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Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	14th May 2024
Report Title	Seven Fields, Kings Bridge Update
Agenda Reference	6
Author	Councillor E Baker Walker

Councillor's Recommendation

1. To note the emails received from Swindon Borough Council Officers
2. To consider whether any action needs to be undertaken by the Parish Council or Seven Fields Conservation Group to aid repairs to Kings Bridge.

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 6:09 PM
To: Georgina Morgan-Denn <clerk@haydonwick.gov.uk>
Subject: ExternalRE: ExternalRE: King Footbridge @ Seven Fields - AF update 24-6-20

Georgina

Thank you for your email.

To my knowledge there aren't any ring fenced funds for King Bridge. The works will have to be funded from our Non-Highway Bridge budget.

When I visited King Bridge in October 2023, it was in reasonable condition. The primary defect was deterioration of the paint finish which is a cosmetic/durability issue rather than a structural or safety issue. I made a start on the drawings for King Bridge in October and I am keen to complete the project at the earliest opportunity, but we currently have more urgent priorities including:-

- A couple of footbridges that are already closed for safety reasons.
- 2 footbridges at Mannington Rec which are in a worst condition than King Bridge.
- An issue with Mill Lane Aqueduct which runs under the Wilts and Berks canal. This could become a flood risk if it isn't addressed as a priority.

The Mill Lane Aqueduct is our highest 'Non-Highway' priority. The extent of the defect and cost of repairs is currently unknown pending diving surveys which are provisionally planned for this week. Until the costs for Mill Lane Aqueduct are established we won't know how much money is left for our lower priority projects.

I appreciate that this news will be frustrating for the Conservation Group, but my hands are currently tied. I will update you as soon as I know more.

Regards

Highway Infrastructure Asset Management
Swindon Borough Council

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Georgina Morgan-Denn <clerk@haydonwick.gov.uk>; wsking@virginmedia.com
Cc: Seven Fields - AF update 24-6-20

Georgina

Please accept my apologies for the delayed response with regards to King Bridge.

I met Bill King on site in October 2023 and prepared some drawings for the bridge. Bill emailed me on 23rd January 2024 asking whether budget cuts would affect the works. I have been off work following eye surgery and only received Bill's email when I returned last week. I was planning to respond this week.

I don't have direct responsibility for budget allocation or project planning, but will attempt to answer your question regarding budget, resources and timescale to the best of my knowledge.

Budget
There isn't a specific budget for King Bridge. The works will be funded from the non-highway bridge budget which is usually allocated to individual structures on the basis of 'greatest need'. King Bridge is in good condition structurally and only requires some preventative maintenance and TLC. We are aware that this bridge has a great deal of sentimental value to the Conservation Group and with this in mind we have escalated the priority. We don't usually carry out major refurbishment of small non highway bridges. Standard practice is to replace with a GRP (plastic) footbridge when the original structure becomes life expired. Please rest assured that we are aware of the importance of this bridge to the community and intend to fully refurbish even though this will be more expensive than replacement.

Resources
The intention is to prepare the design and specifications in house. Appointing an external consultant for this type of work would be prohibitively expensive, ie. probably 10x the cost of preparing the design ourselves. I joined SBC in November 2022 and am working through the backlog in addition to the new workload. We are also trying to second another engineer to speed up this process. Assistance from the Parish Council might be an option. If we procure these works ourselves it will likely be part of a larger contract (see below).

Timeline
The most efficient way for us to procure and deliver the works, is to group several small bridge works together and let them as a single contract, but this requires a longer design period as we have to prepare multiple designs. We were subject to a temporary 'budget freeze' towards the end of 2023/24 and now need to agree the priorities for 2024/25. I hope to have this discussion with my line manager within the next few weeks.

I am hopeful that these works will be carried out in 2024/25, but it is not my decision to make.

Regards

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