

Title: Princes Drive Rail Bridge Refurbishment and Public Art Project
Lead Officer: Chris Elliott, Paul Garrison
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Liam Bartlett
Wards of the District directly affected: Leamington Milverton

Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for funding of up to £121,000 as a contribution to Network Rail towards the additional costs associated with refurbishing the highway span (DCL 140A) and pedestrian span (DCL 140) of the Network Rail owned rail bridge on Princes Drive, Royal Leamington Spa with unique, locally designed art patterns.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) The Cabinet agrees to allocate up to £121,000 from the Service Transformation Fund to cover the additional costs arising from extending the scope of works to include unique, locally designed art patterns across the Network Rail owned rail bridge on Princes Drive, Royal Leamington Spa subject to necessary agreements and approvals.
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1 Background/Information

- 1.1 Between late-July and August 2022, Royal Leamington Spa plays hosts to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Lawn Bowl and Para Bowl events at Victoria Park. Additionally, to the start and finish of the Commonwealth Games cycling road races will be hosted in Warwick - the route of which will navigate the roads of both towns.
- 1.2 Many of the visitors travelling by road to the Lawn Bowls events will arrive from the M40 and enter Leamington along Princes Drive, Royal Leamington Spa. The Commonwealth Games cycling road race route, which will have a large television audience, also takes in Princes Drive.
- 1.3 The rail bridge spanning Princes Drive on the Leamington to Birmingham line just west of Leamington Station is a visual detractor from the wider charms of the area. Earlier in 2021 Network Rail agreed to work in partnership with Warwick District Council to develop a proposal to improve the aesthetic appearance of the rail bridge in advance of the Commonwealth Games to coincide with repairs to the rail bridge.
- 1.4 This included approval for WDC officers to explore the development and application of unique artwork covering both the highway and pedestrian span of the bridge to provide an additional uplift to the area.
- 1.5 WDC officers have subsequently been working with local artist, Jennie Moncur, to develop art patterns for the bridge that provide a notable enhancement for

the area in advance of the Commonwealth Games and lasting improvement to the amenity of this area in terms of public artwork that will benefit visitors to Royal Leamington Spa and our residents.

- 1.6 Jennie Moncur is an established, successful, and well-respected artist, who studied at Goldsmiths and Royal College of Art and is also the creative director for Vitsoe, the international furniture company which has its HQ and production company located on Leamington's Old Warwick Road adjacent to Princes Drive. Jennie has given a significant amount of time and consideration to developing a design options at no cost to Warwick District Council.
- 1.7 In collaboration with the artist, preferred art patterns have been identified and proposed to Network Rail. Details can be viewed in the supporting documents section at the end of the report.
- 1.8 Network Rail have confirmed that they will undertake some improvements to the Princes Drive rail bridge at no cost additional cost to Warwick District Council, although this will be limited in scope.
- 1.9 The scope of works Network Rail will undertake without additional funding is as follows:
 - Repair and refurbish the highway span (DCL 140A) of the Princes Drive rail bridge to include only repairs, cleaning and painting in a single colour.
 - Repair of the footpath span of the bridge (DCL 140) with no painting.
- 1.10 The cost of this work, including preliminary costs has been estimated at c. £740k.
- 1.11 Extending the scope of works to include the application of the art patterns on the highway span of the bridge and painting of the pedestrian span is forecast to add an additional 3 weeks onto the delivery programme.
- 1.12 The cost of extending the works programme by 3 weeks has been estimated at c. £121k. A detailed breakdown of these costs is provided in section 4.2.
- 1.13 Network Rail have advised that a contribution from Warwick District Council covering these costs is required to deliver these additional works.
- 1.14 Network Rail have advised that within this scope of works Warwick District Council would not be liable for any additional management or maintenance costs for the bridge.
- 1.15 Last week the LCG considered an officer briefing note about the opportunity to achieve painting of the railway bridge at Princes Drive with bespoke artwork in advance of the Commonwealth Games. The conclusion was that if the funding could be found then we should agree to contribute. Network Rail have informed officers that a decision on funding is required by the 5th of November to ensure there are no impacts on the currently planned works programme or schedule road closures.

2 Alternative Options available to Cabinet

- 2.1 Cabinet could choose not to provide funding to cover the cost of the additional works specified by Network Rail.
- 2.2 If no additional funding is allocated to the project the scope of works will be limited to repairing, cleaning and painting (in a single colour) the highway span of the bridge and repairing the footpath span with no painting.

3 Consultation and Member's comments

- 3.1 No formal consultation with stakeholders or Members has been undertaken.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no legal or human rights implications of the proposal.

4.2 Financial

- 4.2.1 The cost implication for delivering additional improvement works to the Princes Drive rail bridge has been forecast by Network Rail based on expectations they would extend the works programme by up to 3 weeks.
- 4.2.2 Network Rail require a contribution from Warwick District Council covering the full amount of additional costs in order to progress with the additional works as detailed in paragraph 1.10.
- 4.2.3 It is proposed that the additional costs could be funded from the Service Transformation Reserve which is currently estimated to have an unallocated balance of c. £700k. This figure will be confirmed as part of the Budget process. Members will need to note that there will be many demands upon this reserve which will need to be considered as part of agreeing the 2022/23 Budget in February 2022.
- 4.2.4 Total costs are estimated at c. £121,000 as detailed in the below cost breakdown:

| Item | Cost |
|---|-------------|
| Contractor staff costs | £23,761.95 |
| Compound costs | £16,521.00 |
| Traffic management for road closure | £630.00 |
| Additional ST3 prep and XM92/M24 finish to pedestrian bridge section | £38,500.00 |
| Art Pattern as per document top coat to all bridge structure as design sent | £9,835.00 |
| Contractor fee | £8,433.93 |
| NR Sponsor costs | £2,000 |
| NR Project Management Costs | £4,342 |
| Land Access | £1,500 |

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Contingency | £13,000 |
| NR Risk fund | £2,370.48 |
| Total | £120,894.36 |

4.3 Council Plan

4.3.1 External impacts

- 4.3.1.1 People - Health, Homes, Communities – Warwick District Council has committed to investing significant monies to improve Victoria Park, Leamington Spa Station and the wider public realm in Royal Leamington Spa with the ambition with leaving a lasting legacy of benefits for the local community as a consequence of hosting the Commonwealth Games. The proposal to enhance the Princes Drive bridge with public artwork aligns with this vision.
- 4.3.1.2 Services - Green, Clean, Safe, Money – The refurbishment of the rail bridge will provide a significant enhancement to the public realm and provide an uplift to the amenity of the local area in advance of the Commonwealth Games that will benefit visitors to the town and residents in the short-term and longer-term.
- 4.3.1.3 Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment – The proposed design and enhancement for the bridge delivers against Warwick District Council's Creative Framework 'placemaking' strategic theme, as it activates and updates the narrative of the town as a creative hub. It also complements other strategic development projects being progressed in Royal Leamington Spa including the Creative Quarter developments in Leamington's Old Town and the ambition to improve the town centre experience in Leamington Spa with Future High Street funding to support the town in realising its full economic and tourism potential.

4.3.2 Internal impacts

- 4.3.2.1 People - Effective Staff – no direct impacts at this stage
- 4.3.2.2 Services – no direct impacts at this stage
- 4.3.2.3 Money – no direct impacts at this stage

4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

- 4.4.1 Include a summary of the environmental implications of the proposal in relation to the relevant Council or if it is to go to both Council's both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District adopted policies.

4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

- 4.5.1 No equality impact assessment has been undertaken. It is not thought that the proposed project has any equality impact implications.

4.6 Data Protection

- 4.6.1 There are no data protection implications of the proposal.

