

A396 Bickleigh Bridge

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that a review of signing and lining is undertaken, a Traffic Interview Survey is carried out and an update and any recommended changes are brought to a future meeting of this committee.

1. Summary

This report advises Members of the proposed actions to be taken following recent incidents involving Heavy Goods Vehicles at Bickleigh Bridge.

2. Background

The March 2009 meeting of this Committee considered a report advising Members of the results of the Traffic Interview Survey undertaken on the A396 South of Bickleigh to assess use of this route by heavy goods vehicles and potential for diversion to A361/M5. The results of the survey suggested that there were only two movements, out of the forty recorded, that had the potential to be diverted to the A361/M5 if sufficient signing was provided. It was therefore considered that no further action was justified.

There have been no recorded injury collisions recorded by the police on Bickleigh Bridge between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2020.

The bridge repair history costs for Bickleigh Bridge over 15 years between 2005 and August 2020 have been valued at £133,440.

Re-aligning the approach with new kerbing has improved vehicles' access onto the bridge, but larger vehicles have mounted the kerb and scraped the walls. Double-height kerbs were introduced this year to prevent that.

On 17 May an articulated lorry hit the wall on the downstream side of the listed bridge in a single vehicle incident whilst reversing.

CCTV Cameras are located in order to record any incident which takes place on the bridge. The cameras are clearly identified and signed accordingly.

Any incident which does take place on the bridge causes significant disruption due to the impact on A396 and A3072.

3. Financial Considerations

The proposed study is to improve the protection of Bickleigh Bridge, a listed structure. The costs of the survey and lining review will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

4. Sustainability Considerations

Directing goods vehicle traffic to use the highest standard route possible will minimise the environmental impact of traffic through communities.

5. Reasons for Reaching the Recommendation

12 years have passed since the 2009 survey and the location has received significant focus following recent incidents. A contemporary survey will enable Members and Officers to consider any action or changes to the A396 and the approach to Bickleigh Bridge.

6. Alternative Options

An alternative option would be to take no action. There have been no recorded injury incidents in the past 5 years. The incidents which have occurred have been demonstrated to be driver error and costs have been recovered accordingly.

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