

This Report will be made public on 22 November 2022

Report Number **A/22/21**

To: Council
Meeting Date: 30 November 2022
Status: Non key
Responsible Officers: Andrew Blaszkowicz, Director - Housing and Operations and Simon Baxter, Chief Officer- Development
Cabinet Member: Councillor David Godfrey – Cabinet Member for Housing and Special Projects

SUBJECT: Princes Parade – Closure of Footpath South of Seaview Bridge

SUMMARY: This report is to record the decision made at Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8/11/22 to close the footpath south of Sea View Bridge, once works on Princes Parade commence in earnest. (NB: The path is not currently closed). A petition had been presented to the Council calling for the footpath to be kept open after working hours and at weekends. After hearing a factual presentation concerning the rationale leading to the closure decision the Committee felt that the closure must be implemented when works commenced.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/22/21.
2. To note the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and close the footpath south of Seaview Bridge once works are commenced on site at Princes Parade.
3. Residents are to be given timely notification when work commences on the site, leading to the closure of the footpath

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The closure of the pathway south of Sea View Bridge is a requirement of the BAM construction management plan on Princes Parade. This plan has been approved by the Health & Safety Executive.
- 1.2 The path facilitates a pedestrian access from Seabrook Road to Princes Parade and for some residents is the most direct and convenient pedestrian access.
- 1.3 A Temporary Closure Order has been granted by KCC from when the works commence until January 2024.
- 1.4 The path will be within the main construction site and vehicles will cross on a frequent basis. The operations and excavations on site will destroy the surface and delineation of the current path.
- 1.5 Local residents submitted a petition to keep the footpath open on the evenings when work on site was complete and at weekends. The wording was as follows:
'We the undersigned, request that the path between the first bridge (Seaview Bridge) and the Tram Shelter remains accessible after work is completed daily and at weekends.'
- 1.6 The alternative route for residents to use from Sea View Bridge is College Bridge which is a walking diversion of approximately 6 minutes.
- 1.7 The petition was referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their observations.
- 1.8 A detailed presentation was given to overview and scrutiny by Simon Baxter (Chief Officer- Development) on 8/11/22, to explain the rationale for the closure.
- 1.9 After consideration and questions to Mr Baxter, members decided that the closure must be implemented for works to commence. (Voting: For 3; Against 0; Abstentions 5).
- 1.10 During consideration it was noted that
 - The footpath was currently open and would remain open until works commenced.
 - Works once commenced, were expected to take around 17 months. The contractor would look to minimise the amount of time that access to the seafront would be restricted.
 - Once the work was completed, there would be steps and a ramp that would provide disabled access to the seafront.
 - During construction, construction vehicles would pass over the footpath area, and the ground would be reprofiled. The excavation would destroy the delineation of the path. The path would not exist, and therefore could not be reopened in the evening and at weekends
 - The footpath should remain open until last possible moment and residents should be given a reasonable amount of notice before the commencement of works.
 - Consideration should be given to providing a nearby alternative tarmacked path to the seafront while the footpath was unavailable.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny panel considered the petition and felt that the closure must be implemented when works commenced

3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 A summary of the perceived risks follows:

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
Health and safety of the public during works	High	medium	Closure of the bridge and alternative route used
Increased budget due to footpath being kept open	High	High	Implement the construction plan as per BAM's recommendations

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's Comments (Emma Carbis)

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report but if the works are to run past January 2024 then a further Temporary Closure Order will be needed.

4.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LW)

Without the closure of the footpath there is the likelihood the contract costs will have to increase due to site access issues for the contractor. The incidental cost to implement to the closure of the footpath can be met from within the existing approved budget.

4.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report. The reports notes than alternative access to and from the seafront over the College Bridge will remain open whilst works are underway, therefore access to and from the seafront is not being completely cut off to the public. The current route remains open and notice to commence works will be communicated in advance to the public. Its also noted that the contractor will investigate minimising the time the Sea View Bridge route is closed to reduce any disruption. In the longer term, the upgraded footpath will include new steps and a ramp that would provide improved disabled access to the seafront that is not currently present.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Simon Baxter Chief Officer of Development

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