

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

7th July 2014

Report of: *Highways and Traffic*

Title: *Proposed highway improvement: Suspension Bridge Road area*

Ward: *Clifton*

Officer Presenting Report: *David Sarson, Engineer*

Contact Telephone Number: *(0117 903 6856)*

RECOMMENDATION

None - Update only

Summary

A scheme of highway works is due to be constructed in the Suspension Bridge Road area. The Downs Committee have had input into the scheme, and an update is provided for information

Policy

1. *Part of the Corporate Plan is to create safer and healthier environments and better neighbourhoods in terms of physical quality, road casualties, air quality and quality of life. The scheme as a whole is aimed towards this. Traffic speeds should be reduced on the exit from the bridge and at the junctions, Suspension Bridge Road (SBR) and its junctions would be made easier to cross for pedestrians by the speed tables and junction build outs, and travel by coach would be facilitated.*

Context

2.

2.1 Background

Meetings were held in 2008 between the Bridge Master, Bristol City Council and N. Somerset Council, to consider improvements on Bridge Road (Leigh Woods) and SBR (Clifton), aimed at improving road safety and the quality of the street scene. The next meeting was in 2012 to discuss funding and designs. The Suspension Bridge Trust made a successful bid for £100,000 from the Bristol Local Sustainable Transport Fund and themselves contributed £12,000 to the Bristol scheme, so a meeting was held in February 2013 to start concept design, with continuity between the designs on both sides of the bridge.

2.2 Aim of the scheme

The issues to be tackled included the demand for a coach drop off point on the Clifton side of the bridge and pedestrian accessibility in the area. The quality of the area is proposed to be improved in terms of aesthetics, road safety and accessibility.

2.3 General overview of the scheme

The Bristol scheme is part of an overall scheme which seeks to improve the approach roads on both sides of Clifton Suspension Bridge. The various aspects of the scheme include speed tables on SBR, which will also act as informal pedestrian crossing points, built out footways at junctions to slow traffic and reduce the width which pedestrians cross, construction of a coach drop off point on Observatory Road and slight repositioning of the ice cream van area. A lamp post is to be moved, lamp posts and highway signing are to be upgraded to 'de-clutter' the area. Shrubbery and self seeded trees on the south side of SBR, and near the proposed coach drop off area are to be cleared.

Progress thus far

3.

3.1 Design

The detail design is complete, and construction drawings for the main phases of the works have been issued to a contractor.

3.2 Consultation

Consultation has entailed:

- *Concept design meeting with the Suspension Bridge Trust (2012)*
- *Application to the Downs Committee for permission to use Common Land as highway (April 2013)*
- *Draft designs issued to the Councillors (May 2013)*
- *Internal council design consultation (August 2013)*
- *Public consultation and 'Q&A' sessions (Summer 2013)*
- *Public advertisement of the proposals to use Common Land as highway and application to Planning Inspectorate (Summer 2013)*
- *Public advertisement of the notice to construct speed tables (Winter 2013)*
- *Public advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to restrict the proposed coach drop off point, within the Residents' Parking Scheme TRO (Spring 2014).*

3.3 Legal

- *Permission was granted by the Downs Committee (April 2013) to allow small areas of Common Land to be used as highway, with exchange land being offered. The Planning Inspectorate have also given their permission (January 2014)*
- *Permission was granted for the construction of the speed tables (December 2013) following public advertisement*
- *The restriction for the coach drop off point was included within the proposed Residents' Parking Scheme TRO, which has been advertised (Spring 2014) but has not yet been sealed. A decision upon the progress of the TRO scheme is expected **imminently (may be made by 7th July)***
- *A temporary TRO has been made to allow Suspension Bridge Road and Observatory Road to be closed for the purpose of the works. Liaison has been made with the Bridge Master and North Somerset Council, to agree closure dates and times.*

3.4 Construction

Part of the shrub clearance works and tree felling has been undertaken (Autumn 2014). This is a 2 phase process to minimise the impact on fauna, and prepare in advance to allow the main construction works to commence during Summer 2014.

