

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

JOINT COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)



DATE: 23 July 2018

SUBJECT: PETITION – To clean Walton on Thames Bridge before 2019/20

DIVISION: Laleham and Shepperton

PETITION DETAILS:

A petition has been received that reads as follows:

The bridge in Walton On Thames has become increasingly dirty and unsightly over the past few months. The bridge is now covered in a green sludge, which makes it look rundown and tired.

The Council have advised that the bridge is not due to be cleaned until 2019/20. However, I don't think this is good enough. This fantastic structure is the gateway to our community, and given the amount of pride we take in our town and the amount of money we pay in Council Tax, I think we deserve better!

Lead petitioner: Christopher Doe

Number of signatures submitted: 44

OFFICER COMMENT:

Walton Bridge is due to be cleaned in 2019/20, at the same time as its next principal inspection. This is the most efficient way to clean the structure because we can benefit from utilising the same traffic management arrangements and access equipment. Please note that this intended cleaning is not guaranteed; it is possible that funding may need to be prioritised for safety critical work instead.

It is unlikely that the cleaning work could be brought forward to 2018/19 even if there was funding available. The last inspection of Walton Bridge took about three weeks to complete so the 2018/19 inspection programme would have to be changed significantly to accommodate an unplanned inspection of that duration. The cleaning and inspection will require a minimum of a lane closure using temporary signals – this will require coordination with other road works in the area. We will also require Environment Agency consent which will take a minimum of two to three months.

Cleaning and inspecting the structure is quite a considerable undertaking. Costs include a rescue boat, traffic management, environmental protection measures, and so on. The last principal inspection cost over £25,000. Along with the cleaning works the total costs could be in the region of £50,000.

RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer response.

Contact Officer:

Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager (NE)

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