4.7 Health and Wellbeing

- 4.7.1 Include a summary of the health and wellbeing implications of the proposal.

5 Risk Assessment

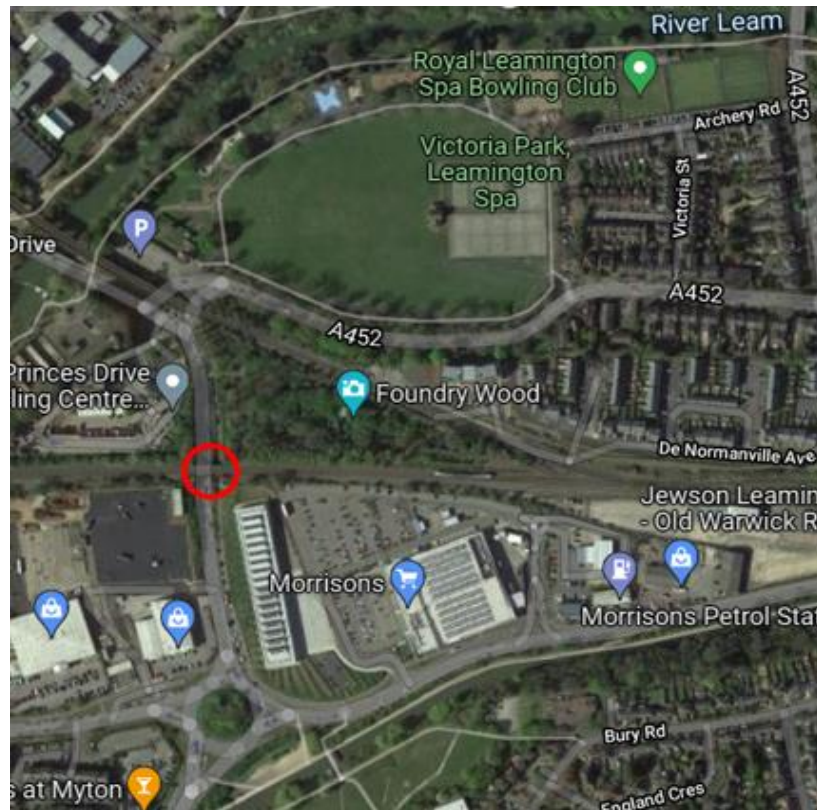
- 5.1 Network Rail have advised that they require confirmation of funding from Warwick District Council no later than Friday 5th November to progress with the additional improvement works ahead of the Commonwealth Games without impacting on the works programme and planned road closures. Failure to confirm by the 5th November could have implications for delivering the improvement ahead of the Commonwealth Games.
- 5.2 Network Rail have advised that they will be preparing and applying paint work to standard expected to last 15 years. They have advised however that they cannot commit to a reactive maintenance and repair agreement with regards to the bridge artwork in the event of graffiti and vandalism. Network Rail have confirmed verbally however that they would endeavour to maintain the artwork up to and during the Commonwealth Games.
- 5.3 Network Rail have submitted applications to relevant authorities to undertake the bridge refurbishment under permitted development clauses as a statutory undertaker. There are no foreseen issues with regards to obtaining all relevant approvals.
- 5.4 Network Rail will require Warwick District Council to sign a simple funding agreement to formally agree the financial contribution to be made to the project. This agreement remains subject to review and approval however verbally Network Rail have confirmed that the agreement will commit Warwick District Council to contributing only to costs arising from the additional works related to the bespoke artwork.
- 5.5 The Network Rail improvements include only the painting and repair of the bridges. Additional discussions with relevant bodies are being undertaken with regards to improving the public realm in vicinity of the bridge to include any additional graffiti removal works that may be needed as well as works relating to the management and maintenance of trees and vegetation in this area.

