

Personal information and the names of officers below Head of Service Level have been removed- this is highlighted within the text as xxx. Individual email chains are separated by a solid line. Email disclaimers have been removed to reduce the size of the document.

From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 03 September 2013 10:56
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge Grace Period

Dear James,

Yes very disappoint it has entered the public domain, i do confirm that the 7 day period is what we discussed, so processing commences tomorrow, given the grace period ran Tuesday to Tuesday. This has allowed us to provide additional signage on top of the compliant scheme to help road users comply with the restriction.

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 | e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Directorate of City and Environmental Services
West Offices | Station Rise, York YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork | @CityofYork

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 03 September 2013 10:39
To: Richardson, Darren
Subject: Lendal Bridge Grace Period

Dear Darren,

I know we wanted to originally send letters to people breaking the restrictions across Lendal Bridge as a warning rather than initially fining them and I am aware from the experience of Coppergate that the DVLA will not allow us to do this. Therefore being consistent with how the Coppergate enforcement was put in place we have discussed a number of times a grace period with differing views on length of time. Dave and I have been discussing this for some time.

It is disappointing these discussions seem to have entered the public domain as this can undermine the integrity of the trial.

Considering we have gone beyond DFT regulations on signage, improved the signage, had significant media coverage over the issue and written to every household in York I don't think we can do much more in trying to ensure people do not break the restriction without a fine. I would like to confirm our previous discussions that the grace period is for one week and therefore charging begins tomorrow as I am sure we will be asked.

All the best,

James

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 03 September 2013 11:06
To: Richardson, Darren
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge Grace Period

Cheers, thanks for the confirmation

From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 03 September 2013 10:56
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge Grace Period

Dear James,

Yes very disappoint it has entered the public domain, i do confirm that the 7 day period is what we discussed, so processing commences tomorrow, given the grace period ran Tuesday to Tuesday. This has allowed us to provide additional signage on top of the compliant scheme to help road users comply with the restriction.

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more in trying to ensure people do not break the restriction without a fine. I would like to confirm our previous discussions that the grace period is for one week and therefore charging begins tomorrow as I am sure we will be asked.

All the best,

James

From: Dave Merrett [dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 09 September 2013 13:25
To: Richardson, Darren; xxx
Cc: Cllr. J. Alexander; xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge/Police

OK as tweaked below.

Dave

> From: Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk
> To: xxxx@york.gov.uk
> CC: cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk; xxxx@york.gov.uk; ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk;
xxxx@york.gov.uk; dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk
> Subject: Re: Lendal Bridge/Police
> Date: Mon, 9 Sep 2013 12:18:56 +0000
>
> I am happy with that
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On 9 Sep 2013, at 13:10, "xxxx"
<xxxx@york.gov.ukmailto:xxxx@york.gov.uk>> wrote:
>
> Hi both
>
> The Press and Police press office has asked us for info on the below. Can we please confirm that
(as a suggested line to take) – not sure how strong you want to be?
>
> Was the cost £2,000?
>
> Thanks, xxxx
>
> Darren Richardson, director of City and Environmental Services, at City of York Council, said: “City
of York Council asked for North Yorkshire Police to provide support during the first week and a half
of the Lendal Bridge trial.
>
> “We have said from the outset that the purpose of the Lendal Bridge trial is not to generate
revenue, but to reduce traffic going over the bridge and through the city centre, as part of a long-
term vision to create a more attractive and thriving city centre for us all.
>

> “In view of this, Police Officers were brought in to provide additional support during the first week and a half of the trial, as they have the powers to stop vehicles whilst stationary, and advise drivers of the traffic restrictions. Police Officers were not taken away from working on any core duties to provide this support, which will be funded via income generated from PCNs. Future income must legally be invested back into the city’s highway infrastructure and transport measures.”

>

>

> xxxx | Media Officer

> t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

>

> City of York Council | Communications

> West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

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@CityofYork<<http://twitter.com/cityofyork>>

>

> From: Dan Bean [mailto:dan.bean@nqyne.co.uk]

> Sent: 09 September 2013 12:40

> To: Marshall, Leona; xxxx; xxxx

> Subject: Contract query

>

> Afternoon ladies, hope you’re all well?

>

> I’m hoping you can help me as I understand CYC are paying North Yorkshire Police officers overtime rates to monitor the traffic at Lendal Bridge during the closure.

>

> Could you confirm for me the following please?

>

>

> - What is the extent of the contract? Is it set between certain dates, or will it be in effect for the whole closure?

>

> - Is it possible to get the number of officers and hours confirmed please?

>

> - How much is this costing the council?

>

> - Is the cost coming from previously budgeted funds, and can you specify where it’s coming from?

>

> - How far in advance was this planned, or was the agreement/contract drawn up after the first day of the ban?

>

> If you could also provide a comment too, that would be very helpful.

>

> Thanks, hope to hear from you soon.

>

> Dan.

>

> -----

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From: Cllr. J. Alexander

Sent: 09 September 2013 15:37

To: Dave Merrett

Cc: Richardson, Darren; xxx; xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx

Subject: Re: Lendal Bridge/Police

Yep

Sent from my iPad

On 9 Sep 2013, at 13:24, "Dave Merrett" <dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk> wrote:
OK as tweaked below.

Dave

> From: Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk

> To: xxxx@york.gov.uk

> CC: cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk; xxxx@york.gov.uk; ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk; xxxx@york.gov.uk; dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk

> Subject: Re: Lendal Bridge/Police

> Date: Mon, 9 Sep 2013 12:18:56 +0000

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[@CityofYork](http://twitter.com/cityofyork)<<http://twitter.com/cityofyork>>

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>

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From: Cllr. D. Merrett
Sent: 24 September 2013 21:24
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: Re: Lendal

James,

Sorry not sure I understand your question. Software, hardware?

Dave

Sent from Samsung mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>
Date:
To: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Lendal

What computer systems are our lights on? Can we have a chat about it at our next one to one?

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
Date: 24/09/2013 21:07 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Lendal

Fyi

Dave

Sent from Samsung mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Stephenson, Ruth" <ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk>
Date:
To: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>

Cc: "Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)" <Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk>,"Wood, Richard" <richard.wood@york.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Lendal

Dave

Re: the issues you raised with Richard

1. We have speed data from the first two weeks of the trial and it shows that mean speeds are generally at or just below 20mph, although it still requires further analysis and the data is skewed by signals at either end of the bridge and pedestrians crossing. It is not possible to determine which vehicles are travelling at higher speeds and with levels of unauthorised vehicles still on the high side we will need to go back and monitor again once compliance improves.
2. We are continuing to talk to the Sat Nav companies and Tom Tom are making further enquiries with their mapping team to look at what might be possible. Garmin, powered by NavTeq have also indicated that they will add the restriction at a future update but I am currently unclear of timescales for that happening. Transport Direct, the i-Travel journey planner and now Google maps all avoid the bridge. Google maps is especially useful as it appears to be used by mobile phone Sat Nav apps. I-Travel routing is time sensitive and carries a warning, Transport Direct and Google maps appear to avoid Lendal Bridge at all times.
3. We have been monitoring Water End and have already altered the traffic signals at this junction (as well as at Leeman Road/Salisbury Road). We have a new camera at the Boroughbridge Road end of Clifton Bridge and can see virtually the whole route. We have not noticed any significant queuing or problems and if you are aware of problems at specific times it would be useful information for us to have. We have also had equipment located on Westminster Road to monitor rat-running.

Regards

Ruth

Ruth Stephenson | Sustainable Transport Service
t: 01904 551372 | e: ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Sustainable Transport Service
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
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-----Original Message-----

From: Wood, Richard
Sent: 17 September 2013 13:46
To: Stephenson, Ruth
Cc: Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)
Subject: Lendal

Hi Ruth

Just looking at my 1:1 notes with Dave Merrett. Three things

1. Taxis going too fast which you were already on with
2. Whilst sat Navs are problematic, what about mapping/route tools such as google maps and bling for when you "get directions", could you get them to do anything?
3. Whilst focus is on Foss Islands, Dave is concerned that Water End can become a problem at times and do we need to anything re signal timings?

