

TEMPLE FOOTBRIDGE OVER THAMES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the situation with the Thames Path temporary diversion due to the closure of Temple Footbridge across the Thames and whether the LAF would like to make representations to the Environment Agency and government on two fronts; to push for funding to be made available for repairs and that an alternative diversion route for the Thames Path be opened.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Extract from LAF Minutes dated 20th June 2023:

“Alan Keene asked whether the LAF had any further information on the closure of the footbridge over the Thames at Temple. Bisham Parish Council had a report last night that the Environment Agency advised that the crossing may never be reopened and may be demolished which was causing concern to local residents. Jacqui Wheeler advised that her colleague was having conversations with the Thames Path Partnership which the Environment Agency were part of. She noted that it was the Environment Agency’s structure and unfortunately it was one of those wooden span bridges that was coming to end of life. Jacqui Wheeler confirmed she would request an update as it was part of the Thames Path, and they did not want it to be closed.”

2.2 Appendix 1 – GOV.UK News Story “Temple Footbridge to remain closed”.

2.3 The closure of this bridge was discussed at the recent Thames Path Partnership meeting. The following was noted:

2.4 The EA reported they now have a project manager in post specifically to look at this issue and there’s a monitoring system in place to review how badly the bridge has deteriorated. Results are expected next month. They are investigating the possibility of rerouting the Thames Path on to the other side of the Thames for a section if the closure is going to be in place for a long time as the current diversion is not deemed suitable by users (too much dangerous road between Temple and Marlow).

2.5 The volunteer co-ordinator for the Thames Path was looking for local authority contacts who would be willing to join a lobby group to put pressure on the EA and Government concerning the need for the bridge repairs and an alternative, safer diversion route.

2.6 RBWM PRoW team will ask Cllr Reynolds if he would like to be involved in a possible lobby group and let him know the issue is on the LAF agenda.