

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	11th February 2020
Agenda Item	11

Update on Riverside Bridge

The major part of the work needed to bring the bridge back into use does not require expertise and can be done by volunteers. It is planned for this work to be carried out during March/April. Once the weather has improved, and it is safe to work in the water, the work on the underparts of the bridge will be carried out, in accordance with Environment Agency procedures..

The Riverside bridge working group will meet shortly to discuss the repair work. A structural survey of the bridge has been carried out and it is reported that the bridge is in a better state than was implied by ECC when they closed the bridge. In fact there was a delay of two years in getting to the present stage, since the report held by ECC was not released until a FOI request was submitted.

There has inevitably been widespread comment on Facebook which is largely incorrect. This included a comparison between Box Mill bridge and the riverside bridge and the speed with which Box Mill bridge had been repaired. Box Mill bridge is owned by Essex County Council. The Riverside bridge is currently owned by the Crown, but HTC has set aside the necessary legal fees to take ownership of the bridge once the repairs are completed. It appears also that it is not understood that the monies provided by BDC were for the structural report, and not for the repairs, and HTC is grateful for the support given by BDC which has enabled us to move forward by completing the structural report.

Recommendation: that HTC notes the report.

Cllr Andy Munday
Chairman Riverside Bridge working group