Good progress on 9-16 seaters, thanks, and pick up on PCNS tomorrow

Thanks
Richard

Sent from my iPad

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 24 September 2013 21:35
To: Cllr. D. Merrett
Subject: Re: Lendal

Both really. I understand we have a few systems and I am wondering whether they mesh properly and if the sequencing is right. Is there more we can do to help traffic flow? I don't understand it enough.

James

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cldr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
Date: 24/09/2013 21:24 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cldr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Lendal

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Sorry not sure I understand your question. Software, hardware?

Dave

Sent from Samsung mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cldr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>
Date:
To: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cldr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Lendal

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From: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cldr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
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To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cldr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Lendal

Fyi

Dave

Sent from Samsung mobile

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From: "Stephenson, Ruth" <ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk>

Date:

To: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>

Cc: "Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)" <Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk>,"Wood, Richard" <richard.wood@york.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Lendal

Dave

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Regards

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To: Stephenson, Ruth

Cc: Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)

Subject: Lendal

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3. Whilst focus is on Foss Islands, Dave is concerned that Water End can become a problem at times and do we need to anything re signal timings?

Good progress on 9-16 seaters, thanks, and pick up on PCNS tomorrow

Thanks
Richard

Sent from my iPad

From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 06 September 2013 11:12
To: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing; xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview

Briefing should have it, noting your answers build on Friday's and Tuesdays interviews, not about the income its about the trial and gathering the date, hence my decision in consultation about not charging for 1st week and fact although 1000 a day went through the machine actual will be significantly less, in the 5-600 bracket we estimate.

So numbers a bit of a red herring in many respects. As for coppergate really only enforcing the current restriction noting been in place for 50 years. Overall numbers will reduce but given its been pre-school going back and post we should only look at data after a month.

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 | e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

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From: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Sent: 06 September 2013 10:37
To: xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview

And any steer from Darren useful

Regards
Tracey

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: xxxx
Sent: 06/09/2013 10:35
To: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview
Thank, will do

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

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From: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Sent: 06 September 2013 10:36
To: xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview

OJ i will go down. Can you pull off release, nick can u do comment i sent, and Xxxx any other info needed. Ill come up 10.55 as in Safeguarding to collect all and then go down

Regards
Tracey

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: xxxx
Sent: 06/09/2013 10:33
To: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview
Either/or – whichever is best for you.

thanks

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

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From: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Sent: 06 September 2013 10:33
To: xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview

Do they want nr there or in phone

Regards
Tracey

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: xxxx
Sent: 06/09/2013 10:32
To: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing; Cllr. D. Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: URGENT Lendal Bridge interview

Hi all, Radio York would like to do interview an on Jonathan Cowap's show at 11.15 today (we've just been asked) re: the piece in today's Press, confirming the number of tickets 'issued' and those who breached the restrictions. No one else will be interviewed at the same time.

Tracey – as you're quoted in the piece would you like to do this interview?

Thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

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From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 16:35
To: xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: RE: URGENT RE: Important: Lendal Bridge

Many thanks, i'll add this to the line below, so it reads

Ruth Stephenson Head of Sustainable Transport Service at City of York Council, said: "No Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued for Lendal Bridge. The process of recording, reviewing, contacting the DVLA and issuing the PCN takes approximately 7-10 days and we did not start enforcing until 4 September.

"We expect the number of non-authorized vehicles to be around 500-600 per day. Even though approximately 1,000 non-authorized vehicles per day crossed the bridge in the first week these figures were not checked and verified as we agreed an amnesty period, and so we expect that the number of PCNs that would have been issued to be lower.

“We have said from the outset that the purpose of the Lendal Bridge trial is not to generate revenue, but to reduce traffic going over the bridge and through the city centre, as part of a long-term vision to create a more attractive and thriving city centre for us all.

“As of today, Wednesday 4 September, any cars, lorries or motorbikes travelling over Lendal Bridge between these times will receive a PCN. We strongly urge drivers to continue to be aware of the signage in place and comply with this accordingly. The police have been actively supporting staff with the closure this week and we have been advising vehicles to turn around and providing route guidance when required. We will continue to monitor to understand whether a week of police support results in lower numbers of contraventions next week.”

ENDS

To note: It is also important to stress at this point that any future income generated from PCNs will be invested back into the city’s highway infrastructure.”

xxxx | Media Officer
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From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 16:34
To: xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: RE: URGENT RE: Important: Lendal Bridge

xxxx,

After the ‘discards’ are removed (white-listed vehicles erroneously captured by the system etc), there appears to be 500 – 600 contraventions per day for the past week.

Thanks,

xxxx | xxxx
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Network Management
West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork@CityofYork | @york_travel

From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 14:46
To: xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: URGENT RE: Important: Lendal Bridge
Importance: High

x

Hi all

Suggested statement below. We've not been approached by media yet, but i'm sure we will be soon.

Ruth – to be consistent i've used the wording you sent to cllrs and so this is attributed yourself. The likelihood is media will have this email already. In light of this, it may be worth considering sending this to The Press proactively. Please advise all.

xxxx – could you please confirm the number we believe to be per day is 700?

Nick – would be worth prepping a political response too.

Please could you let me know your thoughts as soon as possible.

Thanks, xxxx

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From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 14:28
To: Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: Important: Lendal Bridge
Importance: High

Hi all - to be aware: I'll draft a response asap

<http://stevegalloway.mycouncillor.org.uk/2013/09/05/12-million-in-fine-income-generated-by-cameras-on-lendal-bridge-and-coppergate-call-for-bridge-closure-trial-to-be-suspended/>

thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | [facebook.com/cityofyork](https://www.facebook.com/cityofyork) | @CityofYork

From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 16:34
To: xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: RE: URGENT RE: Important: Lendal Bridge

xxxx,

After the 'discards' are removed (white-listed vehicles erroneously captured by the system etc), there appears to be 500 – 600 contraventions per day for the past week.

Thanks,

xxxx | xxxx
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Network Management
West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | [facebook.com/cityofyork@CityofYork](https://www.facebook.com/cityofyork@CityofYork) | @york_travel

From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 14:46
To: xxxx; Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: URGENT RE: Important: Lendal Bridge
Importance: High

Hi all

Suggested statement below. We've not been approached by media yet, but i'm sure we will be soon.

Ruth – to be consistent i've used the wording you sent to cllrs and so this is attributed yourself. The likelihood is media will have this email already. In light of this, it may be worth considering sending this to The Press proactively. Please advise all.

xxxx – could you please confirm the number we believe to be per day is 700?

Nick – would be worth prepping a political response too.

Please could you let me know your thoughts as soon as possible.

Thanks, xxxx

Ruth Stephenson Head of Sustainable Transport Service at City of York Council, said: "No Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued for Lendal Bridge. The process of recording, reviewing, contacting the DVLA and issuing the PCN takes approximately 7-10 days and we did not start enforcing until 4 September.

"We expect the number of non-authorized vehicles to be around 700 per day. Even though approximately 1,000 non-authorized vehicles per day crossed the bridge in the first week these figures were not checked and verified as we agreed an amnesty period, and so we expect that the number of PCNs that would have been issued to be lower.

"We have said from the outset that the purpose of the Lendal Bridge trial is not to generate revenue, but to reduce traffic going over the bridge and through the city centre, as part of a long-term vision to create a more attractive and thriving city centre for us all.

"As of today, Wednesday 4 September, any cars, lorries or motorbikes travelling over Lendal Bridge between these times will receive a PCN. We strongly urge drivers to continue to be aware of the signage in place and comply with this accordingly. The police have been actively supporting staff with the closure this week and we have been advising vehicles to turn around and providing route guidance when required. We will continue to monitor to understand whether a week of police support results in lower numbers of contraventions next week."

ENDS

To note: It is also important to stress at this point that any future income generated from PCNs will be invested back into the city's highway infrastructure."

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
www.york.gov.uk | facebook.com/cityofyork | @CityofYork

From: xxxx
Sent: 05 September 2013 14:28
To: Stephenson, Ruth; xxxx; xxxx; Wood, Richard; Richardson, Darren
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett; Wharton, Nick; Cllr. J. Alexander; Marshall, Leona
Subject: Important: Lendal Bridge
Importance: High

Hi all - to be aware: I'll draft a response asap

<http://stevegalloway.mycouncillor.org.uk/2013/09/05/12-million-in-fine-income-generated-by-cameras-on-lendal-bridge-and-coppergate-call-for-bridge-closure-trial-to-be-suspended/>

thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

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West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
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From: Wharton, Nick
Sent: 04 October 2013 11:00
To: CYC Labour Group; 'Chris Read'
Subject: FW: City of York Council media release - Lendal Bridge trial – month one data
Attachments: Lendal Bridge traffic trial - Month One Report.pdf

From: xxxx
Sent: 03 October 2013 16:53
Subject: City of York Council media release - Lendal Bridge trial – month one data

3 October 2013

For immediate release

Lendal Bridge trial – month one data

City of York Council has published data from the first month of the Lendal Bridge traffic trial which demonstrates that overall the traffic network has responded well to the restriction.

Available to view at www.york.gov.uk/citycentreimprovements the report provides a range of data, which will continue to be collected throughout the six months trial and updated on the website as this progresses.

The base line data provided at the start of the trial has been updated to reflect the recent figures for traffic volumes and flows on the bridges and selected main routes and, Park&Ride journey times.

The traffic count data collected so far shows that the flows during the restricted period are about the same as flows in September 2012. The general network seems to be largely unaffected by the restriction, although it continues to be monitored closely by operators in the council's Traffic Control Centre. Signal timings have, and are continuing to be, adjusted city wide to optimise the timings to help the flow of traffic and in response to any incidents on the network.

The preliminary results from the traffic flow data and journey time data are broadly positive at this stage.

However, it is still relatively early days of the trial and traffic conditions across the city may continue to change as drivers further adjust to the restrictions.

Whilst overall traffic levels on the routes into the city have remained constant, specific incidents and events such as the Sky Ride (on 14 September) and localised flooding as a result of heavy rain, has had an impact on congestion and queuing at particular locations, which is not as a direct result of the Lendal Bridge restriction.

In addition to this, there would be expected increases in traffic flows in comparison to August, as schools resumed normal term time in September. However, with any location there are always day to day variations in traffic flows. With regards to signage, a comprehensive and DfT compliant scheme was implemented to inform drivers of the Lendal Bridge restriction, including its timings and that it is to be enforced by cameras. In addition, 34 AA advisory signs have been installed on the Inner Ring Road and key radials providing access into the city centre, both inside and outside of the Outer Ring Road. Ruth Stephenson, Major Transport Projects Manager, at City of York Council, said: "York's traffic network has responded well to the Lendal Bridge trial and preliminary results indicate that the network is fundamentally unaffected by the restriction. We are of course continuing to closely monitor the trial as it progresses and signal timings will continue to be adjusted to optimise the timings and help the flow of traffic.

Cllr Dave Merrett, Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability, said "We'd like to thank residents and businesses for their forbearance and co-operation in this trial, and also everyone who has fed back their views through the online consultation as well as drop in events in the city centre. I would encourage even more people to complete the survey at www.york.gov.uk/citycentreimprovements"

Will Pearson, Business Manager for First in York, said: "We are happy to continue supporting City of York Council on the Lendal Bridge trial and since it started we have seen improvements in terms of bus punctuality and reliability.

"We have now lowered a number of fares on our buses by as much as 25% offering good value for money and we are already seeing more passengers take advantage of these improvements to bus services."

Following public feedback during the first few weeks of the trial, further AA advisory signs carrying more specific detail will be installed from early October. All of which are additional signs put in place to help all road users. A map showing the location of all signs can be found at:

www.york.gov.uk/citycentreimprovements To further assist visiting drivers, Visit York recently sent out information to all their members to help them advise their customers of the restrictions over Lendal Bridge. The council is also launching a new online journey planner (available at www.itravel.york.info) that will present tailored transport options for journeys in and around York. Further travel planning websites including Transport Direct and Google Maps also now avoid directing drivers over the bridge.

ENDS

Please find attached the report.

Consultation:

Following a consultation event in early August (before the trial start) a further consultation event was held on 11 and 12 September. A final consultation event will be held on Saturday 5 October. The feedback collected at the August information event indicated approximately 60 per cent (of 73 written responses) thought the bridge trial would impact them negatively and 34 per cent thought the bridge trial would impact on them beneficially.

The September event has shown a significant shift indicating approximately 34% (of 36 written responses) that thought the bridge trial would impact them negatively and 50 per cent that thought the bridge trial would impact on them beneficially.

After the consultation event and the independent survey work carried out by ITS, which will be undertaken in October, it is proposed to provide some perception data thereafter.

The council's five key priorities for 2011-2015 are:

- * Create jobs and grow the economy
- * Get York moving
- * Build strong communities
- * Protect vulnerable people
- * Protect the environment

The council's cabinet member for Planning, Transport and Sustainability is Councillor Dave Merrett on 07765558514

For further information please contact:

xxxx

Communications & Media

City of York Council

Tel: 01904 55xxxx

Mobile: xxxx

Fax: 01904 551064

Email: xxxx@york.gov.uk

x

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From: xxxx

Sent: 03 October 2013 10:48

To: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing

Cc: Cllr. J. Alexander; Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'; Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning); xxxx; Wharton, Nick

Subject:RE: Lendal interview Look North today

Attachments: Lendal Bridge trial – month one data.doc; Month One Data Release_final.docx; CLLR TSL -Look North 3 Oct.doc

Importance: High

Hi Tracey

Please find attached the draft press release (awaiting sign off by Cllr Merrett), the draft report going public today, and a briefing note.

Kathy Killick from Look North would like to do the interview today. She's flexible with the time and location so i've suggested mid-afternoon here at west Offices to give you time to prepare.

There's a lot of info here, if it helps to sit down with Tony/xxxx (cc'd in) at any point today please let us know.

Thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Sent: 03 October 2013 09:27
To: xxxx
Subject: RE: Lendal

Will need brief

Regards
Tracey

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: xxxx
Sent: 03/10/2013 09:25
To: 'Stephen Sheard'
Cc: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Subject: RE: Lendal
Hi Steve

Cllr Simpson-Laing, Deputy leader, is available today. I've copied Tracey into this email.

Can you please advise re: timings

Thanks, Xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Sheard [mailto:stephen.sheard@bbc.co.uk]
Sent: 03 October 2013 08:56
To: xxxx
Subject: RE: Lendal

Hi xxxx,

Thanks. What is the earliest time we could interview Cllr Merrett today?

Stephen Sheard

S Senior Broadcast Journalist B BBC Yorkshire

2 Saint Peter's Square, Leeds, West Yorks, LS9 8AH
2 0113 2247041
??07736432820
Email: Estephen.sheard@bbc.co.uk
Twitter: @stevesheard

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxx [mailto:xxxx@york.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 October 2013 19:54
To: Stephen Sheard
Subject: RE: Lendal

Hi Steve, looking to be making these public tomorrow afternoon

x
thanks, xxxx

From: Stephen Sheard [stephen.sheard@bbc.co.uk]
Sent: 02 October 2013 17:38
To: xxxx
Subject: Lendal

Hi xxxx,

Any word on the Lendal Bridge statistics?

Thanks
Stephen Sheard
• Senior Broadcast Journalist • BBC Yorkshire

2 Saint Peter's Square, Leeds, West Yorks, LS9 8AH
• 0113 2247041
È 07736432820
Email: stephen.sheard@bbc.co.uk
Twitter: @stevesheard

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

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From: Dave Merrett [dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2013 17:15
To: Cllr. J. Alexander; xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; Richardson, Darren; Wood, Richard
Cc: Stephenson, Ruth; Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning); Marshall, Leona; xxxx
Subject: RE: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

xxxx,

The press also reported last week that September was a very bad month for retailers nationally. I was also told by someone present at the retailers forum that about half of those who gave an indication of turnover said there's been no change in September or an actual improvement. May want to get ??Sophie at the coffee / chocolate ?? house to give the alternate view.

On the footfall, I was previously told some care is needed with using the Parliament Street camera figures because it measured the footfall past Splash palace. With its demolition pedestrian flow is not as channelled past the cameras as it was before - so need to watch comparisons between the year before and the year after the demolitions and the period whilst work was going on.

Also need to take into account Gas works and other events (not mentioning Skyride by name) that may have affected custom.

Dave

> From: cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk
 > To: xxxx@york.gov.uk; dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk; cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk;
 Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk; richard.wood@york.gov.uk
 > CC: ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk; Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk; leona.marshall@york.gov.uk;
 xxxx@york.gov.uk
 > Subject: Re: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
 > Date: Wed, 30 Oct 2013 16:03:27 +0000
 >
 > I would keep it short. Say there was recognition go end in the press last week that footfall had dropped in the city centre over successive years which is why we are investing in the public infrastructure. To suggest this long term trends is due to the Lendal Bridge trial does not make sense. Can also use comparative data saying September was a challenging month for retail nationally.
 >
 > Sent from Samsung Mobile
 >
 > ----- Original message -----
 > From: "xxxx" <xxxx@york.gov.uk>
 > Date: 30/10/2013 15:36 (GMT+00:00)
 > To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>, 'Dave Merrett' <dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk>, "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>, "Richardson, Darren" <Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk>, "Wood, Richard" <richard.wood@york.gov.uk> > Cc: "Stephenson, Ruth" <ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk>, "Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)" <Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk>, "Marshall, Leona" <leona.marshall@york.gov.uk>, "xxxx" <xxxx@york.gov.uk>
 > Subject: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
 >
 > Hi all, please can you approve the below quote. Please see below enquiry from The Press for more details
 > Thanks, xxxx
 > A spokeswoman for City of York Council, said: "There is absolute recognition that the council must continue to be committed to working with partners to promote the city centre as a diverse and unique shopping offer and for this to be done on multiple platforms.

- > For instance, last year’s Boxing Day Park&Ride offer, as well as attracting one off large scale events that bring people into the city for the first time or reconnect people to the city such as the recent Yorkshire Marathon which saw a 20 per cent increase in footfall on the day.
- > “Using one city centre camera as an indicator for an entire city’s worth of footfall is not an accurate reflection and with this in mind the council recently announced its intention to invest in footfall cameras at key points across the city centre to gain a greater understanding of resident and visitor use and movement around the city, to inform future initiatives and investment decisions.
- > “Ultimately, this is a six month trial and consultation and all feedback from residents and businesses in the city will be taken into consideration when a decision is made at the end of the trial in February.”
- >
- > xxxx | Media Officer
- > t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk
- >
- > City of York Council | Communications
- > West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA
- >
- > From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]
- > Sent: 30 October 2013 15:16
- > To: xxxx; Marshall, Leona; Cllr. J. Alexander
- > Cc: Gavin Aitchison
- > Subject: FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
- >
- > Hi xxxx
- > The attendance sheet for the meeting includes businesses in the jewellery, department store, books and stationery, cosmetics, clothing, homewear, food and beverage and hospitality sectors.
- > All businesses are based within the city-centre and most of them are on what would be regarded as York’s primary city-centre shopping area. They would mostly be within five minutes’ walk of Lendal Bridge and certainly not more than ten minutes’ walk.
- > Is any of the information you have included in this email to be used as a quote/response or purely for guidance at this stage?
- > Thanks.
- > Mark
- >
- > Mark Stead | Political Reporter
- > _____
- > Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd
- > PO Box 29, 76 - 86 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9YN
- > t: 01904 567156
- > e: mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk<mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk>
- > [<http://clients.thisisyork.co.uk/e-mail/foundationforjobs-press.gif>]<<http://www.thepressfoundationforjobs.co.uk/>>
- >
- > From: xxxx [mailto:xxxx@york.gov.uk]
- > Sent: 30 October 2013 15:06
- > To: Mark Stead
- > Cc: Marshall, Leona; Cllr. J. Alexander
- > Subject: FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
- >
- > Hi Mark – thanks for the below.
- > A couple of things:

> Without having seen the minutes or knowing which particular retailers attended and gave these views it is difficult to establish what factors are impacting a business which in any market there are sure to be many (for instance one of the retailers cites in town/out of town argument as opposed to Lendal). Please could you give us some more detail? Such as location of the business (within or outside the city centre).

> As an important reference re: using one city centre camera as an indicator for an entire city's worth of footfall, this is not an accurate reflection (please see the below release we issued re: footfall)

> Going back to the release below there is absolute recognition that the council must continue to be committed to working with partners to promote the city centre as a diverse and unique shopping offer and for this to be done in difference ways. Examples include Boxing Day P&R /parking and one off large scale events that bring people into the city for the first time or reconnect people to the city (for instance the York Marathon saw a 20 per cent increase in footfall that Sunday).

> Ultimately, what we need to reiterate is that this is a six month trial and all feedback will be taken into consideration when a decision is made at the end of the trial.

> Thanks, xxxx

> 15 October 2013

> For immediate release

> Council invests in footfall cameras to support city centre resilience plans

> City of York Council has announced its intention to invest in footfall cameras at key points across the city centre to gain a greater understanding of resident and visitor use and movement around the city, to inform future initiatives and investment decisions.

> The move comes as part of the council's commitment to support York's city centre resilience in light of current market challenges, against a backdrop of decreasing footfall on high streets seen across the UK since 2008. It will also allow the authority to benchmark the city in comparison to other similar sized city's across the UK, and learn from best practice elsewhere.

> The authority is currently in discussion with city centre businesses on the number and locations of the camera's, which will be informed in part by qualitative information from retailers and other businesses already operating in the centre.

> Cllr James Alexander, leader of City of York council said: "Making this long overdue investment will help us gain a much better understanding of how the city centre is being used by residents and visitors, not just in our key shopping areas and attractions, but in evaluating new concerns and maximising opportunities such as our evening economy.

> "We've embarked on a programme of investment in our public spaces throughout the city as part of reinvigorate York and the current set of cameras in Parliament street do not give an accurate reflection of public movement throughout the city. York's diverse shopping offer for instance is across the entirety of the city centre, not just on Parliament street. Increasing the number of footfall cameras will not only monitor more accurately the numbers of people using the various areas of the city, but how they are using it".

> Between 2009 and 2012, the city centre footfall in York has declined by approximately 6 per cent, slightly above the UK rate.

> The camera's will be in addition to those on Parliament Street and will be paid for via existing core service budgets. They will be separate from existing CCTV cameras, due to the need for them to be stationary at all times to gain accurate footfall data.

> ENDS

> xxxx | Media Officer

> t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

> City of York Council | Communications

> West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

> From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]

> Sent: 30 October 2013 13:16
 > To: Marshall, Leona; xxxx
 > Subject: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
 >
 > Leona/xxxx – would definitely need a comment on this by the end of today. Sorry if it's short notice but have only just had the information referred to in this email.
 > We have seen the minutes of the last meeting of York Retail Forum, held on October 17, which were sent to us by an unnamed party. I feel it is important to point out that these minutes were not made known to us by any member of the forum's executive – I have spoken to its chair, Frank Wood, today and he was surprised we had seen them. But they are genuine and we are doing a story based on them for tomorrow's paper. > The minutes say:
 >
 > • City-centre retailers have seen reductions in footfall and transactions during the last trading quarter.
 >
 > • The effect of the Lendal Bridge traffic restrictions is seen by retailers as a major cause of this downturn in trading, if not the sole cause.
 >
 > • CYC data shows a 12 per cent year-on-year fall in Parliament St footfall in September and almost 30 per cent down on 2011, according to the forum's secretary, who also said CYC could not provide any footfall figures for Coney Street as the camera there had provided "intermittent data" since August, although it should return to normal by December.
 >
 > • One retailer had seen a 20 per cent swing in footfall to out-of-town shops and many independent smaller retailers saw footfall reduce in September to the extent that sales were up to 28 per cent down and some had had to lay staff off.
 >
 > • Retailers are worried the direct consequence of closing Lendal Bridge could see them go out of business, and negative perceptions of the trial could damage York's image long-term.
 >
 > • The forum's members voted by a majority to communicate a request to Coun Alexander to remove the Lendal Bridge restrictions immediately and reopen the bridge in full. I understand this has been communicated to the leader.
 > Let me know and thanks.
 > Mark
 >
 > Mark Stead | Political Reporter
 > _____
 > Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd
 > PO Box 29, 76 - 86 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9YN
 > t: 01904 567156
 > e: mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk<mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk>
 > [<http://clients.thisisyork.co.uk/e-mail/foundationforjobs-press.gif>]<http://www.thepressfoundationforjobs.co.uk/>>
 >
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KT13 8DP.

From: xxx
Sent: 30 October 2013 16:19
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Marshall, Leona
Subject: RE: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

Importance: High

Thanks, i've discussed with Leona and we're keen to answer all questions and remind them of the context of last week's story re: comparative data.

Shortened below slightly, hopefully ok...

xxxx

A spokeswoman for City of York Council, said: "There is absolute recognition that the council must continue to be committed to working with partners to promote the city centre as a diverse and unique shopping offer and for this to be done on multiple platforms.

"National data tells us that September was a difficult month nationally, and that this is a wider trend of falling footfall year-on-year nationally. However, using one city centre camera as an indicator for an entire city's worth of footfall is not an accurate reflection and with this in mind the council recently announced its intention to invest in footfall cameras at key points across the city centre to gain a greater understanding of resident and visitor use and movement around the city, to inform future initiatives and investment decisions.

"Ultimately, this is a six month trial and consultation and all feedback from residents and businesses in the city will be taken into consideration when a decision is made at the end of the trial in February."

xxxx | Media Officer

t: 01904 55xxxxx | e: xxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 30 October 2013 16:03
To: xxx; 'Dave Merrett'; Cllr. D. Merrett; Richardson, Darren; Wood, Richard
Cc: Stephenson, Ruth; Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning); Marshall, Leona; xxx
Subject: Re: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

I would keep it short. Say there was recognition go end in the press last week that footfall had dropped in the city centre over successive years which is why we are investing in the public infrastructure. To suggest this long term trends is due to the Lendal Bridge trial does not make sense. Can also use comparative data saying September was a challenging month for retail nationally.

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "xxxx" <xxxx@york.gov.uk>
Date: 30/10/2013 15:36 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cldr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>,'Dave Merrett' <dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk>,"Cllr. D. Merrett" <cldr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>,"Richardson, Darren" <Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk>,"Wood, Richard" <richard.wood@york.gov.uk> Cc: "Stephenson, Ruth" <ruth.stephenson@york.gov.uk>,"Clarke, Tony(Transport Planning)" <Tony.Clarke@york.gov.uk>,"Marshall, Leona" <leona.marshall@york.gov.uk>,"xxxx" <xxxx@york.gov.uk>
Subject: Urgent FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge
Hi all, please can you approve the below quote. Please see below enquiry from The Press for more details
Thanks, xxx

A spokeswoman for City of York Council, said: "There is absolute recognition that the council must continue to be committed to working with partners to promote the city centre as a diverse and unique shopping offer and for this to be done on multiple platforms. For instance, last year's Boxing Day Park&Ride offer, as well as attracting one off large scale events that bring people into the city for the first time or reconnect people to the city such as the recent Yorkshire Marathon which saw a 20 per cent increase in footfall on the day.

"Using one city centre camera as an indicator for an entire city's worth of footfall is not an accurate reflection and with this in mind the council recently announced its intention to invest in footfall cameras at key points across the city centre to gain a greater understanding of resident and visitor use and movement around the city, to inform future initiatives and investment decisions.

"Ultimately, this is a six month trial and consultation and all feedback from residents and businesses in the city will be taken into consideration when a decision is made at the end of the trial in February."

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2013 15:16
To: xxxx; Marshall, Leona; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Gavin Aitchison
Subject: FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

Hi xxxx

The attendance sheet for the meeting includes businesses in the jewellery, department store, books and stationery, cosmetics, clothing, homewear, food and beverage and hospitality sectors.

All businesses are based within the city-centre and most of them are on what would be regarded as York's primary city-centre shopping area. They would mostly be within five minutes' walk of Lendal Bridge and certainly not more than ten minutes' walk.

Is any of the information you have included in this email to be used as a quote/response or purely for guidance at this stage?

Thanks.

Mark

Mark Stead | Political Reporter

Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd
PO Box 29, 76 - 86 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9YN
t: 01904 567156
e: mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk

From: xxxx [mailto:xxxx@york.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2013 15:06
To: Mark Stead
Cc: Marshall, Leona; Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: FW: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

Hi Mark – thanks for the below.

A couple of things:

Without having seen the minutes or knowing which particular retailers attended and gave these views it is difficult to establish what factors are impacting a business which in any market there are sure to be many (for instance one of the retailers cites in town/out of town argument as opposed to Lendal). Please could you give us some more detail? Such as location of the business (within or outside the city centre). As an important reference re: using one city centre camera as an indicator for an entire city's worth of footfall, this is not an accurate reflection (please see the below release we issued re: footfall)

Going back to the release below there is absolute recognition that the council must continue to be committed to working with partners to promote the city centre as a diverse and unique shopping offer and for this to be done in difference ways. Examples include Boxing Day P&R /parking and one off large scale events that bring people into the city for the first time or reconnect people to the city (for instance the York Marathon saw a 20 per cent increase in footfall that Sunday).

Ultimately, what we need to reiterate is that this is a six month trial and all feedback will be taken into consideration when a decision is made at the end of the trial.

Thanks, xxxx

15 October 2013

For immediate release

Council invests in footfall cameras to support city centre resilience plans

City of York Council has announced its intention to invest in footfall cameras at key points across the city centre to gain a greater understanding of resident and visitor use and movement around the city, to inform future initiatives and investment decisions.

The move comes as part of the council's commitment to support York's city centre resilience in light of current market challenges, against a backdrop of decreasing footfall on high streets seen across the UK since 2008. It will also allow the authority to benchmark the city in comparison to other similar sized city's across the UK, and learn from best practice elsewhere.

The authority is currently in discussion with city centre businesses on the number and locations of the camera's, which will be informed in part by qualitative information from retailers and other businesses already operating in the centre.

Cllr James Alexander, leader of City of York council said: "Making this long overdue investment will help us gain a much better understanding of how the city centre is being used by residents and visitors, not just in our key shopping areas and attractions, but in evaluating new concerns and maximising opportunities such as our evening economy. "We've embarked on a programme of investment in our public spaces throughout the city as part of reinvigorate York and the current set of cameras in Parliament street do not give an accurate reflection of public movement throughout the city. York's diverse shopping offer for instance is across the entirety of the city centre, not just on Parliament street. Increasing the number of footfall cameras will not only monitor more accurately the numbers of people using the various areas of the city, but how they are using it".

Between 2009 and 2012, the city centre footfall in York has declined by approximately 6 per cent, slightly above the UK rate.

The camera's will be in addition to those on Parliament Street and will be paid for via existing core service budgets. They will be separate from existing CCTV cameras, due to the need for them to be stationary at all times to gain accurate footfall data.

ENDS

xxxx | Media Officer

t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications

West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]

Sent: 30 October 2013 13:16

To: Marshall, Leona; xxxx

Subject: City-centre businesses - Lendal Bridge

Leona/xxxx – would definitely need a comment on this by the end of today. Sorry if it's short notice but have only just had the information referred to in this email.

We have seen the minutes of the last meeting of York Retail Forum, held on October 17, which were sent to us by an unnamed party. I feel it is important to point out that these minutes were not made known to us by any member of the forum's executive – I have spoken to its chair, Frank Wood, today and he was surprised we had seen them. But they are genuine and we are doing a story based on them for tomorrow's paper.

