

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**25 April 2016 / PR 8312**

### **RUSTY SPOT SAVES BEXLEY VILLAGE FROM POTENTIAL FLOODING**

An unexpected discovery found in the nick of time will result in a slight delay to the Bexley Village Bridge Works. The discovery of a rusted Thames Water main means that the bridge will re-open to southbound traffic only, ten days later than planned, on 10 May.

The good news is that overall the bridge works are on course to finish one month ahead of schedule, with the road due to be reopened to traffic in both directions at the end of June.

The water main runs parallel to the old bridge structure and it was not part of the planned works. The state of disrepair only became apparent, when the remaining part of the old bridge was demolished, exposing the main and the fact that it was rusted throughout. Without repair the main could have ruptured at any time potentially flooding the entire village.

A Council spokesman said,

“Of course we are disappointed at this delay to the re-opening the bridge to southbound traffic and mindful of the impact on local businesses. However, the consequences of Thames Water not carrying out this maintenance would be severe for the Village.

“We apologise for any inconvenience that this work by Thames Water causes and can reassure businesses and residents that overall good progress is being made and that the bridge works are on track to finish one month ahead of schedule at the end of June.”

Traffic will continue be diverted via the A2. The northbound diversion is via Vicarage Road, Dartford Road, Old Bexley Lane, the A2 and Bourne Road. The southbound diversion is via Bourne Road, the A2, Old Bexley Lane, Dartford Road and Vicarage

Road. The road will re-open to southbound traffic only on 10 May. Northbound traffic will continue to be diverted until the work finishes at the end of June 2016.

Bexley Village is open for business as usual throughout the bridge closure and the Council remains in close contact with those businesses directly affected.

Bexley Village car park charges have been frozen while the bridge works are in progress, making it one of the cheapest places in the Borough to park.

During the bridge closure the 492, 601 and B12 bus routes will be diverted and the bus stops in use will change. Those who normally travel to Bexley Village on bus routes 492, 601 and B12 will need to change to route 132 or 229 at bus stops E and F on Gravel Hill during the road closure. There will be a temporary school crossing patrol available to help students cross between these bus stops on Gravel Hill at peak school journey times in the morning and evening.

To plan your journey use the Transport for London Journey Planner at <https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/>

For more information on the works including the bus route diversions go to [www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridgep2](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/bexleyhighstreetbridgep2) or e-mail [bridges@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:bridges@bexley.gov.uk)

Ends

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