

Paul Bellotti Director of Communities and Environment

Ms Y Eggleston
Clerk to Sutton Upon Derwent Parish Council
Email: theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: PB/PARISH144/RES
Enquiries to: Paul Bellotti
E-Mail: paul.bellotti@eastriding.gov.uk
Date: 7 December 2020

Dear Ms Eggleston

Re: Hagg Bridge, Hagg Lane, Storwood

Thank you for your letter regarding the work to Hagg Bridge dated 30 November 2020.

I would like to address the concern you raise about the lack of communication between the Council and Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council. Whilst I understand an incorrectly spelt email caused a delay of one day, I am told the Council has kept the Parish Council informed of all important issues regarding Hagg Bridge.

I do accept that some information is released to Ward Members, before the Parish Councils. This is common practice. Ward Councillors hold the democratic mandate and provide the leadership direction for the Council, whereas Officers are employed to deliver day-to-day against the Council's Policies, and within its budgets, in line with the delegations they have been given. Further, Officers are held to account by Ward Councillors, and they scrutinise our work. This is no different a position than a Parish Clerk reporting to their Parish Councillors, in the first instance.

It is unfortunate that some errors have been published on various social media platforms about the local circumstances at Hagg Bridge. We are always happy to assist with understanding, and to put the record straight, where such errors lead to confusion and incorrect conclusions.

Early on in the scheme, additional signs were erected at various points to ensure that the diversion was as effective and efficient as possible. The diversion route is a compromise, and I think that between the contractor and specialist Traffic Management Contractor, it is an acceptable one. The issue of speeding vehicles is not a problem, which is isolated to bridge works and their diversions. The Road Safety team responsible will be informed, and they should contact you in due course.

The concrete used to cast the concrete deck and upstands, has unfortunately been found to be defective. The defect was found by carrying out an industry standard testing regime, whereby concrete cubes are tested after 28 days of curing, to ensure it has reached the specified strength. Following which, further testing and analysis was carried out, and we are working with the contractor to devise mitigation that will ensure that the scheme meets the works specification, as close as we reasonably can.

/continued ...

Caroline Lacey
Chief Executive

This proposal may include the provision of a protective coating to the concrete. This coating does not strengthen the concrete, but does prevent the penetration of water and road salts, thereby improving its durability and design life.

The rain water pooling that has been seen on the concrete deck, is because the concrete deck is horizontal. When the road surface is constructed, a gradient will enable the flow of water to reach the drainage channels.

I apologise for the delay in completion of the work, and the opening of the road, however, the alternative was to accept a sub-standard bridge. We are continuing to work to open the bridge for February, and I very much hope we will be able to confirm the planned completion date shortly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bellotti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Bellotti
Director of Communities and Environment

Cc Pocklington Provincial Ward Councillors (Councillors D Sykes, K West and P West)