The first phase of the lamp column replacement works has recently been completed. This entailed exchanging 3 of the lamp columns along SBR, west of its junction with Sion Hill, for more traditional looking columns, with bowls around the lamps, to match those on Sion Hill.

Main construction phase

4.

4.1 Lamp column and signing works

The final phase of the lamp column replacement work is due to be undertaken during the period of the road closure (August 2014). The highway signing is due to be upgraded during August, once the remaining 2 columns near the bridge have been replaced.

4.2 Phase 1 – Main works

This will include construction of the speed tables, drainage works, reconstruction of the central reserve and amendment of the kerbline of SBR near the weighbridge. The works will necessitate a road closure which will be made during the week commencing 17th August. North Somerset Council's contractor and the Bridge Trust will also make use of the closure in order to undertake works.

4.3 Phase 2 – Main works

This is proposed to include construction of the coach drop-off bay on Observatory Road, repositioning of the ice cream van parking area and construction of a new area of footway between Sion Hill and Sion Place. The works on Observatory Road would necessitate a road closure, and the opportunity would be taken to monitor the effect of the closure upon traffic flow on Clifton Down Road. As mentioned in 3.3, we are awaiting a decision upon the progress of the TRO for the coach drop off point, so no comments can yet be made upon the progression of phase 2. Provision would be made for the continued trading of the ice cream van, while the parking area is being reconstructed.

4.4 Shrub clearance

Following the initial stages of this work (3.4), the second stage is due to be carried out during Autumn 2014. This will include crown lifting and removal of self seeded trees to the south of SBR, final clearance of the remains of the shrubbery and grass seeding.

Stopping up

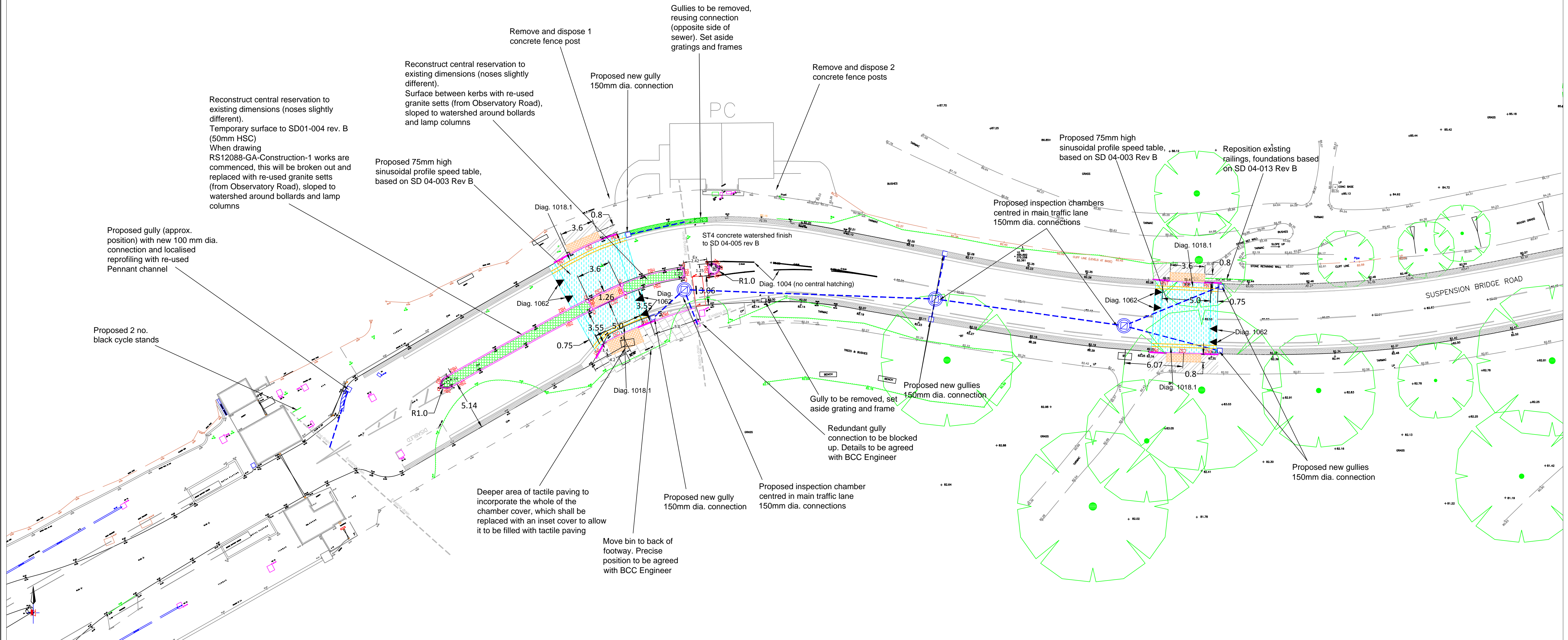
- 5.** *A condition of the permission to incorporate Common Land into the area used by the coach drop off point is that several areas of highway, (which are currently Common Land) are to be stopped up. Should the TRO for the coach drop off point be sealed, the process to stop up would commence immediately with a view to complete within 5 months.*

