



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Clement Wilson Bridge
Date:	10 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will recall that at its meeting in December 2012 it received an update report on the replacement of the Clement Wilson Bridge at New Forge Lane.</p> <p>As the bridge is being replaced on health and safety grounds Officers have been commissioning periodic survey reports. A recent survey was carried out in mid December 2012 and focused on the underside of the bridge and specifically to look for evidence of fatigue. The survey has established that owing to evidence of corrosion and wear there is no longer sufficient tension to be effective in resisting lateral load. The lateral load could be from pedestrian or vehicular traffic but can also result from wind and extreme water flow.</p> <p>The report concluded that the structural integrity of the bridge has been compromised and recommended that it be closed to all traffic pending construction of the replacement bridge.</p> <p>Whilst there is an option to repair the damage in advance of the replacement going ahead, Members are asked to note that the cost has been estimated to be in the region of £10-15,000. The work would take approximately 1 – 2 weeks to complete, depending on weather conditions, however it is unlikely that the appointment of a contractor could be made before February with works potentially carried out February or March at the earliest. The Committee is reminded that it is hoped to have a contractor appointed by March / April to construct and install the replacement bridge. However, the situation will be reviewed in the New Year following discussion with the Planning Service and the landowner.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bridge has been closed and temporary fencing erected; 2. Temporary signage has been put up and more permanent signs have been ordered and will be erected; 3. A press release has been issued and the councils web site has been updated. Other forms of social media have been used to inform the public, in addition, we have been in contact with Sustrans and the Lagan Valley Regional Partnership Board to inform them and they have updated their own web sites to report the closure; 4. It is recognised that this is inconvenient for users, however, public safety is our primary concern at this time; 5. Whilst remedial works could be taken the estimated cost and the anticipated time scale for the work would lead to the conclusion that it would be better for the bridge to remain closed until the replacement bridge can be installed in early Summer 2013; 6. Members will be aware that the proposals for the replacement of the bridge have been lodged with the planning service and that it had been intended to install the new bridge during June / July 2013; 7. A review of the situation will now be undertaken with the aim of seeking to expedite the construction of the new bridge and its installation; a further update on this will be brought to the Committee in February 2013.

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The closure of the bridge will inconvenience some users of the park as it will restrict access. However, there are other access points to the park.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality implications

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be brought to Committee in February 2013.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None