

Work to replace the bridge at the Old Mill site in Bexley Village

Why are you doing this work now?

The bridge at the Old Mill site in Bexley Village is weak and unless it is replaced it will fail. We have successfully obtained funding from Transport for London and are investing in this critical infrastructure now to ensure that Bexley Village continues to thrive in the future. We want to carry out the work in a controlled and managed way rather than wait for the bridge to fail. The new bridge will be stronger and slightly wider.

We have timed the work to begin after the busy Christmas shopping period.

Why will the work take up to 7 months?

Gas, water and electric utilities need to be diverted out of the old bridge and then returned to the new bridge. Much of the construction is in the foundations which are below ground and in the river. This means that the new bridge cannot be completely built off site and a new one simply lifted back into place. We are building as much as possible of the new bridge off site by using precast concrete bridge beams. These will be delivered to the site piece by piece and then joined together.

The bridge is in a conservation area and this places restrictions on the construction programme. The new bridge will be built using the stonework from the old bridge.

Why did you not consult businesses on the planned works?

Proposals for the new bridge went to a public planning committee on 10 September 2015 and were accepted unanimously. As soon as the works programme was known thereafter it was publicised. The work is essential and if it is not carried out the bridge could fail.

What steps have you taken to minimise the impact of the work?

- We are delaying the start of the work until after the busy Christmas period.
- We will be extending the working hours on site as necessary (7am to 8pm and at weekends).
- We are constructing as much as possible of the new bridge off site.
- We are minimising the time when the road is completely closed (five weeks only).
- We will only use traffic controls when it is necessary to do so.

What help can businesses get?

If businesses feel that their sales have been adversely affected by road works UK legislation currently enables them to obtain help by applying for a business rate rebate. They cannot obtain financial compensation.

To claim a business rate rebate businesses have to approach the Valuation Office, not Bexley Council. The Valuation Office is responsible for assessing business rates and can assess whether individual premises should have their rates re-assessed for the period that they are affected by the works.

The contact details for the local valuation office for businesses in Bexley Village are -
Valuation Office Agency business rate enquiries
Unicorn House, 28 Elmfield Road, Bromley BR1 1LR
Email: ratinglondon@voa.gsi.gov.uk
Phone: 03000 501501 Fax: 03000 506631

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during these essential works.

For more information and regular updates on the work visit www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridge or email bridges@bexley.gov.uk



LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY

London Borough of Bexley will -

- Provide a small on-line presence via our business website in the Town Centre section. For more information please email richard.green@bexley.gov.uk or phone 020 3045 4922.
- Publicise the fact that businesses are open as usual via signs saying 'Bexley Village is open as usual. Support your local businesses.' These will be displayed at all of the key access roads across the affected network.
- Use local businesses for supplies where possible. For example Bexley Sand and Gravel are supplying materials for the bridge works and have picked up other work as a direct result of their involvement so far.
- Provide regular updates on the work direct to businesses and residents as well as via press releases, Twitter, Bexley Magazine, www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridge

Why did you cut down the Willow Trees at the Old Mill?

We had to cut back the Willow trees (not cut down) to enable the safe construction of the footbridge which will be used by pedestrians and diverted utilities when work begins in January 2016. This was done with the consent of the river keeper and private landowner who asked us to cut back the trees more extensively than we had originally intended as they had become overgrown. The trees will grow back.

Residents' parking bays

Four residents' parking bays in Bexley High Street have been suspended to accommodate the construction site compound. These will be back in use over the Christmas break. They will be suspended again from 7 January until the end of the work in July 2016. Additional parking bays may need to be suspended at a later date to ease any traffic congestion.

Car parking

To ensure spaces in car parks remain available for people to visit local businesses, charges will continue to apply.

Timetable of works

November - December 2015

Temporary footbridge constructed at Mill Pond
Fabrication of the first half of the new bridge deck begins off site. *No impact on traffic.*

7 January - 22 February 2016

Gas, electricity and water utilities diverted out of the old bridge. *Temporary 2 way traffic lights and stop go boards will be in place. There will be daily monitoring of the traffic situation. Notification of the impending closure and the fact that businesses are open as usual will be displayed on the bridge. A provisional one way system using Thanet Road will be held in reserve.*

22 February for 5 weeks

The deck of the old bridge will be demolished. The foundations for the new bridge will be built. The first half of the new bridge deck will be put in place and lighting installed. Some utility services will be diverted back into the new structure. *The road will be closed to traffic in both directions. Traffic will be diverted via the A2. The northbound diversion will be via Vicarage Road, Dartford Road, Old Bexley Lane, the A2 and Bourne Road. The southbound diversion will be via Bourne Road, the A2, Old Bexley Lane, Dartford Road and Vicarage Road. There will be daily monitoring of the traffic situation and every attempt will be made to prohibit other works happening on the diversion routes.*

28 March - July 2016

The second half of the new bridge will be installed. The remaining utilities will be diverted back. Surfacing, lighting and parapet work will be completed including brick cladding. *The road will re-open southbound to allow traffic to travel from Bexley Village towards North Cray. Northbound traffic will continue to be diverted via Vicarage Road, Dartford Road, Old Bexley Lane, the A2 and Bourne Road. There will be daily monitoring of the traffic situation and every attempt will be made to prohibit other works happening on the remaining diversion route.*

If you would like the information in this document in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics. The reference to quote is: 606390/11.15

