



Rattery Parish Council
19th July 2011

Dear Parishioners,

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF THE ROAD BRIDGE AT DRYBRIDGE

The Highways Agency has informed the Parish Council that the road bridge over the A38 at Drybridge is suffering from concrete cancer and that, as it cannot be repaired economically, it will have to be demolished.

No final decision has been made about replacing the bridge but the Highways Agency's initial analysis of traffic data does not demonstrate a need for a replacement. In simple terms, the agency's preliminary view is that the bridge is not used enough to justify replacement.

The Parish Council is strongly of the opinion that the bridge is vital and should be replaced. Removal of the bridge would create significant problems including increased traffic volumes on local roads, traffic congestion, increased risk of road accidents, extra journey costs and time, extra business costs, and impact on property values.

The Parish Council has expressed its view strongly to the Highways Agency and needs your help to provide the information that will demonstrate clearly the need for a bridge at Drybridge.

This letter is the starting point of our campaign. We are writing to every household and business in the parish to ask for your support, your views, and important information that only you can supply. Could you and other members of your household/business please complete and return to us the declaration of support and the short questionnaire overleaf.

We would be very pleased to receive your replies by Monday August 15th. We hope that everyone in Rattery will respond. The power of the entire parish speaking with one voice will be irresistible.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Smerdon
Chairman

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

I/We fully support Rattery Parish Council's view that a road bridge across the A38 at Drybridge should be retained.

| Name and Address | Signed | Date |
|------------------|--------|------|
| | | |

Please return your statement and questionnaire by post to:

Mrs S. Raggett, Clerk to Rattery Parish Council, 9 Wallaford Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0AR

or by hand to any of the drop off points listed below.

***Tuesday
Mornings at
the Village
Hall***

***Richard Haigh
Bozdown
Culver Lane***

***Terry
Underhill
Fairlight
Mill Cross***

***The Church
House Inn***

***The stand at
the Show &
Sports
Aug 6th***

***Rachel
Coaker
Brownston
Farm***

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. CURRENT USE OF THE BRIDGE

In order to argue the case for re-building the bridge, the Parish Council would like to show how important the bridge is to the people and businesses of Rattery. Could you please fill in the table below to show how often do you use the bridge and what sorts of vehicles are involved?

Please include crossings made by all members of your household or business, including visitors, suppliers, customers, and so on.

| Type of vehicle | Cars /vans | HGV | Farm vehicles |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----|---------------|
| Average number of crossings per week | | | |

2. IMPACT ON LOCAL ROADS OF BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Parish Council needs evidence to support its view that if the bridge is removed and not replaced there will be a significant, and dangerous, impact on the local road network.

Without a bridge the nearest junctions to cross, or join, the A38 would be at Marley Head and Lower Dean.

We would be grateful if you could complete the tables below to show which routes you would choose, and what additional traffic you would have to put on those routes.

| ALTERNATIVE ROUTES LEAVING RATTERY TO GO NORTH OR EAST | Estimated number of extra journeys per week resulting from bridge closure | | |
|---|---|-----|---------------|
| | Car/van | HGV | Farm Vehicles |
| A38 to Marley Head via the slip road at Drybridge | | | |
| A385 to Marley Head via Culver Lane | | | |
| A385 to Marley Head via the viaduct junction | | | |
| To Lower Dean by lane (via Pennywell) | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | |

**ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
ENTERING RATTERY FROM THE WEST OR NORTH**

**Estimated number of extra
journeys per week resulting from
bridge closure**

| | Car/van | HGV | Farm Vehicles |
|--|----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| A38 to Lower Dean and back again on A38 to Drybridge | | | |
| A385 from Marley Head via Culver Lane | | | |
| A385 from Marley Head via the viaduct junction | | | |
| From Lower Dean by lane (via Pennywell) | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | |

Please use the space below to give us any additional information or views about your use of the bridge and the implications to you of bridge closure.