Appendices:

Drawings *RS12088-GA-Construction-2 rev.a (Phase 1 of main works),
RS12088-GA-Construction-1 (Phase 2 of main works),*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: *None*



Key

- Proposed flexible footway construction to SD 01-004 rev. B:
20mm surface course: AC 10 close surf 100/150 6mm agg, 100 Pen +
55mm binder course: AC 20 dense bin 100/150, 100 Pen +
Type 1 sub base (300mm thick where in verge)
- Proposed flexible carriageway construction to SD 01-002 rev. B:
40mm surface course: HRA 30/14 F surf 40/60, 20mm pre-coat
chippings +
120mm binder course: AC 20 HDM bin 40/60, laid in 2 layers +
Type 1 sub base and capping calculated against CBR
- Proposed kerblines to SD 02-001 rev. B, key to abbreviations to right
- Proposed CS2 dropped kerb with buff tactile paving
to SD 03-005 rev. B and SD 03-007 rev. B
- Existing sett channel
- Proposed granite setts, previously set aside
- Existing road markings to remain
- Proposed road markings (white) to diagrams shown
- Proposed road markings (yellow) to diagrams shown
- Proposed 150mm (or 100mm) dia. gully connection to SD 05-008 rev. B
- Proposed PCC gully to SD 05-007 rev. B
- Proposed inspection chambers, pre-cast sections, 1200mm internal dia.
with 2-part 675mm opening. Construct to SD 05 003 rev. B, with rungs
- Proposed bollard to SD 04-018 rev. B.
Type Manchester, material ferrocast, colour satin black
- Proposed cycle stands to SD 04-015 rev. B Type BC, colour satin black
- Proposed sign and post as detailed
- Proposed 12" wide Pennant sandstone channel, laid to
SD 02-004 rev. B, from BCC store
- Proposed 50mm wide PCC edging to SD 02-005 rev. B

Key to proposed kerb types

- PCC HB2
- Flush kerb (CS2)
- Flush kerb (Pennant sandstone - previously set aside)
- PCC HB2 quadrant
- Full batter kerb
- Transition kerb: full batter to HB2
- Double taper kerb
- Single taper kerb
- Cast iron (previously set aside)
- Pennant sandstone (previously set aside)
- Bus stop kerb
- Transition kerb: bus stop to HB2

- HB2
- CS2
- PNT F
- Q
- FB
- FB-HB2 T
- DT
- ST
- CI
- PNT
- BSK
- BSKT

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Bristol City Council, 10/03/2009, 2009

Neighbourhoods & City Development
 Peter Mann (Service Director)
 Brunel House
 St. Georges Road
 Bristol
 BS1 5UY

HIGHWAY SERVICES
 Suspension Bridge Road area
 Proposed highway improvement works
 Construction drawing
 Western part

Dwg **RS12088-GA-Construction-2**
 Revision _____ Drawn **DS**
 Scale 1/200 @ A1 Date March 2014