



# News Update

December 2007

Issue No 3

## THE BRIDGE

### LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS

#### THE CASE FOR

- The design of the bridge, by Ian Ritchie Architects, is graceful and unobtrusive and in no way detracts from the landscape and the view of the church, as was originally feared.
- It has been designed to clear the potential flooding levels required by the Environment Agency.
- There will be CCT provision for safety and lighting in the handrails and deck to avoid light pollution.
- The gradient is user friendly and suitable for disability access.
- The County Council believes the new bridge will 'prove a magnet' for tourists as well as providing cycle access across the river.
- CC also suggests that it would reduce tourist congestion on the Bancroft by encouraging people to take a circular walk to the recreation ground.
- Waterside and Southern Lane would become more pedestrian friendly.
- A new bridge will relieve the pedestrian/cycle conflict on the Tramway bridge.
- Members of The Town Management Partnership feel that the bridge will help to connect the town more effectively and be an attraction in its own right, encouraging more visitors.
- Suggestions for improving Lucy's Mill bridge to meet disability access requirements would not be practicable on the northern side without compulsory purchase of the land which the residents own.

At the County Council consultation meeting held on November 20 for members of the Society, John Deegan, director of environment and economy said, **'This is a genuinely consultative exercise. No decisions have been made about anything.'** So it is not too late to make your views known. The Society is preparing a response to the latest proposals for the new footbridge. Seventy members attended the November meeting and voiced various concerns. Others may also wish to do so.

Please let us have your response to the following points:

- 1 Are you opposed to the proposed footbridge, regardless of any changes?
- 2 Do you believe the proposed footbridge is broadly acceptable, subject to further consideration of the treatment of Waterside and Southern Lane? (eg management of traffic and coaches).
- 3 Do you support the proposed footbridge and traffic arrangements as now proposed, with minor modifications?

It is important that we respond in plenty of time for your views to be taken into account at the next round of meetings in January. **Please reply by December 10.**

#### THE CASE AGAINST

- The need for the bridge has not yet been proved. Is the expenditure of £2.5million justified? The CC has not responded to requests for information on pedestrians crossing the river now or what projected figures formed the brief for the designers.
- Despite requests, no assessment of the effects of the bridge on tourism, the overall landscape of the Recreation Ground or on its ecology has been provided.
- The mixture of cyclists and pedestrians are perceived by older people as a possible danger.
- Cyclists' groups are unconvinced that the bridge will function as part of a properly constituted cycle network or help them significantly in the town.
- The Council accepts that restricting the flow on Waterside and Southern Lane will result in more vehicles in Bridge Street and High Street. They say pedestrian priority schemes will address this, but if parts of the town centre are pedestrianised the riverside changes could surely have a more serious effect
- The management of tour buses and coaches to the theatre has not yet been properly addressed.
- Limited traffic in Southern Lane could affect residents there and in Old Town, including the churches.
- The need to get traffic out of the town centre will not be solved by a pedestrian bridge.

Please reply by December 10 by email to [membership@stratfordsociety.co.uk](mailto:membership@stratfordsociety.co.uk) or return this newsletter, using the reverse for longer comments, to Beryl Downing, Hon Secretary, 5 College Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BN

I agree with Question (1) (2) (3) [tick as appropriate] and would like to add the following comments: .....

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