

Hi Paul,

Further to our recent site visit to look at the issues with the trees to the side of Bridge Road. As the request to remove all 5 trees along the road is something that will have a large impact on the local amenity, it will require approval by the elected members as a planning and rights of way panel.

I will be offering support to the removal as the other alternative is to have the railway line closed in the future as the bridge will continue to weaken.

If you can provide me with details as to why there is a need to replace bridge and why other options are not available. Please include why the bridge cannot be built in situ as this is sure to be raised by the members.

The structure is in poor condition with up to 5mm loss of section to edge girder's web (full section thickness 9.5mm). As a consequence a 15 mph restriction has been imposed on heavy axle traffic. Currently the structure has a rating of RA0 and is suffering from severe corrosion to the outer main girder web. A study has been completed to ascertain if the structure is suitable for refurbishment. The condition of the bridge is at a stage where this is not feasible and the structure must be replaced. The bridge decks are currently made of steel. The new bridge decks will also be made of steel. Concrete decks were considered at tender stage (Pre-cast and in situ) but were rejected as a viable option as they would result in a severe loss of head room from the carriageway to underside of structure, thus limiting traffic passing under the structure.

The removal of the trees would have to be funded by a third party; I'm guessing it is Network Rail. **Correct** We would also be requesting that suitable trees be planted back on Bridge Road and these are to be advanced nursery stock. **Accepted**. As these trees will not be offering the same environmental benefit due to their size, I would also request that some other trees be planted in other parts, local to the area. Of course this can also be put within your statement to mitigate the loss of the 5 trees on Bridge Road. **Dyer and Butler will develop a replacement tree proposal with SCC once replacement species and planting density can be agreed.**

I hope to have this matter heard in the March planning meeting, which you are welcome to attend. **Yes please. Could you forward me the date, time and venue?** Once the decision has been made, I can let you know and a schedule be made for the works. It may be that we will want to notify local residents of the works, so this may add a slight delay in the removal of the trees. **Dyer and Butler will undertake a letter drop of local residents on behalf of Network Rail once all details have been agreed with SCC.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Gary Claydon-Bone
City Tree Officer