

**County Council Update
from County Cllr Anne Wight
May 2019**

The Brownlow Bridge

Due to a delay in the publication of the TTRO to place an 18 tonne weight limit on the Brownlow Bridge, the TTRO was unable to be placed on the bridge on the original date of 23 April as envisaged. The new date for the TTRO is the 9th May, at which point the signage and diversion route will be in place.

Unfortunately, on 16 April the bridge was again hit by a vehicle, resulting in damage to the side which had not been previously damaged and repaired. BCC sent officers to inspect the bridge and it was deemed suitable to remain open, although we are now awaiting the Canal and River Trust's assessment and information on repairs, as there are cracks in the mortar and some bricks are missing from the base. I will be reporting back to parishes on that once we have more information from CART.

There had been a discussion at the recent meeting between BCC and stakeholders on the Marsworth Industrial Estate regarding whether the bridge had had any reinforcement historically. In regards to this, TfB have been in close liaison with the Canals and Rivers Trust (C&RT) to establish if there is any historical evidence that the bridge was reinforced with concrete during WWII as has been suggested.

The Trust were not able to find any such evidence, so in order to establish the efficacy of this claim, intrusive investigatory methods would be needed. These would involve specialist consultants taking deep core samples into the relevant structural parts of the bridge. This would require the bridge to be shut for at least one day, with associated traffic management for the road closure.

The total cost of doing this investigatory work is likely to be several thousand pounds and cannot be justified in the absence of robust historical evidence.

However, anyone wishing to express a view on the long term outlook for the bridge is welcome to do so via email at the following email address:

freight@buckscc.gov.uk

Planning applications CM/0017/19 and CM/0018/19

These planning applications are for additional industrial waste processing of 25,000 tonnes and 87,500 tonnes respectively per annum on the Marsworth/Cheddington Airfield Industrial Estate and are currently open for comment.

Should anyone wish to comment, simply use the link below, press the view application button, and input the application number you wish to comment on into the search bar.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/viewing-planning-applications/>

Local Government Reorganisation

For anyone wondering more about the details for the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority, the Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, Martin Tett, is releasing periodic video updates which you can see on the link below. They are in clear language with printed subtitles for the hearing impaired, and flesh out a bit more about how the new unitary authority will work and what steps all the district councils and the county council are taking to make sure we get everything in place by this time next year. With just under one year to go to get everything in place, the timescales are challenging but achievable.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=tEwBKhg4GHY

Mental Health Awareness Week

As I am a Mental Health Champion, both internally at BCC and a Time to Change Champion outside of it, I would like to draw everyone's attention to Mental Health Awareness Week which runs this week from 13th – 19th May.

We are promoting the importance of talking about mental health problems and are continuing our work on Time to Change which is designed to tackle the stigma associated with mental health.

At Bucks County Council we are organizing events both internally and externally to raise awareness of mental health issues and start discussions on these topics. If you are interested in learning more about how we are embracing Time to Change within

Buckinghamshire, you can find out more and even become a champion yourself via the weblink below:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/time-to-change-buckinghamshire/time-to-change-buckinghamshire/>

During the week the national MentalHealth.org website will be publishing new research, and considering some of the reasons why our body image can impact the way that we feel, campaigning for change and publishing practical tools.

Since the first Mental Health Awareness Week in 2001, the organization has raised awareness of topics like stress, relationships, loneliness, altruism, sleep, alcohol and friendship. This year, they want to reach more people than ever.

For more information or resources on Mental Health Awareness Week, please check out their website, as they are exploring the theme of body image and how it impacts on mental health.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>