reconstruction.
7. There are no footways on the existing bridge. The footways terminate on both sides at the bridge and pedestrians often have to step out onto the carriageway to cross. The lack of a footway means that wheelchair and pushchair users are at high risk when crossing the bridge.
8. There is a 60 mph speed limit at the bridge, reducing to 30 mph 200 metres to the south. The high speed of vehicles at this location adds to the risk to pedestrians.
9. A scheme has been developed to reconstruct the bridge to current standards and takes the opportunity to provide a separate footbridge on the east side to improve pedestrian safety.
10. The works would include:
 - a reinforced concrete bridge deck that spans over the existing bridge;
 - reinforced brickwork parapets to current standards;
 - a new timber footbridge on the eastern side of the existing bridge.
11. The carriageway is only 5.6m wide at the bridge. It would not be feasible to carry out the works whilst maintaining single lane alternate traffic. The bridge would therefore need to be closed during the works.
12. A complete closure of Broadway Road at the bridge to carry out the works would result in vehicles using one of two alternative diversion routes during the works. The first uses Hook Mill Lane, Windlesham Road and Guilford Road. The second is via Windlesham Village, New Road, A322 and Guildford Road. The extra distance using these temporary diversion routes is approximately 2.8 miles and 3.0 miles respectively.
13. Closing Broadway Road to traffic at the bridge would cause significant inconvenience to the public as it provides an important link for the residents of Windlesham and Lightwater. A road closure would also significantly affect the operation of the working farms in Broadway Road and the bus service.

14. Pedestrian access across the bridge needs to be maintained during the works as there is no suitable alternative route.
15. It is proposed therefore, as an alternative to road closure at the bridge, to install a temporary bridge to maintain single alternate lane traffic flow controlled by signals.
16. The works would be carried out in two phases. During phase I, traffic would be diverted onto a temporary bridge on the east side while the road bridge is reconstructed. In Phase II, traffic would use the reconstructed bridge while a new footbridge is constructed on the east side. The works are expected to take 12 weeks.
17. The temporary bridge on the east side would require the temporary use of an area of land adjacent to the existing bridge. Enquiries have been made and notices posted. However the ownership of this land is currently unknown.
18. Further temporary use of part of two adjacent properties to the east of the bridge is required to provide temporary access for pedestrians during the works. Working space to the west of the bridge would also be required for the duration of the works.
19. The new footbridge would require planning permission and land required to accommodate the new footbridge would need to be acquired. The ownership of this land is currently unknown.
20. The County Council proposes to negotiate with the known landowners for the purchase of their interest in the land. However delay can arise in carrying out a proposed improvement if negotiations become protracted or agreement cannot be reached.
21. These negotiations would be made in parallel with a Compulsory Purchase Order, which introduces a set procedure and therefore a timescale within which matters are determined.

CONSULTATION

22. Consultation with:
 - The Environment Agency.
 - The Utility Companies
 - SCC Local Transportation Office
 - Land Owners
 - Surrey Heath Borough Council - Planning

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

23. The scheme is estimated to cost approximately £175,000 (including Statutory Undertakers works) and would be funded from the County's Bridge Strengthening budget for 2006/07.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

24. Temporary single alternate lane traffic signals during phase I of the works are likely to cause short traffic queues in Broadway Road. The environmental impact of implementing the above is insignificant compared with a 2.8-mile traffic diversion during bridge closures.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

25. There are no direct implications related to crime and disorder.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

26. There are no direct implications related to equalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) approves the scheme shown on drawings 3246/102,106 rev. A, 107 rev. A, 109 and that authority be given for the promotion of any necessary planning applications and orders and the compulsory acquisition of land

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Item 22 – Committee Report presented to the Surrey Heath Local Committee meeting held 10/03/05 and Annexes
- Item 45/05 – Minutes of Meeting for the Surrey Heath Local Committee meeting held 10/03/05

Number of Annexes: 4