

AGENDA ITEM NO 8 – FOR INFO

Bridge over Bridge Valley Road



Update 15th August 2013

- 1 The Downs Committee first **received information** on the FOD+AG project –in June 2011
The proposal was reported in the then **Evening Post**
- 2 The **publicity** created interest from those who walked to and from the Downs including suggestions for Bridge Valley Road to remain closed. Other suggestions included a temporary scaffold bridge in place until a permanent bridge was erected.
- 3 When the **road was closed** there was a marked increase in pedestrian traffic to Downs
- 4 The proposed **location** of the bridge is a key section of Downs Management Plan circular pedestrian route
- 5 Dr Adrienn Tomor picked up the **opportunity**, with UWE backing. Another engineering consultancy was contacted but no significant positive action was forthcoming
- 6 Costs: **Estimated costs** for the stone bridge is likely to be in a similar region to a concrete bridge..
- 7 A "**Sustainability Project**": the bridge will be assessed against a sustainability code (materials, transport, life-cycle maintenance costs, min. 300 years life expectancy, etc.) and expected to be much more sustainable than any other bridge alternatives. It can serve as a pioneering project to demonstrate long-term sustainability thinking and a green project.
- 8 **Programme – aim** to be operating by 2015 – the year of **Green City**
 - < End August 2013 submit pre-application<
 - Mid Oct – receive comments
 - End Oct – put in planning and all other applications
 - End Dec – receive answers
 - If answer is yes, funding will be sought which could take 3-6 month minimum for a decision. Earliest start date April 2014 – Building should then take around 6 months with minimum road closure.
- 9 **FOD+AG Comments**

At a time when

 - Zoo parking on the Downland is extended for another three years,
 - the impact of the Residential Parking Zones will result in a large increase in the number of commuter cars parking on the Downs

- the extension to Parrys Lane continues as a coach, car and lorry park,
- a proposal is made for an ice cream van to be allocated a tar macadam space on Downland

A 'sustainable green project' is essential. To be completed as part of 2015 Green City

Dr Tomor makes it very clear, a **stone bridge has many positive factors** against alternative bridge options, e.g. training and apprenticeship opportunities, low lifetime costs, minimal maintenance, highly sustainable, post-construction (short and medium-term) income generation opportunities, UK and European exposure, academic research opportunities.

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FOD+AG propose that the **Downs Committee continue to give their support** to the development of this Green Sustainable project