

Draft Press Release:

Date:

Beeding Bridge closed for refurbishment from Monday, January 20

Repairs need to be made to Beeding Bridge in Upper Beeding to make it safer for the public.

Following a routine safety check, West Sussex County Council found the bridge needed strengthening so buses and heavy vehicles can continue to cross it safely.

If the work is not carried out, the County Council would be forced to put weight restrictions on the bridge or, if deterioration was to continue, shut it completely.

The bridge will be closed for five weeks from Monday, January 20, for the refurbishment to take place.

The footbridge adjacent to Beeding Bridge will remain open so pedestrians can still cross.

A signed diversion is being put in place for motorists along the A283 between Upper Beeding and Steyning.

Residents who want to find out any more information about the works are invited to a public drop-in session, which is being held on Wednesday, January 15 at the Old Tollgate Hotel (Gate Room), The Street, Bramber, Steyning, BN44 3WE.

It takes place between 6pm and 8pm.

Officers from West Sussex County Council and contractor Balfour Beatty will be on hand throughout the evening to answer questions.

County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Pieter Montyn, said: "This is a task which has to be done.

"We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause while the bridge is closed.

"However, we feel it is much more preferable to shut it for five weeks while works take place, rather than allowing it to deteriorate and cause greater disruption in the long term."

Frequently asked questions:

Why does Beeding Bridge have to be fixed?

West Sussex County Council has a duty of care to ensure that bridges are 'Fit for Purpose'.

This means that a bridge must be capable of carrying the vehicles intended to use the road.

West Sussex County Council has identified that Beeding Bridge needs to be strengthened to ensure it remains 'fit for purpose'.

What work has to be done?

The old fill material on top of the bridge that supports the road surface will be removed and replaced with concrete. A new road surface will then be placed on top of the newly laid concrete.

Who is responsible for the work?

West Sussex County Councils term contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for the works.

Will the bridge have to be closed throughout the works?

Yes. Unfortunately due to the method of strengthening being used the bridge will need to be closed throughout the works.

Will any roads have to be shut during the works?

Yes. The road will be closed to vehicular traffic at Beeding Bridge.

When will the works start?

Works are programmed to commence on the 20th January 2014.

When will the works be completed?

It is anticipated that the works will be completed on the 28th February 2014.

What time of day will the works take place?

The works will be undertaken during daylight hours.

Can work be carried out in the evenings or overnight?

Due to the nature of the works being carried out there is little benefit in carrying out the works during evenings or overnight.

How much will it cost?

The cost of the scheme is expected to be in the region of £100,000.

Who is paying for it?

West Sussex County Council is providing the funding for the scheme.

Will this work be noisy?

The works are not anticipated to be any noisier than typical works associated with the highway.

What disruption can motorists expect during the refurbishment works?

Vehicular access over Beeding Bridge will be prohibited and motorists will be required to follow the signed diversion route.

What advice can you give motorists at this time?

Motorists are to follow the signed diversion route that will utilise the A283 to connect Bramber and Upper Beeding.

Will a temporary route be needed for heavy goods vehicles?

The diversion route using the A283 is suitable for heavy goods vehicles.

Will this affect my bus journey?

Bus services provided by Brighton & Hove Buses and Compass Travel that normally serve Upper Beeding and Bramber will be suspended for the duration of the works. A free shuttle service will be in operation between Upper Beeding, Bramber and Steyning where the service will connect with the regular services provided by Brighton & Hove Buses and Compass Travel.

Will emergency services be affected by this work?

Emergency service access will still be maintained with Upper Beeding and Bramber. Emergency vehicles will only be prohibited from using Beeding Bridge.

Will the footbridge adjacent to Beeding Bridge still be open?

Yes. Pedestrian access across the footbridge will be maintained at all times.

How will this affect horse riders?

Unfortunately horse riders will not be permitted to cross the bridge whilst the works are being undertaken.

Will diversions be signposted?

Yes. A clearly signed vehicular diversion will be in operation for the duration of the works.