The minutes say:

* City-centre retailers have seen reductions in footfall and transactions during the last trading quarter.

* The effect of the Lendal Bridge traffic restrictions is seen by retailers as a major cause of this downturn in trading, if not the sole cause.

* CYC data shows a 12 per cent year-on-year fall in Parliament St footfall in September and almost 30 per cent down on 2011, according to the forum's secretary, who also said CYC could not provide any footfall figures for Coney Street as the camera there had provided "intermittent data" since August, although it should return to normal by December.

* One retailer had seen a 20 per cent swing in footfall to out-of-town shops and many independent smaller retailers saw footfall reduce in September to the extent that sales were up to 28 per cent down and some had had to lay staff off.

* Retailers are worried the direct consequence of closing Lendal Bridge could see them go out of business, and negative perceptions of the trial could damage York's image long-term.

* The forum's members voted by a majority to communicate a request to Coun Alexander to remove the Lendal Bridge restrictions immediately and reopen the bridge in full. I understand this has been communicated to the leader.

Let me know and thanks.

Mark

Mark Stead | Political Reporter

Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd

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e: mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk

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From: Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Sent: 03 October 2013 09:05
To: Cllr. J. Alexander; xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: Urgent RE: Lendal Bridge release

Just tell me where and when with notice ad in Ward at mo

Regards
Tracey

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 03/10/2013 09:01
To: xxxx; Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'
Cc: Wharton, Nick; Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Subject: RE: Urgent RE: Lendal Bridge release

I would try and share it out. We can't have the scheme looked attached to myself or Dave personally. Depends what Dave thinks but I would suggest Tracey for Look North as Dave and I have already done something for them each on this.

But if Dave is adamant about doing this then I would proceed.

James

From: xxxx
Sent: 03 October 2013 08:58
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: Urgent RE: Lendal Bridge release
Importance: High

Hi all, further to the release, Look North has put in an early request to speak to Cllr Merrett.

Could you please advise on this and the release approval.

Thanks, xxxx

xxx | Media Officer

t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: xxxx
Sent: 02 October 2013 16:26
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: Lendal Bridge release
Importance: High

Hi Cllr Merrett

Please find attached a release on the first month data on Lendal Bridge for your approval, which is due to be issued tomorrow alongside the data. I've quoted Ruth in the release but happy to change this to yourself? We are also hoping to include a supportive quote from First in the release too (just awaiting confirmation of this).

Thanks, xxxx

<< File: Lendal Bridge trial – month one data.doc >>

xxxx | Media Officer

t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: xxxx
Sent: 07 October 2013 14:39
To: Cllr. S. Crisp; Cllr. D. Merrett; Dave Merrett; Cllr. J. Alexander; Cllr. T. Simpson-Laing
Cc: Wharton, Nick
Subject: Visit York FW: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi all, please be aware of the below –particularly as this is quite a strong line from Gillian at Visit York. However, this is the same story Minster FM covered a few weeks ago and we've kept to the same line we provided to them at the time.

Thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer

t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: xxxx

Sent: 07 October 2013 14:30
To: 'Mike Laycock'
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi Mike

The below is advisory notes as there's quite a lot of background to this (which was provided to Minster FM when they ran this story a couple of weeks ago) and i've also provided a quote below too.

Thanks, xxxx

A 'warning letter' was considered prior to the trial but the council was advised by the DVLA that we could only access their database to obtain addresses where we were intending to issue a charge in relation to an offence and not to issue warning letters.

As you know, the trial then started and through this a system was put in place – in addition to this we gave a weeks grace period.

Following this, the policy team at the DVLA since confirmed that it would be possible to issue warning letters if the intention was to prosecute any future offences and the original offence was not cancelled.

However, by that point PCNs had already been issued and paid, there needed to be consistency with Coppergate and Lendal Bridge (the former had been in operation for considerably longer) - and the decision was taken not to change the process. In addition to this, there would also be a cost to the council for issuing warning letters which is not sustainable longer term.

Here is a quote similar to those issued previously:

Darren Richardson, director of City and Environmental Services at City of York Council, said: "A comprehensive and DfT compliant scheme was implemented to inform drivers of the Lendal Bridge restriction, including its timings and that it is to be enforced by cameras. In addition, 34 AA advisory signs have been installed on the Inner Ring Road and key radials providing access into the city centre, both inside and outside of the Outer Ring Road. Following public feedback during the first few weeks of the trial, a further 18 AA advisory signs carrying more specific detail will be installed from early October. All of which are additional signs put in place to help all road users. A map showing the location of all 65 signs can be found at: www.york.gov.uk/citycentreimprovements

"To further assist visiting drivers, Visit York recently sent out information to all their members to help them advise their customers of the restrictions over Lendal Bridge. In addition to this, the council has this week launched a new online journey planner (available at www.itravel.york.info) that will present tailored transport options for journeys in and around York."

Thanks, xxxx

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Mike Laycock [mailto:mike.laycock@nqyne.co.uk]
Sent: 07 October 2013 12:08
To: xxxx
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi.

Strange that you didn't get this on Friday – my sent box has it as being sent at 15.05.

When I spoke to Mr xxxx, he told me that while had been planning to pay a return visit, receiving the two fines had now made him think twice about it.

The line I'm taking is Mrs Cruddas's growing concerns about impact on visitors who return home and then get fines in the post, and her suggestions that first time offenders should get friendly warnings rather than fines and that signs should be improved etc. ...Her comments coming after Mr xxxx contacted The Press to complain at being fined twice etc...

Mike

Mike Laycock | Chief Reporter

Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd
PO Box 29, 76 - 86 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9YN
t: 01904 567132
e: mike.laycock@nqyne.co.uk

From: xxxx [mailto:xxxx@york.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 October 2013 11:49
To: Mike Laycock
Cc: Marshall, Leona
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi Mike, did you send the below email on Friday? (or did someone else) I don't have any emails in my inbox and the below emails stats that I was sender!

Also, xxxx actually said "We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in York and hope to return next year." And nothing about thinking twice, as you phrase it, about retuning to York.

Can you please clarify the line you're taking on this article?

xxxx | Media Officer
t: 01904 55xxxx | e: xxxx@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Communications
West Offices | Station Rise | York YO1 6GA

From: Mike Laycock [mailto:mike.laycock@nqyne.co.uk]
Sent: 07 October 2013 10:50
To: xxxx
Cc: Marshall, Leona; xxxx; xxxx
Subject: FW: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi.

Since I sent you the original email over on Friday I have asked Visit York for a comment and they have come back with the following from Gillian, so I think it is only right to give you the chance to come back with a reply to her comments as well as those of the unhappy tourist.

I need it before the end of today, by the way.

Thanks

Mike

Gillian Cruddas, MBE, Chief Executive, Visit York, said, 'We are very concerned about visitors arriving home from an enjoyable stay in York to find that they have been fined. Visitors cannot easily recognise Lendal Bridge, until they are on it and not everyone understands what 'restricted access' means. If there is a possibility to improve signage that would be welcomed. It would also be welcomed if a friendly warning rather than a fine, first time, could be considered, since many sat nav systems do direct drivers over the bridge. Visit York has issued a communication to all of its business members to ask for assistance in communicating the new measures to help ensure visitors avoid the risk of receiving a fine.'

Mike Laycock | Chief Reporter

Newsquest (Yorkshire & North East) Ltd
 PO Box 29, 76 - 86 Walmgate, York, North Yorkshire, YO1 9YN
 t: 01904 567132
 e: mike.laycock@nqyne.co.uk

From: xxxx

Sent: 04 October 2013 15:05

To: xxxx; 'Marshall, Leona'; xxxx@york.gov.uk'

Subject: Lendal Bridge penalty charge

Hi,

We have had a call from a tourist who is very upset to have received two pcns for having crossed Lendal Bridge twice without, he says, realising he wasn't meant to do so. He says he was following his sat nav's instructions and following a stream of other vehicles when he crossed the bridge while travelling from the caravan club site near Rowntree Park to go to Beningbrough Hall. He has appealed against the charges, (copied in below) but says the experience has made him think twice about returning to York again next year. Can I ask for a specific comment on his case or, if that isn't possible with an appeal pending, a general comment about tourists who feel aggrieved at being caught out by the new rules, and the possible impact on tourism in York.