6 Conclusion/Reasons for the Recommendation

- 6.1 Network Rail will undertake repair and refurbishment of the Princes Drive rail bridge in Royal Leamington Spa in advance of the Commonwealth Games however the scope of works is limited to operational and functional improvements.
- 6.2 It is recommended that funding is provided to Network Rail to cover the additional costs associated with refurbishing the rail bridge with unique, locally design art patterns covering the full span of the bridge.
- 6.3 The additional improvements to the rail bridge will provide a significant enhancement to the public realm and provide an uplift to the amenity of the local area in advance of the Commonwealth Games that will benefit visitors to the town and residents in the short-term and longer-term.
- 6.4 The proposed improvements align with investments being made in Royal Leamington Spa in preparation for the Commonwealth Games, the District Council's Creative Framework and strategic development projects being developed in Royal Leamington Spa.

Supporting documents

- 1) Site location plan



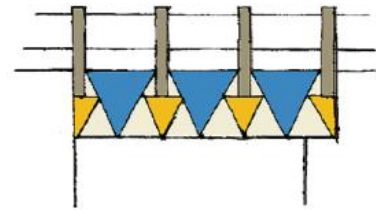
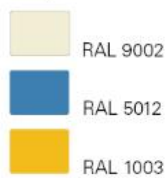
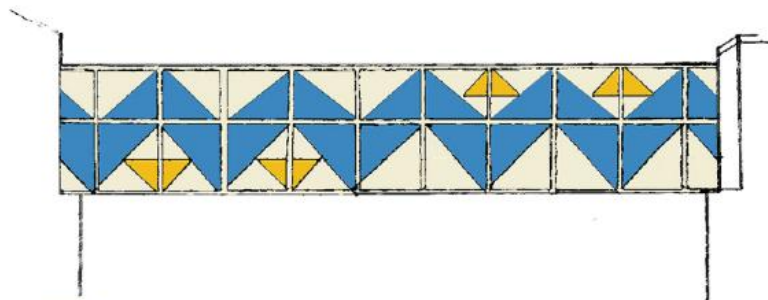
2) Visual of Princes Drive Bridge condition



3) Princes Drive Bridge Preferred Art Design concepts

Princes Drive Railway Bridge - Option B3

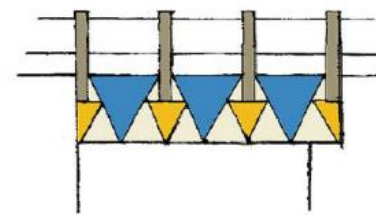
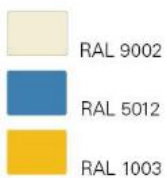
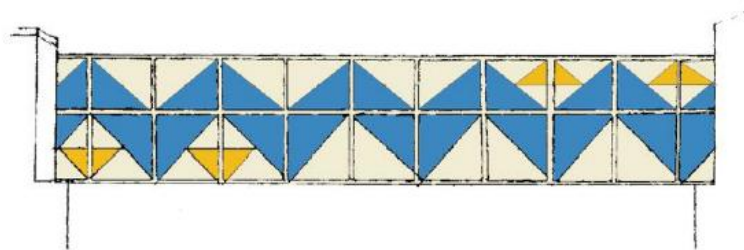
South face - design layout and colour



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1 Arlington Avenue Leamington Spa CV32 5UA
email@jenniemoncur.com +44(0)7773280890

Princes Drive Railway Bridge - Option B3

North face - design layout and colour



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Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B3



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Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B3 - South Face



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Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B3 - North Face



