

Julia.jessel@staffordshire.gov.uk

My Ref: DW318/AL

Date: 1 July 2022

Dear Julia

RE: Chetwynd Bridge

Thank you for your recent email regarding Chetwynd Bridge. There were reports in the media recently claiming that Chetwynd Bridge was to close. This is not correct, and things are still as they were a few weeks ago and there are no plans to completely close the bridge.

Chetwynd Bridge has needed repair for some time, and we have started a programme of works to ensure it is safe to use and in keeping with its historic status, but this is not linked in any way to the new bridge planned over the Trent at Barton/Walton.

An independent structural assessment check, along with monitoring over several years by the County Council's structural engineers, has indicated the need for a weight restriction. This should however exempt emergency vehicles and essential services.

A restriction of 18t needs introduction as soon as possible to reduce the stresses on the bridge from heavy vehicles, and for the safety of the men working underneath. This is planned for early August 2022.

In the longer term, Staffordshire County Council is designing and plans to build a new bypass road bridge to remove traffic off Chetwynd Bridge, transforming it into a cycle and pedestrian route and preserving it for future generations.

Communications regarding the restriction will go out at the appropriate time to stakeholders.

I do hope this information is of some benefit.

Yours sincerely

**David Williams**
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport