

SEBERGHAM BRIDGE CLOSURE

Dear Mrs Kelly

I am writing to inform you of upcoming works required to Sebergham bridge. Following the damage to the bridges in Cumbria in Storm Desmond (2015) we have identified a number of bridges that would benefit from additional resilience works to enhance their ability to withstand future flood events. Sebergham bridge is a key piece of infrastructure on the highway network and considering the scour damage that the river Caldew did to Bell bridge just downstream, I am sure you can appreciate why the works are required.

There are two aspects of the works to protect the bridge. The first part is to provide scour protection to prevent the river invert being washed out to a level below the abutment foundations. The contractor is currently on site undertaking this work. The second part is the installation of a concrete saddle over the masonry arch to distribute the bridge loadings out to the abutments and ensure the bridge acts as a single mass.

It is this second phase of works that will have a greater temporary impact upon the local community. The works will require a full road closure at the bridge for a five week duration to allow the contractor to excavate down to the arch, pour concrete, allow the concrete to cure and resurface the bridge. The contractor will be working a six day week to speed up the delivery of the work with

site times 0800 to 1700 daily. We are currently liaising with United Utilities to divert the water main over the bridge before we can confirm a start date for the closure. My colleagues will be in touch to inform you of the dates; we are aiming for the works to be completed before the end of the year.

The closure will be advertised 2 weeks in advance of the works and the diversion route will be the same as was in place for the surfacing works that took place last year. Unfortunately due to restrictions on when each of these projects could be completed and design development, we were unable to align these two projects into the same closure. The signed diversion route will be via Carlisle with Variable Message Signs located again at the M6 junction.

The bridge will be closed to all other traffic (pedestrians & cyclists) during this time, for which we will signpost the Cumbria Way diversion directing walkers between Bell Bridge and Sebergham Bridge along Bell Lonning.

We apologise to the Parish for the inconvenience caused during this time. I have just handed the project over to Emma Simons, so please contact her if you or the Parish have any queries.

Best regards
Matt Pearson

Matt Pearson
Project Lead – Infrastructure Recovery Program