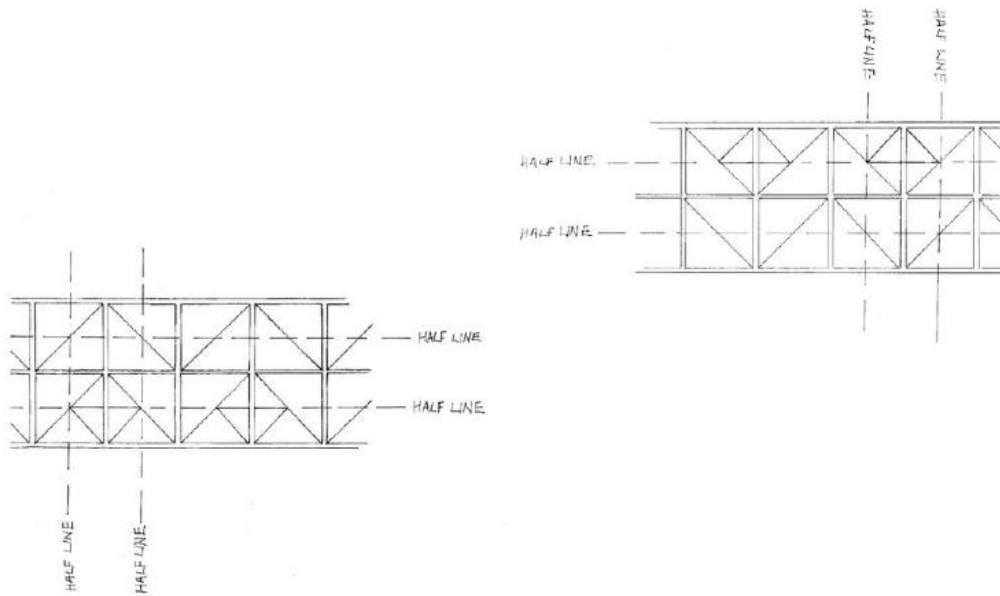
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Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B



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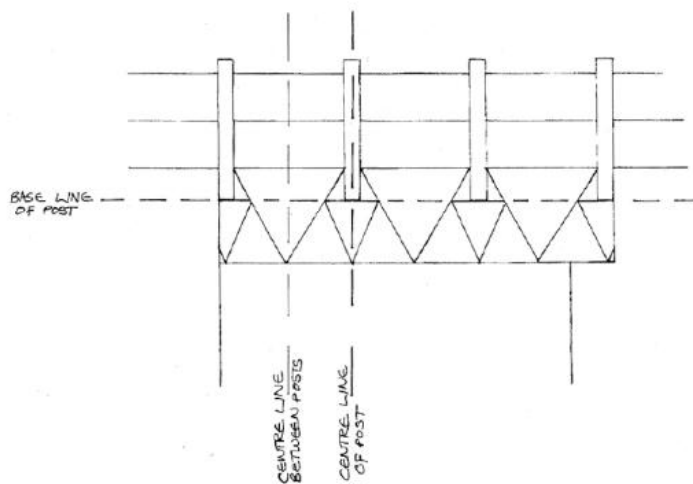
Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B3 - Road Bridge



Do not scale

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Princes Drive Railway Bridge Option B - Footpath Bridge



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Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Committee/Date | Cabinet 4 th November | |
| Title of report | Princes Drive Bridge Refurbishment and Public Art Project | |
| Consultations undertaken | | |
| Consultee *required | Date | Details of consultation /comments received |
| Ward Member(s) | | |
| Portfolio Holder WDC & SDC * | 02/11/21 | |
| Financial Services * | 02/11/21 | |
| Legal Services * | 02/11/21 | |
| Other Services | | |
| Chief Executive(s) | 02/11/21 | |
| Head of Service(s) | 02/11/21 | |
| Section 151 Officer | | |
| Monitoring Officer | 02/11/21 | |
| CMT (WDC) | 02/11/21 | |
| Leadership Co-ordination Group (WDC) | | |
| Other organisations | | |
| Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Ctte/Council? | | Recommendation to :Cabinet / CouncilCommittee |
| Contrary to Policy/Budget framework | | No |
| Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)? | | No |
| Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)? | | No |
| Accessibility Checked? | | File/Info/Inspect Document/Check Accessibility |