(By mid morning Monday please)

Thanks

Mike

Hello,

My wife and I stayed with our caravan at Rowntree Park from 23/09/2013 to 26/09/2011 for a short break to visit the food festival and the National Trust Treasurers House and Beninborough Hall. It was Beningborough Hall that we drove to on the morning of the 25/09/2013 returning that afternoon. As this was my first ever visit to York and being a complete stranger I used my sat nav to direct me to and from Beningborough. I am rather shocked to receive two penalty notices for the journeys. I saw no bus lane restriction notices, rather I followed the sat nav instructions and the queue of traffic I was in which at the time was quite busy. I am used, in my home town of Chester, to a heavy broad white line indicating the presence of a bus lane.

We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in York and hope to return next year.

With respect, I would ask you please to revoke the penalty charge notices for the reasons I have outlined.

Kind Regards

xxxx

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From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 03 September 2013 11:44
To: Marshall, Leona; Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: England, Kersten
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge comment

I think that is reasonable

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 | e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

City of York Council | Directorate of City and Environmental Services
West Offices | Station Rise, York YO1 6GA
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From: Marshall, Leona
Sent: 03 September 2013 11:42
To: Richardson, Darren; Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: Lendal Bridge comment

Hi James/ Darren,

Following our conversation Darren, I've drafted a comment on the Lendal Bridge grace period for media, for your amends/ approval.

Darren Richardson, Director of City and Environmental Services comments: "In response to media enquiries we have received today, I can confirm that we will not be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to drivers of restricted vehicles who have travelled over Lendal Bridge between the hours of 10.30am and 5pm, since Tuesday 27 August. As of tomorrow, Wednesday 4 September, any cars, lorries or motorbikes travelling over Lendal Bridge between these times will receive a FPN. We strongly urge drivers to continue to be aware of the signage in place and comply with this accordingly.

"We have said from the outset that the purpose of the Lendal Bridge trial is not to generate revenue, but to reduce traffic going over the bridge and through the city centre, as part of a long-term vision to create a more attractive and thriving city centre for us all. This trial is legally compliant and we

have communicated its implementation in advance through many channels. However, this ‘grace period’ of one week has provided us the opportunity to observe the restrictions in place and to put additional signage up to further help residents, businesses and visitors comply with the restrictions. It is also important to stress at this point that any future income generated from FPNs will be invested back into the city’s highway infrastructure.”

The council has estimated the income which would have been generated from FPNs associated with the Lendal Bridge trial - since 27 August – to be approximately £105,000.

Thanks,
Leona
Leona Marshall | Communications
t: 01904 552057 | e: leona.marshall@york.gov.uk

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From: Wharton, Nick
Sent: 26 November 2013 09:54
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'
Cc: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject:FW: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group

I’ll speak with Leona and come back with something. I think it’s important there’s something from Dave as well as Darren on this one,

N.

From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2013 09:39
To: Marshall, Leona; xxxx; Wharton, Nick
Subject: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group

Leona/xxxx/Nick.

The Conservative group have provided the statement below which they say is the group’s official position on the Lendal Bridge traffic trial. This was sent to Dave Merrett and Darren Richardson yesterday afternoon. Can you send any response Coun Merrett or Mr Richardson would want to make by 3pm today?

Thanks.
Mark

STATEMENT

Conservative leader Cllr Ian Gillies has called for an end to the Lendal Bridge closure experiment prior to its scheduled conclusion in February saying that statistics have shown the trial is not working.

Cllr Gillies said, “Whilst I do not criticise the administration for trying something new, the recently published statistics show there have been no appreciable gains in any of the areas such as bus

journey times and usage where the Council was anticipating improvement, while on the other hand problems have been stacking up all over the city.

“The issues have been many:

- * Poor signage resulting in an increase in of P.C.N.s.
- * Loss of reputation for the City as a tourist destination and accusations that the City is using bridge fines as a cash cow.
- * A contributing factor in the decrease of footfall in the City Centre as a result of people not making the journey and subsequent reduction of trade for City Centre businesses.
- * No noticeable improvement in Park and Ride punctuality.
- * No evidence of increased usage if service buses.
- * Closing an integral part of the Inner Ring Road resulting in increased journey time, and increased congestion and pollution in other area of the City.
- * Increased speed of authorized vehicles driving over the bridge.
- * No mitigating help for City Centre Traders as promised.

“The Conservative Group has been looking at the evidence. Whilst there still has been no criteria published by which success will be measured, statistics clearly show that this experiment has failed.

“If the Labour Cabinet are serious about economic growth in York, the City’s reputation, and the majority opinion of York residents, they should re-open Lendal Bridge.”

Mark Stead | Political Reporter

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From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 27 November 2013 17:36
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett
Subject:FW: Lendal Bridge

At this stage there is no intention to end the trial early for one key reason being we cannot verify the impact of it in terms of an objective decision for the future.

Perhaps helpful we reflect on the detailed reply if that’s the way we go before anything goes out?

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 |e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

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From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 27 November 2013 17:33
To: Cllr. I. Gillies
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge

Dear Cllr Gillies,

Thank you for raising your concerns, I will reply in more detail following discussion with Cllr Merrett. They are certainly noted and they will be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Lendal Bridge trial.

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 |e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

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From: Cllr. I. Gillies
Sent: 25 November 2013 14:05
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; Richardson, Darren
Subject: Lendal Bridge

Dave/Darren,

Following our group meeting last week my Group are calling for an end to the Lendal Bridge closure experiment prior to its scheduled conclusion in February saying that statistics have shown that the trial is not working.

Whilst I do not criticise the administration for trying something new, the recently published statistics show there have been no appreciable gains in any of the areas such as bus journey times and usage where the Council was anticipating improvement, while on the other hand problems have been stacking up all over the City.

“The issues have been many:

*Poor Signage resulting in an increase in of P.C.N.s.

*Loss of reputation for the City as a tourist destination and accusations that the City is using bridge fines as a cash cow;

- *A contributing factor in the decrease in footfall in the City Centre as a result of people not making the journey and subsequent reduction of trade for City Centre businesses;
- *No noticeable improvement in Park and Ride punctuality;
- *No evidence of increased usage of service buses;
- *Closing an integral part of the Inner Ring Road resulting in increased journey time, and increased congestion and pollution in other area of the City
- *Increased speed of authorized vehicles driving over the bridge;
- *No mitigating help for City Centre Traders as promised.

“The Conservative Group has been looking at the evidence. Whilst there still has been no criteria published by which success will be measured, statistics clearly show that this experiment has failed. “If the Labour Cabinet are serious about economic growth in York, the City’s reputation, and the majority opinion of York residents, you should re-open Lendal Bridge.”

I would ask you take our views into consideration and I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Ian.

Cllr. Ian Gillies
Conservative Group Leader
City of York Council

From: Dave Merrett [dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2013 16:21
To: Wharton, Nick; Cllr. D. Merrett
Cc: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group

Nick,

Agree. As tweaked below.

Dave

From: nick.wharton@york.gov.uk
To: cllr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk; dave.merrett1@hotmail.co.uk
CC: cllr.jalexander@york.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group
Date: Tue, 26 Nov 2013 15:23:40 +0000
Other thing to say Dave is we can't go through Gillies' claims line by line refuting what he says as it would take far too much space,

N.

From: Wharton, Nick
Sent: 26 November 2013 15:21
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; 'Dave Merrett'
Cc: Cllr. J. Alexander
Subject: FW: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group

Importance: High

Dave can you check urgently please,
N.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Sustainability, Coun. Dave Merrett said:

“Since the trial started Coun. Joe Watt has said he is in favour and other Conservative representations have made it clear the trial should be longer, lasting from 7am until 7pm or all day. So it begs the question is this a Conservative Group view or Coun. Gillies’s view?

