

EMAIL THREAD regarding Raising the Bridge Parapet on A55 bridge.

RESPONSES FROM HIGHWAYS ENGLAND AND CWAC

Dear Louise,

Thank you for including Highways England into your letter to Gavin Griffith regarding to the potential to raise the parapet height on the road over the A55 in Huntington.

First, to be clear, we retain responsibility for maintaining the bridge structure and the parapets, the actual road on the bridge is the responsibility of the Highway Authority, in this case Cheshire West and Chester.

When the bridge was constructed the parapets were built to meet the design standard at this time, you are absolutely correct however, that the design standard for parapets on a shared use footway is now 1.4m and as such the 1m parapets are substandard. It should be noted that there is no requirement of us to retrospectively visit all locations with substandard designs and bring them up to current standard unless we are improving the structure or road in question.

Whilst it is not for me to comment on the Cheshire West and Chester project and there is no condition attached to the planning application to require an increase in parapet height, I would like to bring to your attention that during our Roads Investment Period 1 (2015 – 2020) we have a series of ring fenced Designated Funds, one of which is to improve cycling facilities on or around our roads.

Improvements such as raising parapets and improving the nearby cycle routes are very much the type of intervention that could be included within a scheme funded by this Designated Fund. However, our programme is currently forecast up to 2020 with little room for flexibility to bring in new schemes at this time. That said I would, as the Asset Manager covering Cheshire West and Chester, be keen to meet with the school and/or the Parish Council to understand their concerns further and view the location for myself before deciding on the best course of action.

During my conversation with Gavin he did touch on the fact that there had been a suggestion of fundraising to allow an upgrade to take place and I feel it is only appropriate that I make you aware of costs involved in such a scheme. Replacing a parapet on a structure requires the removal of the parapet in order for works to be completed off site, safe systems of work to ensure nothing falls from the bridge onto the A55 and traffic management on both A55 and local road. This on previous schemes equates to around £150,000 per parapet.

I trust you will find my comments of use and I shall await contact to organise a visit to Huntington to discuss the matter further. Once again thank you for including Highways England in the correspondence and bringing it to my attention.

Kind Regards
Rob

Robert Heywood, Asset Manager

Highways England | Piccadilly Gate | Store Street | Manchester | M1 2WD

Tel: +44 (0) 300 470 5223 | **Mobile:** + 44 (0) 7785 925 993

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

From: GRIFFITH, Gavin [<mailto:Gavin.Griffith@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>]

Sent: 31 July 2018 16:24

To: 'Louise Gibson'; Highways England

Cc: WILLIAMS, Mark (Councillor); 'Heidi'; C Davies (cdavies@Huntington.cheshire.sch.uk)

Subject: RE: Raising Bridge Parapet on A55 bridge in Huntington

Dear Louise,

A response has been provided to the Huntington Community Primary School Chair of Governors by Janine Smart, the Capital Development Manager for Education and the councils position is as follows: -

'With regards to your query regarding the parapet and the bridge that crosses the A55, as you know the planning application for the new school scheme did not set any condition relating to works on this bridge. The bridge is currently used by residents of the 'new housing' development and therefore the relocation of the school would not create a new need to use the bridge, it would merely alter the users from the new housing to the existing housing estates.

If you have concerns regarding the safety of the bridge I suggest that you have two courses of action;

- 1) Consider the inclusion of the works within the scheme, however as this is not a requirement of planning (due to the bridge already being in use by pupils access existing site) there is no budget for this. There would therefore need to be a decision to remove works of the same value. I do not have a cost for the works but I would imagine these to be significant. The omission of significant works from the project would obviously place a detriment on the project and therefore the proposal would need approval from CWAC to ensure that the school functionality remains acceptable. Given the level of value engineering undertaken on the scheme to date, I think that this would be very difficult/impossible to do. It should also be noted that given the progression of the building works this decision would need to take place immediately so that consideration can be made to works yet to be delivered.
- 2) That the school approach the highways team to understand how works could be delivered (as they are not required as a result of the school project but for the purpose of the village). It may be that they refer you directly to Highways England or there may be some scope for consideration on the Highways S106 monies that have been secured – although these may already be earmarked for works. I have highlighted your query with the Highways team and they have concurred with my response.

Therefore, the school/community council need to consider which of the two options they wish to pursue in line with this communication.

Regards

Gavin

Gavin Griffith
Project Delivery Manager – Major Projects and Capital Delivery Team
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Tel: 01244 9(75989) Mob: 07827 877363
email: gavin.griffith@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Location: 4th Floor, HQ, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP



Visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Winners of the MJ 2015 Best Achieving Council National Achievement Award

From: Louise Gibson [<mailto:theclerk@huntington-chester.co.uk>]
Sent: 31 July 2018 16:11
To: GRIFFITH, Gavin; info@highwaysengland.co.uk
Cc: WILLIAMS, Mark (Councillor); 'Heidi'
Subject: Raising Bridge Parapet on A55 bridge in Huntington
Importance: High

Dear Mr Griffith (CWaC) and Highways England

Please find attached a letter from Huntington Parish Council, requesting that the bridge parapet is raised on the A55 bridge in Huntington. This is soon to be the main pedestrian route for hundreds of children and we fully support the Board of Governors at Huntington Primary who feel that the parapet has to be raised.

As you are fully aware, time is limited as the school is due to open in October so we would be very grateful if you could answer the questions posed within the letter at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Also copied to:

Cllr Mark Williams, CWaC Ward Member for Huntington
Head of Governors at Huntington Primary

Kind regards,

Louise Gibson

Clerk to Huntington Parish Council
01829 771001

Disclaimer:

If you are not the intended recipient of this email (and any attachment), please inform the sender by return email and destroy all copies. Unauthorised access, use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted.

The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council. The Council cannot guarantee that this message or any attachment is virus free or has not been intercepted and amended. You should perform your own virus checks.

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council may monitor emails and as a public sector organisation; the Council may disclose this email (or any response to it) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Contracts cannot be concluded with the Council nor service effected by email, unless otherwise expressly agreed. The contents of this e-mail may be subject to privilege.

This email may contain information which is confidential and is intended only for use of the recipient/s named above. If you are not an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying, distribution, disclosure, reliance upon or other use of the contents of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and destroy it.

Highways England Company Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000
|National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park,
Birmingham B32 1AF | [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england)
[england](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england) | info@highwaysengland.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales no 9346363 | Registered Office: Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.