

Email ESCC response from the project team regarding the Exceat Bridge and queries raised by CVPC.

Traffic lights and A259 disruption

We are aware that our works to clear vegetation and carry out some additional ground investigations caused local disruption the week before last by extending the temporary traffic lights and installing the third set of lights at the pub entrance. I am very sorry for that disruption and any inconvenience you may have experienced. These are small-scale pre-construction works and were not expected to cause disruption. Immediately following the weekend of disruptions, the contractor was instructed to leave the lights in their original position, and to dispense with the third set of lights at the pub entrance, and we will continue to carry out the vegetation clearance and ground investigations utilising the lights in their original position or by working off-highway.

C120 Road Condition and Increased Risk

Our construction contractors are due to be appointed in December; they will have a comprehensive traffic management plan the main aim of which will be to carry out works with minimal impact to the A259 and travelling public. Should any road closures be required, a clearly signed diversion route will be set up that is suitable for all traffic and this will not include the small lanes through local villages. We are conscious that drivers may be tempted to take shortcuts and will ask the construction contractor to take extra measures to prevent this. We have also started to increase our inspections of the C120 and connecting routes so we have an up to date awareness of the condition of the roads and are able to intervene if required.

Request for Bailey Bridge

The new bridge will be built next to the existing bridge, so the current bridge will remain in use for almost the entire construction period. It will not be deconstructed until the new bridge is open. There will only be brief periods, such as when the new road is joined to the old road, that there will need to be any road closures. It will be possible to carry out some closures at night or at less busy times to reduce disruption.

Therefore, it will not be necessary to build a temporary Bailey bridge and in fact constructing a Bailey bridge and connecting it to the road would probably create more disruption for traffic and wildlife than our current plan.

Update on pre-construction works

Please note that this is not the start of construction of the new bridge (we have yet to appoint a contractor) but we are simply clearing vegetation in preparation, off the road and ahead of the bird nesting season. Below are the key planned activities along with their provisional dates. While these fall within the current schedule, please be aware that dates may move due to factors such as adverse weather conditions.

- Welfare units are now in place at the Boat House to provide provision for the contractors carrying out the pre-construction works
- Ground investigation surveys will be undertaken from 13th Oct to 5th Nov; this will include digging of bore holes off the highway
- Vegetation clearance 6th Oct for a week

- As confirmed above, the temporary lights will remain in their current positions either side of the bridge and additionally there will be marshals on site to assist with pedestrian access and safe access to and from the Cuckmere Inn. On Mon 13th Oct borehole rigs (large, heavy equipment) will be brought to site and this will mean minor delays but this will be carried out outside peak hours to minimise disruption

I hope this provides some answers to your queries and concerns.