“This is a trial and the initial signs are that it is working well in terms of improving the public realm and environment and bus reliability, but we have always said full analysis and evaluation will be after six months. This will be a detailed and objective analysis and not based on the comments of a Conservative opposition councillor stood at the side of the road”.

From: Mark Stead [mailto:mark.stead@nqyne.co.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2013 09:39
To: Marshall, Leona; xxxx; Wharton, Nick
Subject: Lendal Bridge statement from the Conservative group

Leona/xxxx/Nick.

The Conservative group have provided the statement below which they say is the group’s official position on the Lendal Bridge traffic trial. This was sent to Dave Merrett and Darren Richardson yesterday afternoon. Can you send any response Coun Merrett or Mr Richardson would want to make by 3pm today?

Thanks.

Mark

STATEMENT

Conservative leader Cllr Ian Gillies has called for an end to the Lendal Bridge closure experiment prior to its scheduled conclusion in February saying that statistics have shown the trial is not working.

Cllr Gillies said, “Whilst I do not criticise the administration for trying something new, the recently published statistics show there have been no appreciable gains in any of the areas such as bus journey times and usage where the Council was anticipating improvement, while on the other hand problems have been stacking up all over the city.

“The issues have been many:

- * Poor signage resulting in an increase in of P.C.N.s.
- * Loss of reputation for the City as a tourist destination and accusations that the City is using bridge fines as a cash cow.
- * A contributing factor in the decrease of footfall in the City Centre as a result of people not making the journey and subsequent reduction of trade for City Centre businesses.
- * No noticeable improvement in Park and Ride punctuality.
- * No evidence of increased usage if service buses.
- * Closing an integral part of the Inner Ring Road resulting in increased journey time, and increased congestion and pollution in other area of the City.
- * Increased speed of authorized vehicles driving over the bridge.

* No mitigating help for City Centre Traders as promised.

“The Conservative Group has been looking at the evidence. Whilst there still has been no criteria published by which success will be measured, statistics clearly show that this experiment has failed.

“If the Labour Cabinet are serious about economic growth in York, the City’s reputation, and the majority opinion of York residents, they should re-open Lendal Bridge.”

Mark Stead | Political Reporter

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From: Cllr. D. Merrett
Sent: 27 November 2013 18:04
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Richardson, Darren
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge

Sent.

Dave

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 27 November 2013 18:01
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; Richardson, Darren
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge

Agreed

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Cllr. D. Merrett" <cldr.dmerrett@york.gov.uk>
Date: 27/11/2013 17:54 (GMT+00:00)
To: "Cllr. J. Alexander" <cldr.jalexander@york.gov.uk>, "Richardson, Darren" <Darren.Richardson@york.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge

I was considering this as my formal response to Ian: Cllr. I. Gillies

Ian,

Thank you for your and the Conservative Group's formal comments, although I would express my disappointment that despite your previous and repeatedly expressed personal support for an even more radical approach in terms of closing Lendal bridge, once again you and your group have rushed to judgement (not for the first time either) on the current trial without actually waiting to see the end results or any detailed analysis – some of your points / conclusions below I believe are in fact erroneous as a consequence. I would endorse Darren's comment below about a further reply, or perhaps alternatively the three of us meeting together to discuss the issue in more depth.

Dave Merrett

From: Richardson, Darren
Sent: 27 November 2013 17:33
To: Cllr. I. Gillies
Cc: Cllr. D. Merrett
Subject: RE: Lendal Bridge

Dear Cllr Gillies,

Thank you for raising your concerns, I will reply in more detail following discussion with Cllr Merrett. They are certainly noted and they will be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Lendal Bridge trial.

Darren Richardson | Director of City and Environmental Services
t: 01904 551330 |e: darren.richardson@york.gov.uk

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From: Cllr. I. Gillies
Sent: 25 November 2013 14:05
To: Cllr. D. Merrett; Richardson, Darren
Subject: Lendal Bridge

Dave/Darren,

Following our group meeting last week my Group are calling for an end to the Lendal Bridge closure experiment prior to its scheduled conclusion in February saying that statistics have shown that the trial is not working.

Whilst I do not criticise the administration for trying something new, the recently published statistics show there have been no appreciable gains in any of the areas such as bus journey times and usage where the Council was anticipating improvement, while on the other hand problems have been stacking up all over the City.

"The issues have been many:

- *Poor Signage resulting in an increase in of P.C.N.s.
 - *Loss of reputation for the City as a tourist destination and accusations that the City is using bridge fines as a cash cow;
 - *A contributing factor in the decrease in footfall in the City Centre as a result of people not making the journey and subsequent reduction of trade for City Centre businesses;
 - *No noticeable improvement in Park and Ride punctuality;
 - *No evidence of increased usage of service buses;
 - *Closing an integral part of the Inner Ring Road resulting in increased journey time, and increased congestion and pollution in other area of the City
 - *Increased speed of authorized vehicles driving over the bridge;
 - *No mitigating help for City Centre Traders as promised.
- “The Conservative Group has been looking at the evidence. Whilst there still has been no criteria published by which success will be measured, statistics clearly show that this experiment has failed. “If the Labour Cabinet are serious about economic growth in York, the City’s reputation, and the majority opinion of York residents, you should re-open Lendal Bridge.”

I would ask you take our views into consideration and I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Ian.

Cllr. Ian Gillies
Conservative Group Leader
City of York Council

From: Cllr. N. Barnes
Sent: 27 November 2013 17:27
To: Cllr. J. Alexander
Cc: Cllr. J. Riches; Wharton, Nick
Subject: RE: Tweet from James Alexander (@jmalexander1982)

I’ve done this in literally ten minutes as I’m rushed off my feet. Not sure when I’ll be able to get it out as I’m in meeting all tonight and at work all day tomorrow (until midnight!). Perhaps Nick can help?

Labour councillor questions Tory tricks over Lendal Bridge

A Labour councillor has today called into question the position of York’s main ‘opposition’ party on the Lendal Bridge trial.

Coun. Joe Riches has called on the City of York Council’s Conservative Group to clarify where they stand on the Lendal Bridge trial as evidence demonstrates the confusion of the Tory Group’s position following mixed media messaging.

Coun. Joe Riches said: “There’s nothing wrong with strong, robust opposition, but the Tory position on Lendal Bridge increasingly appears to be opposition for opposition’s sake, leading to some concerns about whether they wish to appear all things to all people rather than making a clear stand.

“In 2010, before the local elections, Coun. Ian Gillies used The Press to call for a Lendal Bridge closure. As recently as 2013, Coun. Joe Watt used a scrutiny meeting to praise the trial.

“But now we’re hearing Coun. Gillies in The Press calling for a halt to the trial – based on basic observations rather than structured evidence. He appears to be backed ‘100%’ on Twitter by Coun. Paul Dougherty –meanwhile Coun. Steward has frequently labelled the trial a ‘farce’.

“So where exactly do the Tories stand? It’s this uncertainty and ‘to-and-fro-ing’ that leads one to question their suitability for high office in York. It’s time for them to become effective opposition and show some proper alternative policies.”

Cllr. Neil Barnes
Hull Road Ward
City of York Council

cllr.nbarnes@york.gov.uk
Flat 3, Cromwell House,
Cromwell Road,
York, YO1 6DU.

From: Cllr. J. Alexander
Sent: 27 November 2013 16:34
To: Cllr. N. Barnes
Cc: Cllr. J. Riches
Subject: Tweet from James Alexander (@jmalexander1982)

James Alexander (@jmalexander1982) tweeted at 4:26 PM on Wed, Nov 27, 2013:
York Tory Group Leader called for Lendal Bridge closure in @yorkpress before local elections:
<http://t.co/qYmliig1xf>. Hattip 'inthesticks'
(<https://twitter.com/jmalexander1982/status/405734355836096512>)

Get the official Twitter app at <https://twitter.com/download>

Can you please do a release on this from a non cabinet member. Joe? Can say following Joe watts statements in favour at smc this shows Tory Group in disarray. Suggest you get in line about some will question whether he is suitable for high office

Sent from Samsung Mobile