

NEW RIVER BRIDGE (Essex Road, Hoddesdon)



Welcome

Welcome to the New River Bridge pre-planning public exhibition. Hertfordshire County Council is progressing plans to build a new access road to replace the existing Essex Road (between A1170 Dinant Link Road roundabout and Geddings Road). The proposed scheme will improve access and safety for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians coming in and out of Hoddesdon Business Park.

Today is your opportunity to:

- Get more information about the scheme and what has been done so far
- View the proposals for the improvement scheme
- Speak to a member of the team
- Provide any comments you have.

Scheme Background:

Essex Road is the main route that provides access to the strategic road network from the Hoddesdon Business Park which is a mix of office, industrial and warehouse units. The Business Park is a very important income generator in Hertfordshire and plays a significant economic role in the wider region. It accounts for 5,000 to 6,000 jobs or around 15% of jobs in the Borough of Broxbourne.

The problems on this section of Essex Road are:

- The existing bridge that carries Essex Road over the New River is 60 years old and does not meet modern standards.
- The road over the bridge is narrow, such that it is difficult for two HGVs to pass.
- The footway on the bridge is very narrow and there is no provision for cyclists.
- This section of Essex Road is the only access into the Business Park suitable for HGVs. A vehicle breakdown on the bridge would cut the area off for hours; an accident which damages the bridge could close the road for days or weeks.



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Design Option Selection

Hertfordshire County Council commissioned a study into the possible improvements for Essex Road. Three options were considered:

Option 1 - Minor improvements to signing and lining on approaches to existing bridge.

Option 2 - Replace or upgrade the existing bridge in its current location.

Option 3 - New bridge and road over adjacent land with potential to retain existing bridge for emergency use.

The study concluded that Option 1 would not provide many benefits; Option 2 would cause a great deal of disruption while it was being built; Option 3 would cause much less disruption during construction and the old road and bridge could be retained for use in emergencies.

Option 3 is now our preferred option because it provides the following benefits:

- Improved access to the Hoddesdon Business Park.
- Increased resilience of the transport access to the Business Park to cope with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns and maintenance.
- Improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists. Encourage alternatives to car travel.
- Increased capacity at the A1170 roundabout should make it easier to get from Essex Road on to Dinant Link Road and other routes.
- New bridge and road will be wide enough to allow HGV's to pass each other safely.
- Majority of the construction work is offline and will be less disruptive to users of Essex Road.

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Wider transport and movement issues

In addition to the proposed New River Bridge, Hertfordshire County Council and Broxbourne Borough Council will undertake a study to consider wider traffic and transport issues in and around the Hoddesdon Business Park.

We would be interested to know any key issues in the business park and surrounding area that you feel could be addressed.

Please provide your views by completing the public consultation response form.

Additionally please mark any comments on the plan provided on the table.

We will then use your feedback to identify the key traffic and accessibility problems and seek to identify solutions.

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Ongoing and Future Work

In developing the design, the project team will undertake the following assessments:

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation - The proposed scheme is located on a plot of land comprising rough grassland and dense scrub. Ecological surveys has been undertaken to find out what lives there and what steps we will need to take to protect them.

Noise and Vibration - It is unlikely that construction noise would be significant because local residents are some distance away. We will assess the impact of the scheme on local residents and local wildlife.

Water Resources - The new road would cross over the New River and Woollens Brook. This would have an effect on the flood plain around Woollens Brook so we will be doing a Flood Risk Assessment.



Land Purchase - The land required for the scheme is owned by Broxbourne Borough Council and Thames Water. The County Council has started negotiations with the land owners to purchase what we need.

Unused Allotment Land - We won't need any land that is being used by allotment holders. We do need a small area of land that is designated as allotment but currently not used. There is a legal process that must be followed to change the status of this land and we are working with Broxbourne Borough Council on this. No allotment holders will be displaced.

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What Happens Next?

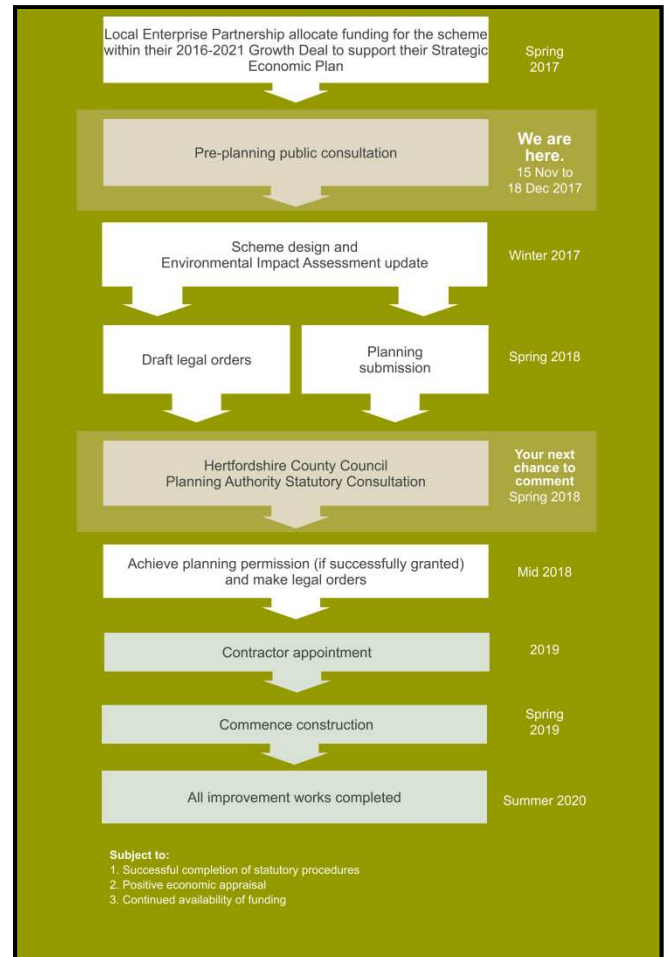
We will review all of the comments we receive from this consultation to help us develop the design.

We are aiming to submit a planning application to the Planning Authority in Spring 2018.

The Planning Authority will undertake a public consultation on the planning application. You will have another opportunity to comment at that stage.

Responses to the planning consultation will be recorded and reported to the Planning Authority's Development Control Committee (this is a public meeting).

Project milestones and opportunities to get involved



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Getting Involved

Following this exhibition there will be a four week period for you to 'have your say'. Please do so by completing the response form in the leaflet available today and drop it into the box provided. Alternatively you can post it to us at the address on the leaflet. You can also respond online using the response form on our website at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/essexroad



This consultation will run from Wednesday 15 November to Monday 18 December 2017. Please make sure that your response form reaches us by 18 December 2017 so that we have adequate time to consider your comments.

If you would like to contact the project team you can do so in the following ways:

Email: essexroad@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Post: Highways Major Projects Group
First Floor NW Block
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8BR

Phone: 0300 123 4047

Thank you for attending today's event. We look forward to hearing from you.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/essexroad